



DHHCAN Meeting

Wednesday, May 1, 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	Guests
Zainab Alkebsi, NAD	Bob Lofthur-Thun, NVRC	Pat Richey, interpreter
Eric Kaika, TDI	Caroline Pezzarossi, ADARA	Jan Nishimura, interpreter
Mark Hill, CPADO Michelle Mulligan, CPADO	Neal Tucker, RID	Mary Beth Morgan, interpreter
Art Roehrig, AADB	Barbara Raimondo, CEASD	Sam Jones, general public
Bernie Palmer, ALDA	Ron Sutcliffe, CSD	Bill Mulligan, general public
Marcia Zisman, GUAA	Kelby Brick, NASADHH	Lissette Molina Wood, Deaf Women United
Lise Hamlin, HLAA		Justin Maturo, Legislative Director, Congressman Mark Takano

Communication protocols explained.

Introductions and placement.

Chair Zainab Alkebsi introduced special guest, Justin Maturo of Congressman Mark Takano's office. Since Justin had limited time to be with us, we agreed to table regular business until after our discussion with Justin.

Rep. Takano is co-chair of the Congressional Deaf Caucus. DHHCAN will be working primarily with Whitley O'Neal who was unable to attend today's meeting. Justin reported that efforts to identify a Republican co-chair for the Deaf Caucus have not been successful and asked for suggestions. Barbara Raimondo said that she will follow up with Justin to identify possible replacements.

Justin expressed interest in the policy reports, each policy chair will share highlights with Justin. He mentioned the deaf cadet demonstration program provision that was pushed to be included in

the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a military spending bill. Last May, the House succeeded in getting it in their version, but then the Senate removed it. Congressman Takano has taken the lead on this effort and is hoping to get a provision included with the NDAA 2020 bill.

Justin then took questions from us. Some topics discussed included:

- How many members are on the Congressional Deaf Caucus committee - there were 43 members, presently the number is lower due to changes in Congress. He will get back to us with the current list of members.
- How we can approach members of the caucus, there may be volunteer opportunities for DHHCAN members.
- S.255 - Disability Employment Incentive Act - not much movement - he will look into it.
- Cogswell Macy Act which CEASD hopes to reintroduce - something the Deaf Caucus could be involved with.
- Medicare expansion - except for doctor costs, Medicare does not cover the cost of hearing aids and related services (audiologists, etc). Under Interim VA Secretary Wiley, the VA has authority to hire hearing aid specialists and audiologists and is leading an effort to encourage the VA to expand services. He will share the letter with us. Hoping for positive things to happen in 2020 and possibly working with the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus.
- It was pointed out to Justin that some bills are non-partisan and have nothing to do with political party issues. Focusing on Deaf/hard of hearing issues is a positive way for Congress to show that it is still responsive to citizens' needs.
- Would it be possible to have a small reception for staff colleagues and DHHCAN members? Many hearing people are clueless about deaf issues, this could be a beneficial networking opportunity.

Policy Chair Highlights:

- Civil Rights Protection and Enforcement
 - Keith Nolan's continuous advocacy for legislation- Deaf in Military - as Justin Maturo mentioned in his remarks
- Transportation
 - Airline onboard entertainment caption access - negotiations reached consensus in 2016; now pushing for the results to be incorporated in DOT NPRM . Nothing has happened so far. The fiscal analysis backlog from Executive Order 13771 has caused this delay.
 - Caption access for on-board announcements - still working on it
 - Strong support for bills related to vehicle accessibility and the desire to include the deaf and hard of hearing community in the design of cars (ie., visual input and output features for communications with a smart car, accessible bluetooth fob alerts if the car is still running)

At this point, Justin had to leave the meeting and asked us to send any additional highlights to him via email.

Meeting called to order: 12:07 p.m.

Quorum: Achieved

Someone brought up that Justin did not discuss proposed cuts to Gallaudet University and other deaf/deaf-blind institutions. As discussed at our April meeting, the President's Budget submission is the first step in the lengthy budget process. It basically reflects the President's priorities. It will be up to Congress to make adjustments and decisions. At the same time, we need to stay aware of what's going on and not become complacent.

Chair Report

- Zainab reached out to Bob Weinstock who is willing to review DHHCAN's bylaws.
- The policy chairs were reminded to provide input so the policy document can be updated.
- For the signatories on the recent filing with FCC on the TRS line item, there was a good meeting with the FCC staff which she feels made a difference. She has filed an ex parte letter.

Vice-Chair Report

- Bernie shared that the selection of Gallaudet's upcoming commencement speaker has raised concerns on campus due to some controversies surrounding Rep. Tom Cole. Anyone with concerns is encouraged to contact the President's Office.
- His own experience with leaving his car running makes him appreciative of Zainab's efforts with carmakers.

Secretary's Report

- The minutes of the April 3, 2019 meeting were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report

No report as Al was absent – he will provide March, April, and May reports at the June meeting.

POLICY REPORTS

EDUCATION

- It has been quiet related to the Cogswell Macy Act. AG Bell expressed interest in participating in the discussions which will happen around July or August.
- CEASD recently held its annual meeting in Denver. Around 200 people attended.

EMPLOYMENT

- Still researching the 10 recommendations from 2016 letter to determine which remain relevant and whether we continue advocating for them.
- Wants feedback from us – legislative actions and the VA letter – other agencies related to employment. He will work with Kelby on existing resources.

- Data from RIT and the National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes in Texas report that 85% of deaf people are currently unemployed.
- The [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#) is the Federal program that provides federal funding for employment and training, including States, and the Department of Labor focuses on labor statistics.
- There is also a professor at Oregon State University, Dr. David Baldrige who has a lot of workforce data. He is a member of ALDA.

HEALTH CARE

- Still waiting on FDA to come up with rules governing the sale of over the counter hearing aids.
- It is still too early to discuss specifics of Medicare coverage of hearing aids and services.

HOUSING

Absent- no report.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SERVICES, AND VIDEO PROGRAMMING

- TDI, NAD, ALDA, HLAA, CPADO and AADB submitted comments in response to a Public Notice issued by the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) on Sprint's Petition for Interim Waivers.

Sprint wants relief from the Commission's current IP Relay compensation methodology "until the Commission establishes a longer-term, compensatory rate methodology." Sprint seeks expansion of its current waiver allowing it to recover costs incurred for targeted outreach to DeafBlind community; reimbursement for overhead costs associated with providing IP Relay; and cost recovery for R&D. Consumer groups urge FCC to grant each of Sprint's waiver requests.

- HLAA, TDI, NAD, ALDA, CPADO, AADB, DESA, CCASDHH, DHH-RERC, and IT-RERC submitted comments to the FCC for its Further Notice for Proposed Rulemaking on IP-CTS.

The Commission plans to adapt a User Registration Database (URD) to better understand increase in minutes, fight waste, fraud, and abuse, as well as growth in the hearing loss programs. Consumer groups expressed same privacy concerns with the URD as with the implantation in VRS.

The commission should not tie users' unique account identifier to personal information included in the URD. Requiring providers to submit personal IDs account identifiers with call detail reports will unconstitutionally infringe on privacy

interest of IP CTS users. Requiring providers to submit personally identifiable account IDs with call detail reports will cause harm to professional and medical piracy interest.

CGs support Commission in achieving its goals while respecting user's privacy rights by requiring providers to submit a randomized number with call detail reports. Providers will be allowed to continue service while user registration is pending. Commission should reconsider its proposed 911 call-routing rules and undergo further study of consequences to IP-CTS users.

- TDI, NAD, AADB, CPADO, and HLAA submitted an ex parte letter to urge the FCC to promptly approve Global VRS's application for certification to provide VRS as well as the applications for full certification filed by other providers, who currently only hold conditional certifications to provide VRS.
- HLAA, TDI, NAD, ALDA, CPADO, AADB, DSA, CCASDHH, DHH-RERC, and IT-RERC submitted reply comments to FCC for its Further Notice for Proposed Rulemaking on IP-CTS.

CGs expressed privacy concerns about using unique account IDs with call detail reports, we encourage a more private approach while still allowing the Commission to monitor wasteful conduct.

CGs believe the providers should assign the Personally Identifiable Information (PII), but not choose the identifier - that should be randomized so that the Commission cannot directly or indirectly tie back to specific users.

Noted on record overwhelming support from many other commenters that the TRS Fund should compensate minutes used by new and porting IP CTS users for up to two weeks.

Commission wants to change the nature of CA involvement in 911 calls for IP CTS calls. CGs encourage the commission to first consult with consumers and providers to find a solution to prevent repetition of problems presented during 911 calls for the VRS program.

- TDI, HLAA, NAD, CIEP/WASILC and CCASDHH submitted comments in response to the Public Notice issued by the FCC's Homeland Security and Public Safety to solicit input regarding the efficacy of the Wireless Resiliency Cooperative Framework.

Encourage the Bureau to recommend that the Framework include specific provisions that address the needs to the D/HH community with respect to wireless services in emergency and disaster situations and provide suggestions for changes or expansion to the Framework as an extension of the CTIA Best Practices regarding Creating

Education Awareness Campaigns to improve the distribution of emergency and public safety information to the deaf and hard of hearing community during times of disasters or wireless network outage.

Note: DHHCAN members are encouraged to read the filing to be aware of the numerous issues and suggested improvements.

<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10430247040772/Consumer%20Groups%20Comments%20-%20Wireless%20Resiliency%20Framework.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION

- Current issues were covered in policy highlights earlier
- Meetings continue with Volkswagen on universal design and fob issues

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In honor of National Interpreter Appreciation Day, Neal expressed thanks to the interpreters for today's meeting as well as Kelby.
- Barbara thanked Zainab for inviting Justin to today's meeting, she is happy to see that the Deaf Caucus is getting attention again.
- Congratulations to Kelby who was recently presented the Leadership in Law Award from The Daily Record, a local newspaper in Baltimore, MD.
- Mark shared that a bill was passed by both Houses in Oregon that provides funding for communication facilitators for both deafblind users and deaf persons with mobility disabilities. The bill now awaits the Governor's signature.

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Our next meeting, the last one before the summer break, will be on Wednesday, June 5th.