

DHHCAN Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Gallaudet Alumni House

(Thanks to GUAA for their generous support of the DHHCAN meeting space.)

Meeting called to order at 12:22 PM.

Roll Call

Voting Members – quorum achieved

- Zainab Alkebsi, NAD
 - Chelsea Morris, NAD Intern
- Tayler Mayer, TDI
 - Claude Stout, TDI
- Art Roehrig, AADB
- Al Sonnenstrahl, DSA
- Michele Mulligan, CPADO

Organizational Partners

- Neal Tucker, RID
- David Bahar, CSD
 - Ron Sutcliffe, CSD
- Caroline Pezzarossi, ADARA

Guests

- Bob Loftur-Thun, NVRC
 - Tom Dowling, NVRC
- Bill Mulligan

Interpreters

- Jayne Tubergen
- Jan Nishimura
- Pat Richey

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes for the February 7, 2018 stands as read.
- The minutes for the special meeting on March 6, 2018 will be amended (based on Barbara Raimondo's edits made during the meeting and Claude Stout's edits to be emailed).

Officers' Reports:

Chair's Report (Zainab)

- Echoing what was sent through email to the members, we had a productive meeting with Taylor Huhn and Claire Viall.
 - Mr. Huhn and Ms. Viall first shared updates regarding the Congressional Deaf Caucus. Since its founding in 2013, Representatives on the Hill have had better collaboration with

the deaf community and started hosting deaf interns. They have been working on employment, telecommunication relay services, and language acquisition issues. Their current task is funding for Gallaudet and NTID (\$132 million, which is an increase of \$5 million compared to last fall). They both emphasized that they are open to ideas on what they can do for the deaf community. Several members in attendance then took turns discussing certain items of concern, which included VR funding, employment (including the deafplus perspective), H.R. 620, the Cogswell-Macy Act, VRI issues, net neutrality, and housing for deaf senior citizens. Both staffers were very receptive and are following up internally regarding the items we discussed; they specifically asked for more information via email regarding the net neutrality impact, the joint NAD-DSA VRI guidelines, closed captioning compliance updates, and the VR funding issue. Regarding the 8a employment initiative, the goal is to conduct outreach to Republican offices to shore up support.

- This is not the end of our work, we still have a lot more to do. Looking forward to working with them more in the future.
- Claude agreed that the meeting went well but he realized after the meeting that we need to increase visibility for our advocacy for the deaf and hard of hearing community, similar to the attention that Gallaudet and NTID get from the Caucus. We need to work with Hill offices and the Gallaudet/NTID community to strike a balance.
- Members discussed on the idea of having representatives from Gallaudet and NTID collaborate with DHHCAN in various ways. Marcia commented that as a representative from GUAA, she feels she is not in a position to discuss specific actions that Gallaudet could do. So she thinks that representatives who currently work in administrative levels at both institutions would be better. Zainab agreed to reach out to the appropriate folks for both. Sonny shared his idea of having students from Gallaudet and NTID to help our advocacy action through a community service arrangement. All agreed to look into more ideas and discuss them at a later time.

Vice Chair's Report

- Absent

Secretary's Report (Tayler)

- This will be his last day as a representative in DHHCAN because his wife accepted a job at FCC. His work at TDI will be a conflict of interest so he has to resign. His last day with TDI will be on April 13th.
- Zainab commented on how much DHHCAN appreciates his work as Secretary and will miss him. This also means we will need to elect a new Secretary to fill the vacancy. Marcia was nominated and she requested some time to consider the nomination.

Treasurer's Report (Sonny)

- The balance as of March 30, 2018 is \$20,966.26, reflecting a total of \$300 in check payments (\$150 each) plus a service charge of \$4.00.
- We added \$500 in dues from NVRC (Northern Virginia Resource Center).
 - Members discussed whether NVRC meets the membership criteria of DHHCAN. NVRC does not meet the criteria of “national organization” because they are currently serving consumers from the Northern Virginia area which means they are a local/regional organization. (Organizations that do not meet the criteria of regular voting members can apply to be Organizational Partners.) NVRC will submit documentation for our consideration and the group can discuss further during the next meeting.
 - Later during the meeting, Sonny threw in the idea of having DGM (Deaf Grassroots Movement) become a member of DHHCAN but that idea was dropped because DGM does not have membership dues from their members.

- Sonny raised the idea of lunch fees for visitors. Neal and Sonny discussed this on their own time and felt a \$15 flat rate would be fair for the visitors and the coalition. Members then discussed how to define who gets the free lunch versus who pays the flat rate. Organizations have 1 representative and 1 alternate but each organization will get one free lunch. Interpreters or access companions are included as are invited guests and Ole Jim staff.
 - Majority voted in favor. Motion passed.
- Sonny moves to approve the \$15 flat rate for lunch for the visitors.
 - Zainab seconded.
 - Majority voted in favor. Motion passed.
- Sonny briefed us with his experience of his Gmail account being hacked. He opened an email that showed a link to ASL videos but when he opened that link he found nothing and tried to go back into his account which was logged out. He tried to sign in again but couldn't and realized all of his information was changed. Later decided to switch to iCloud email so contact him through his iCloud address not Gmail address.

Committee Reports

- *Civil Rights Protection and Enforcement (Zainab Alkebsi):*
 - H.R. 620 passed in the House so we have been trying to beat it on the Senate side. The NAD worked with cross-disability advocacy organizations and Senator Duckworth who developed a letter to get all the Democratic Senators support the letter to filibuster any Senate version of the bill. 43 Democratic Senators signed on so good news, the bill is now dead on the Senate side!
 - Sonny asked for a list of who signed onto the Senate letter. Zainab will share the list of people who signed onto the Senate letter as the NAD will be sending out a thank-you letter to those Senators.
- *Employment (David Bahar):*
 - Republican staff of the Small Business Committee in the House is supportive of the 8A incentive. He also met with Representative Hoyer and his staff (especially the freshman member of Small Business). Also met with another representative from Colorado. Had 6 meetings in total and they all support the 8A incentive so that is good news. However, they seem to be hesitant in investing on this idea because they do not want to take more than what they can do. With this, David will draft language for them to use and give it to NAD for review before giving it to Rep. McMorris-Rodgers' office for them to translate it into legislation language for discussion. Right now, most of them like the idea but are withholding their support until they see the official language.
- *Health Care (Lise Hamlin):*
 - Absent
- *Housing (Al Sonnenstrahl):*
 - No report
- *Telecommunication (Tayler and Zainab):*
 - Tayler said no report. Zainab added the following:
 - On February 16, the Consumer Groups filed reply comments in response to the FCC's Tech Transitions FNPRM. We reiterated our original January 17 comments (see earlier minutes).
 - On February 20, TDI, NAD, and Gallaudet-RERC filed an ex parte letter with the FCC asking them to refrain from requiring log-ins with PINs for public and enterprise videophones (which would be burdensome) and to refer the matter to the iTRS Fund

Advisory Council. Sonny and Zainab are members of this Council, which will be meeting this week in PA with an expert presentation on the issue.

- One question was raised regarding net neutrality and the effect it will have on VRS on mobile devices. The effective date for the regulation is April 23rd but there are multiple lawsuits against the FCC pending.
- Question on updates on NG 911: No concrete updates. Sonny suggested the idea of having Alec MacFarlane come and present on updates if he has any. Zainab mentioned that the goal is to have NG 911 deployed by 2020 but we do not know if that is still going to happen on time. Zainab will work on having an expert come to the meeting to provide us updates and we can discuss more on that then.
- *Transportation: (Zainab)*
 - On February 6, the NAD signed on with cross-disability organizations to DOT letter regarding opposition to Delta's and United's new service animal policies that went into effect March 1. Delta's 48-hours requirement to submit documentation is especially onerous. United's policy applies only to emotional support animals, not to trained service animals.
 - The Cabin Announcements Task Force will meet again on April 12. Due to Executive Order 13771, the DOT has indicated it is unlikely to pursue any new regulation on cabin announcements in the new term. So we are considering developing a best practices document. Obviously, the concern with that is it needs to have teeth to ensure it's actually adopted by airlines. The FAA made reassurances that it could be incorporated in their formal guidelines and that the formal guidelines they routinely issue are typically followed by the airlines. We are also working on pulling in airport representatives to apply our work to at-gate announcements as well.
- *25th Anniversary Planning Committee (Sonny)*
 - We explored several different menus and we liked one that had several different hot appetizers that we could choose from. Our vision is to have servers walk around with appetizers throughout the event instead of having a full sit-down dinner. We also want to have a cash bar at the event. We need to set up a tasting with the restaurant we liked so we can pick out several appetizers.
 - As for sponsorship, we have some people reaching out to us saying that they are willing to sponsor this event so we believe it will be covered without any of our expenses.
 - To clarify to some members, the event will be at Ole Jim during the last week of September.
- *Website Committee (Tayler, Sonny & David)*
 - Haven't found a time to meet yet.
 - Need to add organizational links on the website.
 - Tayler will need to wrap up his work before his departure on April 13th. TDI will continue to host the website.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Zainab moves to create name placards to identify organizations and whether they are voting members or organizational partners. (Zainab will share an accessible list for Art).
 - Michele moves to vote. Sonny seconds.

- Majority voted in favor. Motion passed.

Announcements

- RID announced it is donating a check of \$1,000 to recognize the hard work DHHCAN has been doing.
- Sonny announced that we also got an anonymous donation of \$500 so we have total of \$1,500 in donations now.
- Zainab mentions that we need to draft a thank you letter to RID to show our appreciation. Sonny will do that.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:59 pm.

Submitted by
Chelsea Morris, NAD Policy Intern