Workforce and Technology Project
ND Protection and Advocacy

Jordan Wetsel

Project Coordinator

Agenda

Introductions – Our Team and Partners

The Problem

The Solution

Primary Goals

Our Plan

Introduction
ND Protection and Advocacy

P&A is concerned with asserting the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities, especially those who cannot articulate and act to protect deprivations.

Meet Our Team

Pam Mack

Director of Advocacy Services

Jordan Wetsel

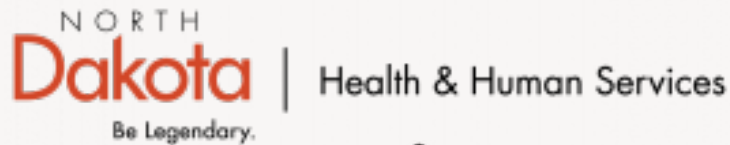Workforce and Technology Project Coordinator

Rebecca Gustofson
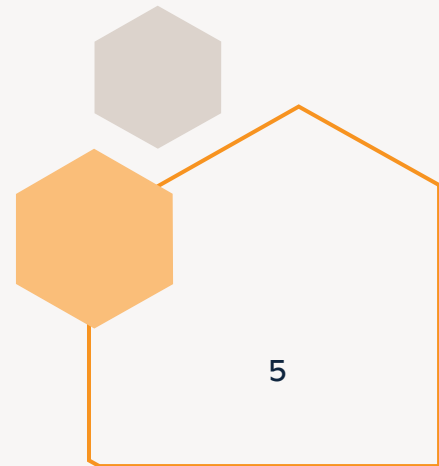
Disabilities Advocate

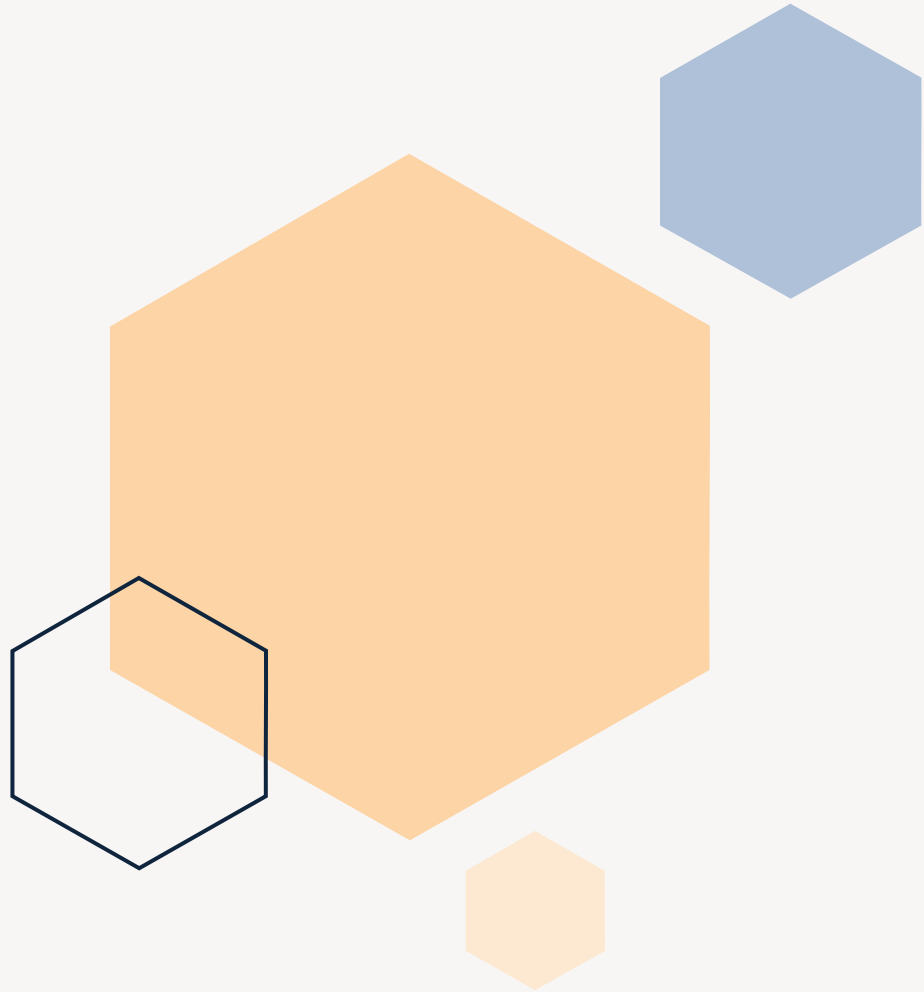**Jana Johnson**

Olmstead Coordinator

Our Partners

Revel Digital

NORTH DAKOTA ASSISTIVE

KALIX
Privacy, Dignity & Purpose for all People.

SCDD
NORTH DAKOTA STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Anne Carlsen

MFP
MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

NORTH Dakota | Health & Human Services
Be Legendary.

Partners in Human Growth
DEVELOPMENT HOMES, INC.

ABLE inc.
weaving lives together

RED RIVER STEPPINGSTONES

WORKFORCE
AND
TECHNOLOGY

The Problem

"A significant shortage of direct support professionals (DSPs), the frontline workers supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), has reached catastrophic levels."

ANCOR - The State of America's Direct Support Workforce Crisis 2022

The Problem

83%

of Providers are Turning Away New Referrals

63%

of Providers are Discontinuing Programs and Services

92%

of Providers are Struggling to Achieve Quality Standards

71%

of Case Managers are Struggling to Find Available Providers

66%

of Providers are Concerned Vacancy and Turnover Rates Will Increase

WORKFORCE
AND
TECHNOLOGY

The Solution

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities.
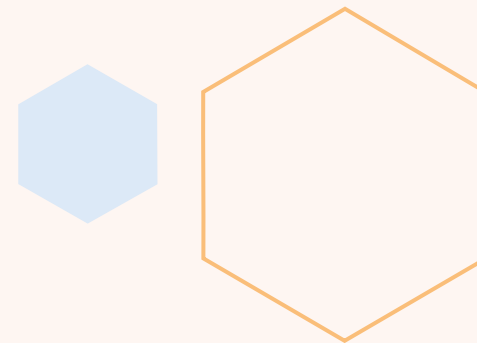
"Assistive technology is a life changer – it opens the door to education for children with impairments, employment and social interaction for adults living with disabilities, and an independent life of dignity for older persons."

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus – Chief of the World Health Organization - Assistive technology: a 'life changer' for those most in need.

https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1118212

Workforce and Technology Project

ND Protection and Advocacy

Goals

Research Technology

- Research technology-based practices that could create independence and decrease dependence on caregiver needs within the services delivery system.

Establish Pilot Project

- Establish pilot projects with individuals who are willing o explore and establish options to use technology to address force needs within the system and to create independence for individuals with disabilities.
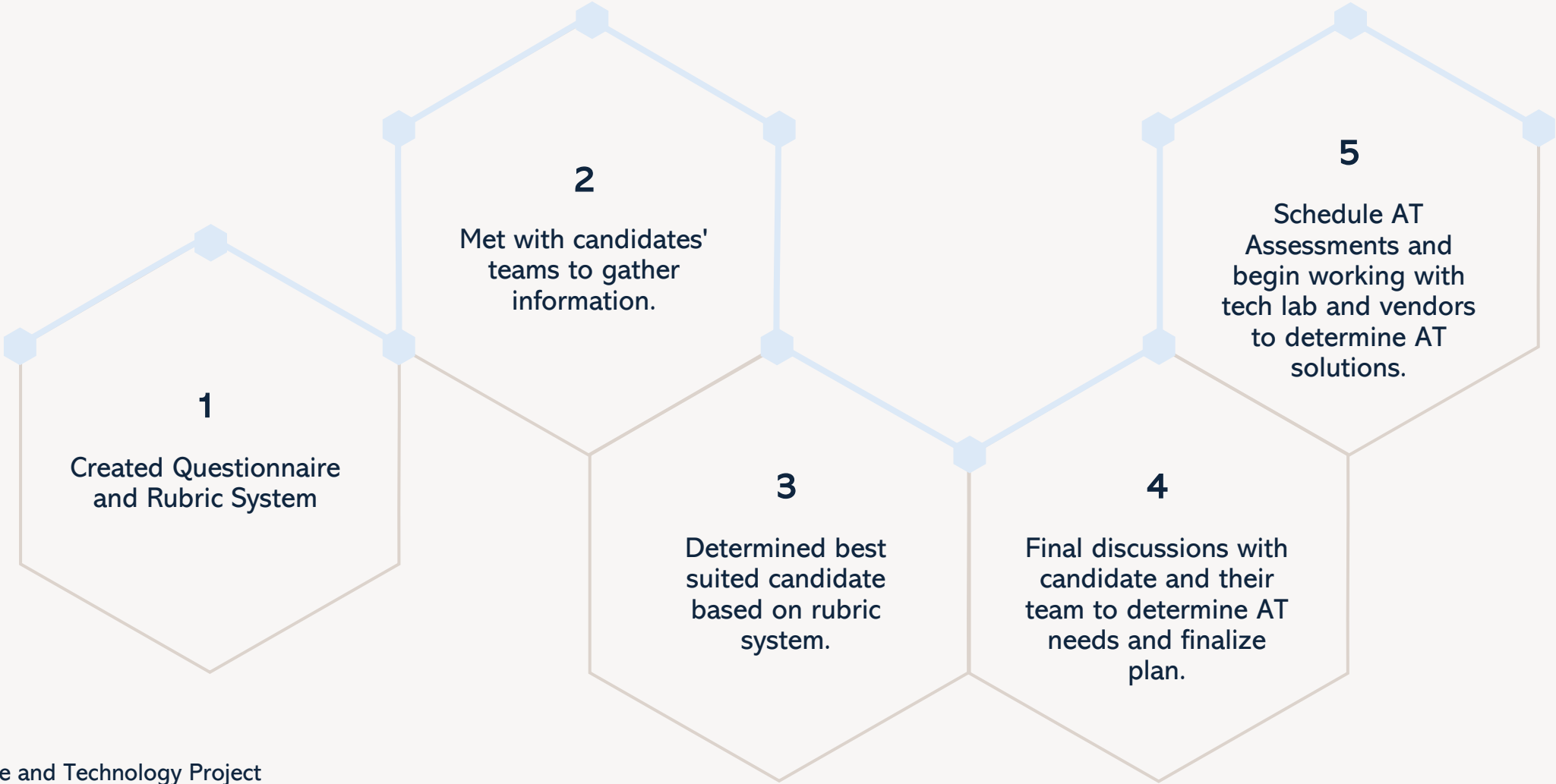
Research Funding

- Research and create pathways for funding for technology assessments, purchasing of technology, and sustainability of technology use through Medicaid or our current waiver structure.

Conduct Cost-Benefit Analysis

- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the use of technology by the pilot project providers to further analyze the long-term benefits or barriers of the use of assistive technology.

Timeline – Pilot Project

1

Created Questionnaire and Rubric System

2

Met with candidates' teams to gather information.

3

Determined best suited candidate based on rubric system.

4

Final discussions with candidate and their team to determine AT needs and finalize plan.

5

Schedule AT Assessments and begin working with tech lab and vendors to determine AT solutions.

Summary
Plan for Sustainability

Currently the use of technology within the service delivery is at its beginning stage in North Dakota.

Through recent contacts with the state of Minnesota, Protection and Advocacy is aware that this concept can be implemented.

The intent through this project is to establish billing avenues through Medicaid or waivered services to ensure sustainable use without the barrier of funding.

Thank you

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www.ndpanda.org