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# **Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC)**

# **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Virtual and telephone participation options offered via Zoom**

**Attendance**

Committee Members (present or joined remotely)

* Larry Grable, Chair
* Brent Jolley
* Gloria Cervantes
* Pradeep Kotamraju (CWDB Proxy)
* April Shin
* Kathleen Barajas, Vice Chair

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Staff (present or joined remotely)

* Regina Cademarti, Chief, Independent Living and Assistive Technology Section (ILATS)
* Elizabeth Wood, Assistive Technology Program Analyst, Independent Living and Assistive Technology Section

California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC) Staff (present or joined remotely)

* Brett Eisenburg, Executive Director
* Kathrine Crowley, Deputy Director, Ability Tools Program Manager

**Agenda Item 1: Call to Order**

Chair Grable called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and welcomed all participants.

**Agenda Item 2: Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Grable introduced himself, followed by DOR staff, CFILC staff, ATAC members, and any members of the public.

**Agenda Item 3: Review and Approve September 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Quorum was not met, so Chair Grable moved to Agenda Item 4, noting a return to this agenda item once quorum could be established.

**Agenda Item 4: Department of Rehabilitation Updates**

ILATS Chief Regina Cademarti provided general DOR updates.

* Dante Allen was appointed as the Rehabilitation Services Administration Commissioner
* DOR is a partner in developing the Master Plan on Career Education that ensures youth and experienced workers have the opportunity to find meaningful careers with hands-on learning and training.
* DOR is working to hire an Office Technician for the Independent Living section.
* DOR’s Community Living Fund has received 271 transition or diversion requests, encumbering nearly $2 million in services.
* DOR’s Independent Living Program is partnering with the Department of Aging to perform site visits to ILCs
* DOR’s Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program was awarded $4.6 million dollars through the Housing and Community Based Services to offer services to individuals with TBIs
* DOR’s Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) was seeking applications from youth with disabilities for their week-long event in Sacramento in July 2024.

**Return to Agenda Item 3: Review and Approve September 27, 2023**

**Meeting Minutes**

Quorum was established during Agenda Item 4, so Chair Grable returned to this agenda item

AT Analyst Wood reviewed the meeting minutes for attendees (distributed prior to meeting) and reviewed topics covered. Chair Grable opened floor for approval, voted for approval by member April Shin, seconded by Gloria Cervantes. Roll call voting results:

Larry Grable – Yes

April Shin – Yes

Gloria Cervantes – Yes

Pradeep Kotamraju – Abstain

Brent Jolley – Yes

Kathleen Barajas – Yes

The approved meeting minutes will be posted on the ATAC webpage.

**Agenda Item 5: Voice Options Program Report**

AT Analyst Wood provided an overview of the Voice Options Program (VOP). This program is a collaboration with the California Public Utilities Commission and provides demonstrations and short-term loans of six speech-generating applications on iPads to Californians who cannot speak or who have difficulty speaking. Following this loan period, the Consumer can identify their preferred application, and enter a long-term loan in which they receive their speech-application, a new iPad, a case, charger, and any ancillary devices needed to use the program.

The Voice Options Program has 29 providers, offer materials in 11 different languages, provides in-person services to 98 percent of California, and provide services virtually and by mail. Consumers range in age from 18 months old to over 80 years, span more than 50 disability types, and efforts are being made to reach more black, indigenous, and other people of color and rural communities.

Also highlighted was the Voice Options Provider meeting from November 17, 2023 when a VOP provider demonstrated a new speech-generating application, TD Snap. VOP is working on obtaining licenses for TD Snap to upload to both Demonstration and Short-Term Loan iPads. Another provider demonstrated using the VOP iPad and speech application to make an emergency call, highlighting the importance of emergency and disaster preparedness. Wood is working with VOP to ensure data reporting in the National Assistive Technology Act Data System (NATADS) is concise for annual reporting. The VOP team is also working on updating and simplifying forms, and is also working with California Connect to modernize outreach materials.

**Agenda Item 6: Ability Tools Report**

CFILC Ability Tools Deputy Director Crowley reviewed information from the fourth quarter’s AT activities under the AT Act:

State leadership activities include public awareness activities which have a wide scope and provide general information; information and assistance activities which have the narrowest of scopes providing information specific to individuals, needs trainings which are delivered to groups, and are designed to build on knowledge and skills; and technical assistance, which are long term commitments to facilitate systemic changes to organizations that need improvements to be more inclusive to all members of the general population.

* Ability Tools surpassed the Public Awareness activity deliverables, and published articles including:
	+ Essential Tips on Hiring a Contractor
	+ Navigating Menstrual Cycles and Beyond
	+ Ready, Set, Adapt – which highlights disaster/emergency preparedness importance and tips
	+ Gear Up for Transition – which highlights transition from high school into higher education or employment
	+ Gear Up for Emergency Preparedness
* Information and Assistance (I&A) activities
	+ Finished formal contract with the California Emerging Technologies Fund (CETF) which supported consumers in getting low-cost internet services. CFILC continues to partner with them to connect consumers to affordable internet
* Trainings performed included:
	+ AT and Sexuality (in partnership with Pennsylvania and Missouri state AT programs): discussed barriers that people with disabilities experience in regard to sexuality
	+ AbleGamers: To support and improve accessible gaming, which greatly benefits children and adults with disabilities as well as veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
* Technical Assistance efforts primarily revolved around supporting the Disability Disaster and Resources Program in implementing inventory tracking and reporting protocols and training

State level activities are activities to get AT directly into the hands of consumers. It includes device demonstrations which provide consumers with the ability to attune themselves to a device alongside an AT specialist who can provide information about the device and answer any questions the consumer might have. Consumers can participate in device loans to try out devices in their homes for 30 days. Consumers can get devices for free or low cost through reutilization activities or get support purchasing new devices, utilizing State financing activities.

* Crowley shared consumer success stories for device demonstrations, device loans, open-ended loans, and state financing activities

**Agenda Item 7: AT Program Updates**

AT Analyst Wood provided updates for the AT Program. DOR is working on a Request for Interest to refine and guide future AT Program solicitations, that should be released in early 2024. DOR will continue to fill the vacant ATAC positions for the Department of Education, Department of Healthcare Services, Disability Rights California, and/or the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service.

Wood discussed the mandatory Ethics and Harassment Prevention trainings ATAC members are required to complete and submit every two years. Wood reviewed the purpose of the trainings, and demonstrated how to complete and where to submit the certificates.

**Agenda Item 8: AT Annual Progress Report**

AT Analyst Wood reviewed the AT Annual Progress Report (APR) and discussed the purpose and content of the report submitted to the Administration of Community Living (ACL). DOR and CFILC are working together to ensure the report is accurate, comprehensive, and completed in a timely manner. The APR is due December 31, 2023. A copy of the final submission will be provided to ATAC members.

**Agenda Item 9: Bagley Keene**

AT Analyst Wood reviewed changes to the Bagley Keene laws, which will go into effect January 1, 2024, and stay in effect through December 31, 2025. These changes offer additional definitions, adds requirements for in-person participation, adjusts quorum requirements to include in-person participants and those joining remotely with a reasonable accommodation, adds member camera requirements, and requires members to disclose the identity and relation of individuals over 18 years of age who may be in the same room as the participating committee member.

**Agenda Item 10: ATAC Bylaw Review and Approval**

AT Analyst Wood provided the final draft of committee bylaws to members to review a month prior to the meeting. Members did not have any questions or concerns. Chair Grable moved to vote on approving the bylaws. Brent Jolley made a motion to approve the ATAC Bylaws and Gloria Cervantes seconded the motion.

Larry Grable – Yes

April Shin – Yes

Brent Jolley – Yes

Kathleen Barajas – Yes

Gloria Cervantes – Yes

Pradeep Kotamraju – Abstain

**Agenda Item 11: Committee and Respective Community Updates**

Chair Grable asked ATAC members to discuss AT or community updates, or any information that should be shared.

Member April Shin notified members the job posting discussed at the September 27, 2023 ATAC meeting had changes and the job would be reposted at a later date.

**Agenda Item 12: Public Comment**

Chair Grable opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item 13: Call for motion to adjourn**

Chair Grable called for a motion to adjourn. Member Jolley motioned to adjourn and Member Shin seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 10:45 am.