

**Assistive Technology Advisory Council Meeting  
November 21, 2024**

Draft Minutes

**Members Present:**

Kelvin Harris, Chair; Christy Crowther, Vice Chair; Elizabeth Flaherty; Paige Moore; Clay Huie; Joann Willis Lindholm; Dan Aunspach; Kevin Koziol; Eric Raff; Samantha Gregory

**Members Present by Conference Call:** None

**Guests:**

Dale Batten, Deputy Commissioner, DARS  
John Naples, Manager, C.A.T.S.  
Britney Howard, VDDHH  
Paul Mordan, Apple Government (guest speaker)  
Rafi Guroian, Apple Government (guest speaker)  
Dave Marra, Apple Government (virtual guest speaker)  
Betsy Civilette, DARS  
Brian White, DARS  
Brian Pickral, DARS  
David Mackenzie, DARS  
Elisabeth Drake, SAI

**Staff Present:**

Barclay Shepard, Manager, VATS  
Elin Glass, VATS  
Sonja Schaible, VATS  
Emily McKeough, VATS  
Paula Martin, VATS

**Interpreters:** Ivy Brothers and Kate Jerrell

**Call to Order:**

Kelvin Harris, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Harris stated that this meeting was focused on “Apple Accessibility Training”. The meeting took place at the first-floor conference room at DARS Central office 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, VA.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The May 16, 2024, draft minutes were approved as written.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Harris reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any additions from the floor. No additions were made.

**Public Comment:**

There were no comments from the public.

**Old Business:**

No report

**New Business:**

**VATS Program Updates:**

No program updates reported

**ICT Training: Apple Accessibility Training**

Paul Mordan, Rafi Guroian and Dave Marra from Apple Government provided a hands-on information and communication technology training (ICT) titled “Accessibility at Work”. The objective of the training was to inform the audience and demonstrate assistive technology features built into Apple devices (phone, iPad and Mac) for personal accessibility. Apple provides this training to state agencies and local governments to demonstrate how these new features facilitate inclusion and empowers employees to be more productive in the workplace. Apple’s five pillars of accessibility include vision, hearing, speech, mobility and cognitive solutions. Participants were encouraged to bring their own Apple devices or use loaner equipment for the four-hour in person hands-on training in order to explore these accessibility features built into Apple devices. Recently released new features include, but not limited to, eye tracking, listen for a-typical speech, and music happens features. Additional resources are available at [www.apple.com/accessibility](http://www.apple.com/accessibility) as well as a multitude of accessibility tutorials on YouTube (specific to Apple accessibility). Sign language support for shopping and Apple support sessions is available at [www.signtime.apple](http://www.signtime.apple).

**Working Lunch: Advisory Council Member Updates**

Apple Training continued through lunch.

**VATS Contractor Updates:**

No contractor updates reported

**Advisory Council Member Updates:**

Advisory Council members provided updates and announcements regarding past or upcoming events regarding their constituent groups.

**Next ATAC Meeting:**

The next ATAC Meeting:

- Thursday, May 15, 2025 – Location TBD

\*Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held at the DARS Central Office, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, VA. 23229

**Adjournment:** *A motion was made to adjourn and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00pm*