

DakotaLink Advisory Council

Zoom Meeting

03/18/2026

Notes

The March council meeting confirmed a quorum with 20 members. Richard Moeller, James Honomichl, Brett Burden, Tana Zwart, Kendra Gottsleben, Kayla Kane, Kama Kwiecinski, Heidi Mecham, Matt Kane, Jessica Sehnert, and Bill McEntaffer participated. Updates included the hiring of John Burton, recent staff attendance at the CSUN conference, and the demonstration of reading pens. James Honomichl reported that the annual progress report was approved and discussed funding for the AT Act grant, which is currently \$38 million, with a request for an increase to \$42 million. The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2026, with a potential hybrid meeting in September.

Action Items

- Send out an updated council member list so the council can identify voting members and verify quorum
- Organize and schedule a technology demonstration session (invite a technician or expert to present assistive tech at a future council meeting)

Outline

Meeting Introduction and Attendance

- Richard Moeller initiated the meeting and confirmed a quorum with a roll call.
- Roll call was conducted, with all members introducing themselves and their roles.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and Agenda

- Richard Moeller called for the approval of the minutes from the December 15, 2025, meeting.
- Bill McEntaffer made a motion to approve the minutes, and Matt Cain seconded the motion.
- A vote was conducted, with no opposition, and the minutes were approved.

DakotaLink Updates

- Brett Burden and James Honomichl provided updates on DakotaLink.
- Brett mentioned the hiring of John Burton in Brookings and the recent attendance at the CSUN conference in San Diego.
- James discussed his work with John
- Brett demonstrated the C-Pen Reader 3, explaining its features and functionality.
- Brett also discussed other reading pens, including the World Pen and the AI Scan Translator, highlighting their pros and cons.
- Brett also demonstrated the OrCam Read.

Annual Progress Report and Conference Updates

- James Honomichl provided updates on the annual progress report and the annual plan update.
- The report was submitted in mid-December and approved at the state and federal levels.
- James attended the ATAP conference in Washington, DC, and discussed funding for the AT Act grant.
- The grant funding is currently at \$38 million, with a request for an increase to \$42 million.
- James met with staffers for the congressional representatives to discuss the grant and its benefits.

Membership Updates and Public Comments

- James Honomichl mentioned the departure of Beth Schiltz and Konnie Ellis from the council.
- Brett Burden suggested recruiting new members to fill the open spots.
- Richard Moeller expressed interest in demonstrating Amazon Echo technology in future meetings.
- Brett agreed and suggested inviting experts to demonstrate various assistive technologies.

Scheduling the Next Meeting

- The group discussed scheduling the next meeting and decided on June 17, 2026.
- They considered the possibility of an in-person meeting in the early summer or a hybrid meeting in September.
- The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM Central time.