



DHHCAN Meeting

Wednesday April 3, 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	Jayne Tubergen, interpreter
Eric Kaika, TDI	Caroline Pezzarossi, ADARA	Lynn Capps Dey, 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		Bill Mulligan, general public
Marcia Zisman, GUAA		Fred Weiner, Gallaudet University
Lise Hamlin, HLAA		

Meeting called to order: 12:14 p.m.

Quorum: Achieved

Communication Protocols Explained

Chair Report

- Proposed amendment regarding attendance policy to be discussed at today's meeting and voted on at the May meeting
- Former Employment Chair, David Bahar, is no longer with CSD so we needed a new chair. Bob Loftur-Thun has volunteered to fill this role.
- Congressional Deaf Caucus had 2 co-chairs – Rep. Kevin Yoder and Rep. Mark Takano. Yoder was defeated in the recent election in Kansas. Now seeking a new co-chair; Rep. Takano's office asked Cathy McMorris Rodgers but she declined. There's a short list of other possibilities who are Republicans who have previously been involved in various issues

impacting our community. Claire Viall is no longer with Rep. Takano's office. We have invited the new staff working for Rep. Takano on Caucus issues to our May meeting to become familiar with DHHCAN.

- FCC filing for TRS line item – FCC staff contacted her and wants to meet to discuss the filing in more detail. Zainab will send out a Doodle poll to see the best day/time for a good number of signatories to attend. Although there's no minimum number, the more the better. Although it is difficult to set up remote access, she will request it if needed.

Vice-Chair Report

- Bernie apologized for missing the last two DHHCAN meetings due to job related responsibilities.
- He has submitted his retirement application, his last day of work is August 31st and he will be relocating to Florida. This means his last DHHCAN meeting will be the June meeting. He will advise who the new ALDA representative will be.

Secretary's Report

- Marcia thanked Eric for filling in as secretary for the February and March meetings. We need to approve the minutes of both meetings since quorum was not achieved at the March meeting.
- The February and March minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report

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

POLICY REPORTS

EDUCATION

- There was a meeting with the Department of Education who wants to increase the number of teachers but not sure how to go about it.
- Cogswell-Macy Act is still on hold. A meeting with ASHA yesterday with schools for the deaf and option schools (i.e, oral only) who want to be involved. They are trying to make sure that all groups feel comfortable with the bill. Now getting more sponsors and interest.
- Clarified the President's Budget submission which proposed numerous cuts and reflects the policies of the administration. This is only a proposal and the beginning of the budget process. Congress will decide where funds are appropriated. Advise citizens to contact their representatives and focus on the positive aspects of the various programs.
- President Trump's priorities have not always been supported by Congress.

There was discussion on the need for DHHCAN to update and re-submit our policy document to the 2020 presidential nominees. Zainab will send out the current document to policy chairs for review and update.

Neal suggested that we consider sending the document to those people who have announced candidacy for president - well before the official nominee stage

EMPLOYMENT

- Bob reviewed DHHCAN minutes and employment chair reports from January 2018 to now. He wants to know if specific employment-related issues are still current. He will continue researching and get advice from the committee on important and relevant employment issues. He expects to provide a full report at our next meeting in May.

HEALTH CARE

- No updates from FDA on OTC guidelines.
- HLAA and other organizations are looking at issues related to Medicare. Congress is not ready to discuss Medicare issues.

HOUSING

Absent- no report.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- NAD, ADARA, DSA, HLAA, CCASDHH, TDI, CPADO, ALDA, AADB, GUAA, NVRC, RID, NASADHH submitted comments concerning the ITTA petition, seeking a declaratory ruling that carriers can list TRS along with other regulatory fees in line items on consumer bills. The consumer groups reaffirmed their historical stance and expressed opposition to ITTA's proposal and urged the FCC to deny the petition.
- TDI, HLAA, NAD, and CCASDHH submitted an ex parte to the FCC supporting the proposal of the Joint Providers of IP CTS (Hamilton, Sprint, CaptionCall, and Mezmo) to extend the interim IP CTS compensation rate of \$1.75 per minute through 2019-2020.
- TDI, NAD, AADB, DSA, CPADO, RID, GUAA, HLAA, ADRA, NVRCC, and RERC submitted an ex parte to the FCC clarifying the Consumer Groups stance on VATRP, the RUE Specification, and the NANC IVC working group. The CGs strongly support continuing VATRP App and the RUE Specification, once concerns about process and direction have been addressed. In their current state, both platforms (VATRP & RUE) do not meet the TRS Policy Statement (Functional Equivalency of TRS). CGs also reiterated VATRP and RUE need to take place under an appropriate inclusive body of governance - a consortium.

TRANSPORTATION

- The DOT petition referenced at the last meeting was officially filed on March 14th. A meeting to discuss in person with DOT staff is not yet on the calendar.
- The Air Carrier Amendment Act (ACAAA) Act amendment was reintroduced on March 8.

- The bill includes language regarding accessible announcements and flight entertainment, which are not yet in the DOT regulations.
- The bill addresses also wheelchair access and other accommodations.
- S.669; House. H.R. 1549

OLD BUSINESS

- **Proposed bylaw amendment 5.11. on attendance**

- There was a lengthy discussion on whether the amendment should be part of operating procedures rather than the bylaws which would allow flexibility.
- The reason for the proposal was to reduce issues with meeting quorum. If there is an issue with a particular member missing meetings, we will go back to the organization.
- Concern was shared about making it policy and putting pressure on organizations with only one representative and no alternates. There are also issues related to meeting location.
- We will look into the cost of providing CART services to those attending remotely as needed when the representative is unavailable to attend in person.
- Several options were discussed including basing voting results on "voting members present".
- Eric suggested having a committee review the bylaws and make recommendations for changes and vote on all amendments at one time.
- We agreed to ask Bob Weinstock to work along with the DHHCAN officers on proposed revisions for the bylaws. We will get back to the membership and vote at the following meeting that takes place after the proposed draft is circulated.
- It was also suggested to continue the practice of including issues that will be voted upon on the meeting agenda but with the understanding that sometimes urgent issues do arise right before the meeting

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Neal announced that interim CEO, Charity Warigon has been hired by RID. She hopes to attend an upcoming DHHCAN meeting to meet us and address any concerns we may have with RID and the CEO search.
- NVRC will host its annual Information Fair in Springfield, VA on April 27th from 10:00a to 2:00p. Many organizations for the deaf and hard of hearing will be represented, a great opportunity network
- The 11th annual Unity Fest will take place on April 12th on the Gallaudet campus. It will feature music, dancing and food.
- The aforementioned two staff for the Congressional Deaf Caucus, Justin Monroe and Whitley O'Neal, will attend our May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58p.