



Please Note: Since a quorum was not achieved, this is an unofficial record of proceedings.

DHHCAN Meeting

September 11, 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
Mark Hill, Michelle Mulligan, CPADO	Neal Tucker, RID	Sam Jones, General Public Guest
Art Roehrig, AADB	Barbara Raimondo, CEASD	Angela Pettigrew, NAD policy intern
Eric Kaika, TDI	Kelby Brick, NASADHH	
Marcia Zisman, GUAA	Eileen McCartin, NVRC	
	Ron Sutcliffe, CSD	

Communication protocols explained.

Introductions and placement.

Meeting called to order: 12:09 p.m.

Quorum: Failed (5 voting members present, 6 required for quorum)

Chair's Report

- Due to lack of quorum, the election for the DHHCAN Vice-Chair position will be postponed to the October meeting.

- Heads Up - DHHCAN officer election will take place in December. We need to start thinking about nominees for the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer positions. Nominations welcomed by the November meeting.
- Thanks to those who signed onto the 2020 policy letter for the Presidential election candidates. As of this meeting, all except AADB and NASADHH have signed onto the letter. Anyone, voting member or organizational partner, can be a signatory.

Vice-Chair's Report (vacant)

Secretary's Report

- Review of the June 5th meeting minutes. Two changes were made: 1) added the March and April bank account balances and 2) changed heading on attendance chart from "Visitors" to "Others" which will include visitors and interpreters.

Treasurer's Report

- Zainab reported for Al who was absent that the August 31st bank account balance was \$27,087.53.

POLICY REPORTS

TRANSPORTATION

- The ranking of airlines and metro/subway systems by the NAD continues.
- Art shared his recent bad experience with Super Shuttle.
- Eric reported that TDI has retained the services of a 4th pro bono law firm (Hogan Lovells) who has expertise on aviation policy with assistance from CSD/NAD behind the scenes to work on the FAA deaf pilot license petition

CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

- The NAD is keeping its eyes on the recently introduced Access Act (HR 4099) which is similar to HR 620, the ADA Education and Reform Act, which pulls back enforcement levers of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and makes it more difficult for individuals with disabilities to seek relief under the ADA. However, NAD is not concerned since we have a Democratic House this time around. The bill is likely to fail.
- The NAD filed comments with HHS opposing the proposal on certain health care changes which will impact deaf and hard of hearing individuals. A video will be released on the NAD website and other social media outlets with comments on the proposal.
- NAD's ranking of sports venue accessibility is almost complete and will soon be released.

EDUCATION

- CEASD continues working on the Cogswell Macy Act. A discussion about the bill with ASHA took place and some minor changes were made. There will be a meeting with Rep. Cartwright's office on plans to reintroduce the bill.
- Plans have started for Advocacy Day which will take place on February 25-26, 2020.

EMPLOYMENT (vacant)

- DHHCAN Chair will seek a volunteer to head this policy committee.

HEALTH CARE

Absent, no report.

HOUSING

Absent, no report.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SERVICES, AND VIDEO PROGRAMMING

TELECOMMUNICATION RELAY SERVICE — TRS

- TDI, NAD, ALDA, CPADO, and AADB submitted comments generally supporting VRS at-home call-handling pilot program - but some concerns remain. We urged VRS Providers to further improve call reliability and response times. We asked Commission to continue to evaluate and improve safeguards for privacy and security of technology, network, and RTT.
- Consumer groups support VRS providers to serve new and porting users pending the completion of identify verification. Consumer Groups, recommend extending the two-week temporary registration period, or allowing multiple extensions mainly for deafblind, deaf plus. Regardless of verification process, ported numbers should not be removed until final determination of identity verification is complete.
- Oppose log-in requirements to use enterprise and public videophones. If the FCC insists, then log-in requirements should be narrow as possible and not apply in cases of emergencies, domestic abuse shelters, etc.

CLOSED CAPTIONING

- Consumer groups are concerned about the Commission's revisions allowing short-form children's programming and changing the rules on airing children's programming on multicast streams. We urge the Commission to commit to revisiting its changes in the R&O if the report reflects that children with disabilities are being denied accessible programming as a result of a proliferation of short-form programming, multicast programming and Categorical Caption Exceptions. We urge the Commission to formally acknowledge and ensure that children's video programming is accessible on equal terms to children who are DeafBlind.

- TDI, ALDA, CPADO, DSA, NAD, and DHH-RERC submitted motion to extend public comment and reply comment deadlines regarding Pluto's petition for waiver of IP closed captioning requirements by 90 days. Pluto's counsel consented to motion.
- TDI, NAD, HLAA, ALDA, CPADO, DSA, DHH-RERC, Captioning DRRP, IT-RERC, and NTID submitted Petition for declaratory ruling and/or rulemaking on live closed captioning quality metrics and the use of automatic speech recognition technologies. We urge the Commission to initiate an inquiry into the state of the art of closed captioning techniques for live television programming and how the varying dimensions of caption quality, including accuracy, synchronicity, completeness, and placement affect the accessibility of video programming.
- TDI submitted an ex parte stating Blake Reid spoke with Michael Scurato in Commissioner Starks' office regarding the use of automatic speech recognition (ASR) in live television captioning and Internet Protocol captioned telephone service (IP-CTS).
- TDI, NAD, HLAA, ALDA, CPADO, AADB, DSA, CCASDHH, DHH-RERC, Captioning DRRP, IT-RERC, and NTID responded to National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and NCTA — The Internet & Television Association's motion to extend the comment deadlines for Consumer Groups and researchers. Consumer Groups do not object to the extension due to an upcoming meeting with representatives of Consumer Groups, researchers, NCTA and NAB.
- TDI, HLAA, and GU_TAP submitted an ex parte stating Blake Reid, Lise Hamlin, and Linda Kozma-Spytek spoke with Michael Scurato in Commissioner Starks' office regarding the use of automatic speech recognition (ASR) in live television captioning and Internet Protocol captioned telephone service (IPCTS).

OLD BUSINESS

- Since meeting quorum was not met, we are unable to vote on the DHHCAN vice-chair position replacement. This will be done at the October meeting.
- Nominations for the remaining DHHCAN officer positions will be accepted at the November meeting.
- At the June DHHCAN meeting, the chair asked for ideas for a new signatory policy that will offer transparency and be time efficient. A previously used 2-step process was suggested. DHHCAN members will be advised of possible filings coming down the pike. Once a position is developed, it will be shared with the members and if no objections are received in a specified amount of time, Zainab will proceed to sign on on DHHCAN's behalf. This will be voted on at the October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark opened discussion on the use of video relay services by deaf individuals who have additional disabilities. No VRS providers participated in the deaf interpreter pilot program. VRS providers are placed on various tiers depending on the number of minutes provided. Those at the emergent tier are paid the highest rate out of all four tiers rate, the hope was to apply the

emergent rate to minutes utilizing deaf interpreters or skills based routing as an incentive for VRS providers to participate in the pilot program. FCC rejected this proposal due to cost savings. There will be a iTRS advisory meeting in Phoenix this coming weekend and it is hoped that this issue will be brought up with the FCC in an honest discussion.

Kelby suggested that Mark Hill follow up with the FCC on lack of response with a letter. Mark will share information on his communications with the FCC with Zainab who can bring it up during the aforementioned advisory meeting this weekend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The call for nominations for the TDI CEO job posting closes Sept 30th. TDI expects interviews to be completed and a job offer made by the end of December, but the new person will not start until April 1st.
- NVRC will have 2 workshops for hiring managers/HR managers that will be publicized on the NVRC website. NVRC wants as much exposure as possible. DHHCAN Chair encouraged Eileen to send out the announcement via the DHHCAN email list.
- On Friday, September 13th, the Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be hosting an honorary room naming ceremony (Dr. Gertrude Galloway and Dr. Ernest Hairston) at the office in Crownsville. The event is open to the public.
- The RID CEO search continues, the first round of interviews will soon be complete. The second round will take place in October and the Board of Directors hope to make a job offer in the October/November timeframe.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14p.

The next DHHCAN meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 2nd. Please be sure to RSVP to both Neal and Zainab.