



## DHHCAN Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 5th 2018

Gallaudet University – Peikoff Alumni House (PAH)

(Thanks to Alumni Relations/GUAA for allowing DHHCAN to use the conference room)

Chair Zainab Alkebsi called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

### **Roll Call**

#### Voting Members – quorum achieved

- Zainab Alkebsi, NAD
- Alfred “Sonny” Sonnenstrahl, DSA
- Eric Kaika, TDI
- Michelle Mulligan, CPADO
- Marcia Zisman, GUAA
- Lise Hamlin, HLAA

#### Organizational Partners

- Neal Tucker, RID
- Dr. Caroline Pezzarossi, ADARA
- Bob Loftur-Thun, NVRC

#### Guests/Visitors

- Bill Mulligan
- Bernard Hurwitz, NTID
- Fred Weiner, Gallaudet
- Ellen Roth
- Kelby Brick, NASADHH

#### Interpreters

- Jan Nishimura
- Jayne Tubergen

## **Officers' Reports**

### **Chair's Report**

- Zainab thanked all for coming early to the meeting and Neal for setting up the video meeting equipment
- New communication rules will be followed to accommodate those chiming in via video. (Turned out no one chimed in, yet we continued to follow the rules viewing this as a practice session)
- The issue of vocational rehabilitation (VR) support for deaf students needs to be addressed. Deaf students are being told to attend local colleges/universities instead of attending Gallaudet or NTID.
- The first Wednesday in January is January 2nd. If agreeable, we can meet on January 9th instead. The conference room will be available.
- Zainab/Sonny shared that Barbara Raimondo requested DHHCAN support Capitol Hill Advocacy Day by funding two interpreters at a cost of \$300. DHHCAN has been providing support for this event for the past 3 years. Sonny supports this request. We will vote during the new business portion of our meeting.

### **Vice Chair's Report**

- Bernie was absent so no report.

### **Secretary's Report**

- The condensed version of the minutes of the meeting on November 7th were accepted as read.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Balance in the bank account as of November 30th was \$32,090.60. Still awaiting the bill from the caterer for the balance owed (\$1,800) for the 25th Anniversary celebration.
- All organizations have paid their membership dues. NBDA said they already paid, but we have not received payment. Sonny will follow up.
- NASADHH has already paid membership dues but has not submitted their full and completed application documentation. No payment has been received from DWU as of yet.

## Committee Reports

### ☐ *Civil Rights Protection and Enforcement:*

- ☐ NAD has received a lot of wonderful feedback and people calling about the ASL voter assistance hotline. The hotline will continue to be available during future elections. NAD wants to collaborate with Fred and Bernard (our guests at the meeting) to better advertise the hotline to the Gallaudet and NTID communities.

### ☐ *Education:*

- ☐ CEASD is busy preparing for Capitol Hill Advocacy Day which will take place on February 26-27, 2019. Planned activities on Day 1 include a tour of Gallaudet University and workshops. Day 2 will be Capitol Hill Day with briefings in house offices, appointments with state representatives and a meeting at a restaurant. Barbara will send us information and hopes that DHHCAN members will attend.

### ☐ *Employment :*

- ☐ David was absent, no report.

### ☐ *Health Care :*

- ☐ Still waiting on FDA to implement rules on over-the-counter hearing aids. We may see something by the Fall of 2019.

### ☐ *Housing :*

No report.

### ☐ *Telecommunications :*

#### ***Ex Parte to Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities – Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service • CG Dockets No. 03-123 & 13-24***

Strong support from commenters re: establishing a system for IP-CTS users to rate the quality of their calls. All agree consumer choice, efficiency, transparency and a technological neutral framework in providing IP-CTS, but not at the expense of functional equivalence. FCC's NOI on metrics is insufficient and must engage in further research before adopting new, better-defined metrics for comments. Regardless of how metrics are defined, it must apply to all providers and that an independent third-party conducts testing. Commission must continue to keep consumers involved in quality rating system.

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1115916117979/2018.11.15%20Consumer%20Groups%20and%20RERCs%20IP%20CTS%20Metrics%20NOI%20Reply%20Comments%20final.pdf>

☐ *Transportation:*

- ☐ Zainab hopes that the Cabin Announcement Task Force will meet sometime in February.

### **Special Session with Gallaudet University and NTID**

- Bernard explained that NTID is an educational institution. While he feels that DHHCAN does a wonderful job with policy advocacy, he is not sure how NTID fits in with our mission. Several months ago, NAD CEO Howard Rosenblum explained to Bernard that DHHCAN can advocate for issues that impact NTID students. Fred said that Gallaudet being in DC offers an opportunity for the university to be involved with some of the member organizations' activities - i.e., Capitol Hill Day, VR, early intervention, and its Technology Access Program. Zainab feels that working together and coordinating on different issues will create a united front and ensure that we present the same message
- Fred shared that the President's Office at Gallaudet is undergoing restructuring. Two things that came up - long term campus planning and multi-generational housing on campus can possibly involve contacts with DSA and HLAA. Gallaudet's presence at DHHCAN meetings can help with this.
- Zainab would love to see both Gallaudet and NTID attend DHHCAN meetings on a regular basis if possible. Sonny suggested they consider attending every 3 months instead of monthly, especially due to the travel time NTID would need to attend meetings.
- Many colleges and universities maintain relations with community organizations. Gallaudet and NTID should be no different.
- We now have some young deaf people serving with local governments.
- Zainab suggested we consider adding an 8th committee under DHHCAN - Youth. We need youth to be involved in DHHCAN to keep us up to date with issues facing the deaf/hard of hearing community. If we agree to do this, Zainab will appoint a representative. This will be considered during the New Business portion of the meeting.
- DHHCAN should consider inviting more students to observe our meetings. Bernard offered to bring motivated NTID students with him when he attends meetings.
- The special session wrapped up with the agreement that DHHCAN will continue sending meeting minutes to both Fred and Bernard, both universities will consider attending every 4-months (due to meetings not being held in the summer), both can bring students along to observe the meetings, and coordination between both universities and DHHCAN will continue.

### **Old Business**

- There was no old business.

### **New Business**

- Sonny (sec) moved to support two interpreters for Capitol Hill Day. PASSED; HLAA abstained
- Zainab (sec) moved to establish a Youth Committee under DHHCAN. PASSED

There was a question on podcasts and whether NAD is still working on the issue of required captioning. Zainab explained that Sonny's suggestion of including a phone line for deaf users to access podcasts via VRS was mentioned in a recent filing with the FCC. Also, NAD is pushing for "CVAA 2.0" to expand coverage of what is accessible online. Podcasts and videos are very similar and should be treated the same way.

### **Announcements**

- Barbara thanked DHHCAN for its support of Capitol Hill Advocacy Day.
- Neal asked us for recommendations of where to post the member/affiliate relations job announcement
- Michelle shared news out of Scotland where the first deaf physician with cerebral palsy is now practicing.
- Happy birthday to Zainab (December 7th)!
- Happy Holidays to all!

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Zisman  
DHHCAN Secretary