

Assistive Technology Advisory Committee Meeting

Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) Meeting Summary

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Department of Rehabilitation

Conference Room 169

721 Capitol Mall

Sacramento, CA 95814

Committee Members:

Gregory Mathes, Director, Grants & Foundations, Goodwill of Orange County

Ray Grott, Director, RET Project, San Francisco State University

Lenore Presley, Deaf-blind Community Representative

Jonn Paris-Salb, Education Administrator, California Department of Education

Debbie Drennan, AT Specialist, Parents Helping Parents

Kim Cantrell, Program Manager, CFILC

Brian Winic, SSMI, DOR, Blind Field Services

Karen Anderson, Director, Disability Support Services, San Joaquin Delta College
(Retired)

Karen Crowe, SSMI, DOR, San Jose District

Daniel Boomer, Special Ed, California Department of Education

DOR Staff:

Irene Walela, Acting Deputy Director, Independent Living Community Access Division

Jay Harris, Chief, Independent Living Assistive Technology Section

Sheila Conlon-Mentkowski, Rehabilitation Administrator I, Independent Living Assistive
Technology Section

Robert McCarthy, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Independent Living
Community Access Division

Guests:

Lori Bruno, Staff Services Manager II, Administrative Services Division

Sylvia Hoggatt, Staff Services Manager I, PROMISE unit, Vocational Rehabilitation
Policy

Tina Watson, Chief, Financial Management, Administrative Services Division

Simone Dumas, Staff Services Manager II, Chief, Contracts and Procurement Unit

Excused:

Helen Ferreira, PIRS (submitted oral resignation prior to the meeting)

Absent:

Paul Carver, Workforce Investment Board; Doug Sale, Workforce Investment Board

Agenda Item 1: Introductions

Chair Gregory Mathes opened the meeting at 10:18 AM and asked attendees to introduce themselves and to review the agenda and committee roster before moving on to the prior meeting's minutes.

Agenda Item 2: Meeting Summary Approval

Motion: Karen Anderson moved the minutes be approved. Brian Winic seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were voted on and accepted by the Committee.

Agenda Item 3: DOR Department AT Update

Irene Walela, Acting Deputy Director, ILCAD, introduced herself and described her areas of responsibility. She provided a brief description and statement on the newly enacted Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA); she also mentioned areas of WIOA that will impact DOR although what that impact will be is yet unclear. General questions and comments were made about WIOA; Irene stated she welcomed an opportunity to provide a detailed update to the committee, but the allotted agenda time would not permit that now.

Jay Harris, Chief, Independent Living and Assistive Technology, commented that DOR will develop WIOA integration plans as the federal government makes information available and it will be shared with the committee as appropriate.

Motion: John Paris-Salb made a motion that the committee come back to this topic in the spring. Debbie Drennan seconded it. Chair Mathes stated WIOA update will be put - on the ATAC agenda in the spring

Sylvia Hoggatt provided an overview of the Department's PROMISE Grant, the service areas covered by the 21 contracted providers, and services that will be given. Enrollment has just begun; 199 (or 6%) have been enrolled out of three thousand projected total enrollees. PROMISE uses a Person Centered Planning model. Questions and suggestions were made regarding enrollment processes to ensure inclusion with underserved/underrepresented populations. A concern was expressed about the Social Security Administration (SSA) as an information source for determining eligible enrollment. Irene commented that PROMISE Grant is an early intervention project to facilitate longer-term employment goals.

Tina Watson discussed DOR invoice processes. Tina commented that there is an issue with vendors submitting invoices from 6 to 18 months after service delivery, which impacts the ability to utilize the intended federal grant funds that are time sensitive. RSA is the federal fund administrator. State of CA has a 45-day prompt payment act; DOR is working on a process to improve on that timeframe.

Lori Bruno presented on the vendor utilization project; providing an overview of that process. She said DOR is developing another VUM revision called the Centralized Invoice Process (CIP), to improve on payment turnaround timelines. The pilot was successful in improving completion of transactions by 18% over previous levels. CIP allows both electronic transmissions of invoices as well as by mail. Approval has been

given to move to statewide implementation (October 3rd). DOR is developing resources and guidelines to assist customers with process changes.

Lunch was moved up to accommodate the delay starting the meeting.

Lunch Break 11:30 TO 12:45 PM

Agenda Item 4: AT Network Deliverables

Kim Cantrell, Program Manager at CFILC, presented highlights from the most recent AT Quarterly Report. The AT Network has been renamed Ability Tools; it has a new logo and increased accessibility. Kim also updated the committee on the following business items that have occurred since the last committee meeting in March 2014:

- ATAC Promotion: Kim asked committee members how they promoted Tech Act Project. Several committee members responded with a variety of outreach strategies they utilized and relevant groups targeted.
- An overview of the Ability Tools Website was provided. www.abilitytools.org
- New Collaborations and Partnerships
- Upcoming Trainings
- FreedomTech Financial Loan Program - CFILC's loan program (CFILC acts as their own bank) working with Cooperative Bank. Loan values can be \$500 to \$15,000 and the anticipated start date sometime in 2015
- AT Reporting and the Annual AT Report to RSA
- Coordination with DOR's AB 204 funding
- Distributed cards to help people who are eligible acquire low cost Internet service from the Digital Access Project

Agenda Item 5: Action Items Update/Discussion DOR staff and ATAC Ralph Black provided an update on the State Price Schedule report and changes to the new SPS structure and guidelines. One area of attention includes provision of detailed guidance to counselors and procurement staff (The SPS page located on DOR's website has an email address for contact).

Sheila Conlon-Mentkowski, DOR Rehabilitation Administrator, provided an overview of proposed amendments to the draft ATAC bylaws. What is proposed is presented for input and guidance by committee members; once the committee has approved amendments the bylaws will be presented to the DOR Directorate. General comments and discussion revolved around the need for specific call to action for committee members under Purpose B, and clarity from what the Directorate wants from the committee in terms of the guidance it desires.

Motion; Debbie Drennan moved to add the ATAC charter to the bylaws under Purpose B (guidance). Jonn Paris-Salb seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

A suggestion was made to add other organizations to the list under Committee Composition Guidelines letter B.

Motion: Due to additional scope of conversation regarding bylaw changes, a motion to table the vote on bylaws was made by Debbie Drennan. The motion to table the vote on bylaws was seconded by Karen Andersen. The motion was tabled.

A suggestion was made to add a reference to the Charter in the bylaws.

A comment was made that if member terms are limited it may preclude representation from small populations. Staggering of committee service terms and language used in the bylaws to describe recruitment and term timelines needs to be revised for clarity. Final revision of the bylaws should be completed so committee and circulated to members for review, comment, and subsequent voting.

An overview of DOR's Three Year AT Plan for 2015 - 2018 was provided by Jay Harris. DOR does not provide device demonstrations; various committee members stated that demonstrations are important to promotion of AT. The three year AT plan is due to RSA in February of 2015.

Agenda Item 7: Open Discussion

Keeping one of the ATAC meetings at CSUN was presented due to the importance of CSUN as a preeminent event. DOR is considering moving the meeting away from that conference due to use of resources and costs. Suggestions from the committee for alternate meeting site and hotel locations in proximity to CSUN would be welcome.

Other discussion and questions:

- Can discussion next time include the subject of MediCal cuts affecting durable medical equipment? Perhaps a presentation from DHCS or Cal Medi Connect representatives could be included? Wheelchair repairs were given as an example, apparently counties treat these repairs differently, and some will cover while others will not. Is this problem statewide?
- October is Disability Awareness Month; there are some events occurring that the committee can make folks aware of
- Federal National Blind-Deaf Program has been extended for the 3rd year - please let people know

Agenda Item 8: Next steps and follow up items

- Update on WIOA for the next meeting and its impact on DOR and AT
- PROMISE Grant presentation/update (report) by phone
- CFILC progress on the Freedom Tech LP
- Revision of bylaws and charter and electronic transmission to members
- Arrangement of two additional meetings via teleconference to be facilitated at local DOR offices or CFILC contract providers in addition to the two in person ATAC meetings during the year
- Representative from an agency to speak about MediCal and AT

Adjourn 4:00 PM