



DHHCAN Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 09, 2019

Gallaudet University – Peikoff Alumni House

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

Chair Zainab Alkebsi called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m..

### **Roll Call**

#### **Voting Members - Quorum achieved**

- Zainab Alkebsi , NAD
- Marcia Zisman, GUAA
- Eric Kaika, TDI
- Al “Sonny” Sonnenstrahl, DSA
- Mark Hill, CPADO
- Art Roehrig, AADB

#### **Organizational Partners**

- Neal Tucker, RID
- Dr. Caroline Pezzarossi, ADARA
- Ron Sutcliffe, CSD
- Tyrone Giordano, CSD
- David Bahar, CSD
- Barbara Raimondo, CEASD

#### **Interpreters**

- Jan Nishimura
- Jayne Tubergen
- Pat Richey

## **Visitors**

- Kelby Brick, NASADHH
- Eric Raff, NASADHH
- Sam Jones
- Fred Weiner, Gallaudet University

## **Officers' Reports**

### **Chair's Report**

- Zainab thanked Neal for bringing in the food for our lunch today as well as setting up the video conferencing technology.
- We will vote on the application for membership from NASADHH. They will explain further and answer our questions.

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

- Bernie Palmer was absent, so no report

### **Secretary's Report**

- The minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting were accepted as read.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Sonny reported the balance of our account as of December 31st is \$32,228.31.
- All members with the exception of NBDA have paid their membership dues.

## **New Business**

Since Eric Raff had to leave early, we agreed to address the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH) membership application before the committee reports. Eric shared NASADHH's mission and purpose. There are 37 or 38 states that have state agencies that focus on state issues, not all of the agencies are members of NASADHH. The organization shares information and best practices related to policy and serving deaf and hard of hearing citizens. The majority of the board of NASADHH is made up of deaf individuals.

NASADHH applied to be an organizational partner as they do not meet all criteria required to be a voting member, the organization is not consumer- based. NASADHH is not a government entity itself but its members are state government entities.

Eric and Kelby then left the room and there was a closed discussion on the application.

Sonny (sec) moved to accept NASADHH as an organizational partner of DHHCAN. PASSED

## **Committee Reports**

### *Civil Rights Protection and Enforcement:*

- Nothing to report.

### *Education:*

- CEASD is busy preparing for Capitol Hill Advocacy Day (Education and Advocacy Summit) 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 sent invitations to DHHCAN members and hopes that many of us will be able to attend.
- We hope to have the Cogswell-Sullivan Macy Act reintroduced during the next Congress.

### *Employment:*

- There are 60 new members of Congress who are new to our issues and ripe for getting them on our side. David plans to reach out to as many new members as possible and would like to share the Presidential Policy document that DHHCAN put together for the recent presidential election. The document contains recommendations from the seven (7) policy committees. We agreed to allow David to share the document with the new members of Congress.
  - Kelby brought up the current government shutdown and how it affects Deaf and hard of hearing government employees and contractors. Those who are Maryland residents are being encouraged to apply for unemployment benefits. It was suggested that we share this information with Deaf in Government (DIG) which may be under the NAD's umbrella. The effects of the shutdown are far-reaching, almost even affecting the VRS industry which depends on payments from the iTRS Advisory Fund, administered by Rolka Loube with oversight by the FCC.
- Health Care :
- Lise was absent so no report.

*Housing :*

- ❑ Sonny had no report but mentioned that he learned that Secretary of HUD, Ben Carson wants to remove the non-discriminatory policy related to housing. He is not sure if/how this affects housing for Deaf/HH individuals and if it will help our community. The Fair Housing Act does not prevent providers of housing from hiring a deaf-friendly staff. Also, the shutdown can affect housing - federal employees and contractors who are not being paid will be unable to make timely mortgage/rent payments.

❑ *Telecommunications :*

- ❑ Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities – Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service
  - ❑ HAAA, TDI, TAP, and TLPC met with legal advisors for FCC Commissioners and officials with Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau to present arguments re: Commissions' June 8th Proposed Rulemaking to further emphasize that States lack the resources to administer IP CTS program. We also stressed that implementation of a certification requirement will deter use of the program. We further pointed out that the Commission's assertion of waste, fraud and abuse lacks concrete data. We urged the Commission to change course and improve consumer-drive self-certification, which may provide more data about intake and usage of the program.
- ❑ Petition for Rulemaking by Sprint Corporation to Establish a New Rulemaking Methodology for IP Relay Service
  - ❑ DHHCAN submitted reply comments. Sprint proposes a hybrid rate methodology based on Multistate Average Rate Structure and provider costs to set future rates for IP Relay service. T-Meeting Global filed comments suggesting IP Relay to be abandoned (favoring IP Relay services based in ITU Total Conversation). Consumer groups disagree re: abandonment, pointing out TRS Policy about providing an array of services. IP Relay remains the preferred communication for some deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and particularly deafblind, as well as some of their hearing contacts.
- ❑ Karen Peltz Strauss, FCC's Deputy Bureau Chief of the Consumer and

Governmental Affairs Bureau has retired. Kelby pointed out that this position has not always been advertised to the general public, so DHHCAN will want to consider putting pressure on FCC to hire a Deaf/HH replacement.

- ❑ TDI was approached by Kairos Partners (KP) who wanted to know Consumer Groups' stance re: TRS Line Item on phone bills. Historically, Consumer Groups were against it, but more recently they've adopted a neutral stance. KP doesn't want to misrepresent us in their deliberations against the ITTA petition and cause risk to the TRS funding model. They are against line items and urge us to continue our initial view on the matter. Eric Kaika will draft a more detailed summary and will share with Zainab to distribute to all DHHCAN members so we have background and can have a more streamlined discussion at the next meeting.

❑ *Transportation:*

- ❑ There's been no action due to the government shutdown.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Zisman  
DHHCAN Secretary