



**DHHCAN Meeting**

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Gallaudet University Peikoff Alumni House Conference Room

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

**ROLL CALL**

Voting Members	Organizational Partners	Others
Zainab Alkebsi, NAD	Caroline Pezzarossi, ADARA	Pat Richey, interpreter
Michelle Mulligan, CPADO	Neal Tucker, RID	Sam Jones, general public guest
Art Roehrig, AADB	Barbara Raimondo, CEASD	Parker Holt, NAD policy intern
Bernie Palmer, ALDA	Kelby Brick, NASADHH Eric Raff, NASADHH	
Marcia Zisman, GUAA		
Al Sonnenstrahl, DSA		

Communication protocols explained.

Introductions and placement.

Meeting called to order: 12:26 p.m.

Quorum: Met

**Chair's Report**

- This is our last meeting before the summer hiatus. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, September 4th. This conflicts with the Deaf Seniors of America meeting which both Marcia and Sonny will be attending. Art also had a conflict. Zainab will contact Sam and Abby to check on room availability for alternate dates and get back to us.

- Fred Weiner who represented Gallaudet at DHHCAN meetings has retired. Vice-Chair Bernie Palmer will also be retiring, this is his last meeting.
- Regarding the DHHCAN signatory policy - our individual organizations often file jointly on many issues. The previous chair's policy was to check with only the DHHCAN officers for approval to sign onto filings on behalf of DHHCAN. The current chair has not signed on any of the filings for DHHCAN yet as she would like a more transparent policy to ensure the coalition as a whole is on the same page and is aware of these filings. Ideas are welcomed regarding official procedure for this. We will discuss this during the new business part of today's meeting.
- We will accept nominations to fill the vacant DHHCAN Vice Chair position. The election will take place at the September meeting. Eric Kaika was nominated.

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

- Bernie had no report but thanked us for the privilege of serving DHHCAN. He will check with ALDA to see who the new representative will be. Since not many members live in the area, the representative may need to attend remotely.

### **Secretary's Report**

- The minutes of the May 2, 2019 meeting were accepted as read.
- Art shared his concern about the amount of detail and length of minutes. The Chair reminded Art that this issue was previously discussed at a past DHHCAN meeting and it was determined that members who are unable to attend the meetings get full information of what they missed if the minutes are detailed. We can revisit this.

### **Treasurer Report**

- The DHHCAN bank account balance as of May 31st was \$27,553.52. Most of the expenditures were on meeting expenses - interpreters and food.
- March 31, 2019 Balance: \$28,668.77
- April 30, 2019 Balance: \$28,451.77
- He shared with us about his recent travels which included visits to Deaf Studies classrooms. There is a serious lack of knowledge about telecommunications history - students are quickly able to identify AG Bell but are not able to name Bob Weichbrecht (founder of TDI). He asked for our advice on how to further share this information.

## **POLICY REPORTS**

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- As previously reported, there has been a delay in incorporating the consensus agreement into a DOT NPRM regarding in-flight entertainment captioning due to Executive Order 13771 which requires a complicated fiscal analysis. Zainab had a recent conversation with a staff member of Representative Joe Morelle, D-NY(Rochester District) who expressed interest in the issue. He plans to send a letter to the Department of Transportation letting them know that there is Congressional attention on this and that a reply is needed by a certain date. Apparently, Rep.

Morelle's constituent contacted him about this issue. We agreed that we'd like to find out the identity of the constituent if possible and also see if DHH CAN can meet with Morelle's staff.

- NAD is in the process of assessing the status of accessibility across a variety of categories by ranking companies in those categories. The goal is to recognize those who are doing it right and to work with those who need improvement. It circulated a survey of the DHOH community on accessibility at sports venues and is in the process of finalizing data for that ranking project. They are now collecting information on airlines and metro/subway systems regarding accessibility barriers. .
- Other transportation issues that were brought up:
  - Deaf travelers are often offered wheelchairs by the airlines.
  - Issues faced by DeafBlind commuters on Metro Access, a shared-ride, door-to-door, paratransit service for people in the DC metropolitan area whose disability prevents them from using bus or rail and a specific incident where a DeafBlind senior citizen was stranded at a senior center. The Metro Access drivers who pick up deaf blind riders need sensitivity and awareness training. We need to find out who at Metro Access to provide feedback to about this serious problem. The question about the existence of AADB was brought up and this will be discussed off-line. Some states have adopted universal logos for blind (white cane) and DeafBlind (white cane with red tip). This needs to be revisited as some states may not require the logos. This is a possible project for NASADHH.

## **CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT**

- As mentioned earlier, NAD hopes to complete the ranking project soon for the sports venue accessibility category.

## **EDUCATION**

- CEASD continues preparing for the reintroduction of the Cogswell Macy Act, contacting other interested parties for their viewpoints.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- Bob Loftur-Thun's term as interim Executive Director of NVRC ends on June 30th. He will submit a status report and is hopeful that his replacement will be able to oversee employment policy.

## **HEALTH CARE**

Absent, no report.

- Neal reported that the state of Rhode Island Bill 0141 requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for communication access between deaf patients and their physicians. Bill 0142 increases insurance coverage for hearing aids from \$1,500 to \$2,000, per ear, every three years. In addition, the amount of insurance coverage would no longer be based on the age of the recipient. Rhode Island Association of the Deaf and the Rhode Island RID (affiliate chapter) collaborated on these bills. The Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was formerly led by Steven Florio. Interim executive director is Tim Riker.

## **HOUSING**

No report.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SERVICES, AND VIDEO PROGRAMMING**

- TDI, NAD, ALDA, HLAA, CPADO, AADB, and Gallaudet University submitted an ex parte filing addressing the enterprise videophone registration portion of the Draft Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The CGs and Gallaudet object to the proposal to require VRS providers to obtain a compliance certification from the individual responsible for the enterprise videophone, that the responsible individual “will make reasonable efforts to ensure that only registered VRS users are permitted to use the phone for VRS calls.” That certification is likely to restrict access to videophones in public spaces. The CGs and Gallaudet support the alternative proposal in which the responsible individual “will make reasonable efforts to ensure that only persons with a hearing or speech disability are permitted to use the phone for VRS calls”. CGs and Gallaudet also concerned about “reasonable efforts” and ask the FCC to ensure such efforts do not undermine functional equivalency or infringe on consumers’ privacy rights and protections, such as maintaining a list of users, requiring callers to provide proof of registration to use a videophone, or compromising HIPPA and COPPA.
- TDI, NAD, HLAA, ALDA, CPADO, CCASDHH, AADB, AAPD, DREDF, NCIL, PVA, United Spinal, IT-RERC, and DHH-RERC submitted an ex parte filing supporting General Motors’ motion to withdraw its December petition to waive certain Real-Time Text (RTT) requirements for its upcoming automated ride-hailing service. GM plans for the service to be a non-interconnected service with RTT functionality, which they intend to meet the relevant accessibility requirements of Rule 14.2(b). <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/>
- TDI, NAD, HLAA, ALDA, NASADHH, NASRA, and CCASDHH submitted reply comments in response to the Public Notice issued by the FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau focused on expanding text-to-911 during national disasters that can cause landline phone and electrical outages. As of May 2019, approximately 30% of Public Safety Answering

Points (PSAPs) are capable of accepting text-to-911. CGs emphasized network resiliency is important before, during and after major incidents, not just part of restoration process. Text-to-911 should be an active focus of consumer readiness and preparation efforts under the Framework.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None as time ran out. The signatory policy will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We wished Zainab a happy Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

The rescheduled date of the next meeting will be announced.