

DakotaLink Advisory Council Spring Zoom Meeting

Date: March 20, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM Central Time

Location: Zoom

Agenda

1. Welcome & Call to Order - Richard

Opening remarks

- Roll call & introductions (Morgan Beckman)
- Review and approval of previous meeting minutes
 - (Motion and second. All in favor say Aye. All opposed say Nay)
- Approval of today's DRAFT Agenda - Richard
 - (Motion and second. All in favor say Aye. All opposed say Nay)

2. Washington Update - Page

Executive Order on the Department of Education

- DOE closure announcement
- Student loans, Title I funding, and special education services remain intact
- Implications for people with disabilities and assistive technology programs

3. Leadership Symposium & Hill Visits - Page

- **Assistive Technology (AT) Act**

- Strengthening advocacy efforts for increased funding
- **Focus on Return on Investment (ROI) Documentation**
 - Key priority in meetings to demonstrate program efficiency and impact
- **AT Awareness Day – April 30th**
 - National media and social media campaign
 - Opportunity to highlight key talent within the DakotaLink Advisory Council

4. ATAP Meeting Key Points & Legislative Updates - Page

- **\$42 Million Funding Request for FY26**
 - \$2 million offset to improve program efficiency
- **ROI Messaging & Hill Visit Strategy**
 - Ensuring AT Act recognition as an authorized law
 - Data-backed success stories to support increased funding requests
 - Maintaining communication with policymakers
- **Bipartisan Support for AT Funding**
 - Led by Senator Markey (D) and Senator Kramer (R)
 - Dear Colleague letter initiative—ongoing follow-up needed

5. AT Awareness Day – April 30th - Page

National Social Media & Awareness Campaign

- Coordinated efforts by ATAP for digital outreach
- Council members encouraged to share success stories (submissions due in the coming weeks)

6. Hill Meetings – Virtual Format - Page

- **Advantages of Virtual Meetings**

- Easier real-time document sharing
- Importance of follow-up emails with packaged materials

7. Recognizing Talent Within DakotaLink Advisory Council – Page

- Acknowledging the expertise and dedication of agency representatives
- Highlighting key contributions shaping the future of assistive technology in South Dakota

8. Next Meeting – June 19, 2025 - Richard

- **Time:** 10:00 AM Central | 9:00 AM Mountain
- **Format:** In-person meetings in **Rapid City & Sioux Falls** (travel optional) with a Zoom option available

9. Adjournment - Richard

- Call for a motion to adjourn.

(Motion and second. All in favor say Aye. All opposed say Nay)

Meeting Notes Reminder: Please review the draft notes from the September 10, 2024, meeting prior to this session to ensure efficient discussion and approval.