



DHHCAN Meeting

November 6, 2019

Gallaudet University Peikoff Alumni House - Upper Level

(Thanks to Alumni Relations/GUAA for allowing DHHCAN to use the upper level)

ROLL CALL

Voting Members	Organizational Partners	Others
Zainab Alkebsi, NAD	Caroline Pezzarossi, ADARA	Pat Richey, interpreter
Mark Hill, CPADO	Neal Tucker, RID	Sam Jones, general public guest
Art Roehrig, AADB	Barbara Raimondo, CEASD	Angela Pettigrew, NAD policy intern
Eric Kaika, TDI	Eileen McCartin, NVRC	Michele Mulligan, CPADO
Marcia Zisman, GUAA	Tyrone Giordano, CSD	Charity Warigon, RID
Al Sonnenstrahl, DSA		Dr. Martha Sheridan and her Social Work students
		Ron Sutcliffe, CSD

Communication protocols explained.

Introductions and placement.

Meeting called to order: 12:06p.m.

Quorum: Met

Chair's Report

- Zainab welcomed Dr. Martha Sheridan and her students who will be observing our meeting.

- The election of officers will take place at the December meeting. Nominations will be accepted today.
- The January and February DHHCAN meetings will need to be rescheduled. Since the first Wednesday in January is January 1st, we will meet the following Wednesday, January 8th instead. Zainab already confirmed room availability with the Alumni Relations office. NAD will be hosting an interpreter summit from February 6-7, 2020. It will be held on the Gallaudet campus possibly at the Kellogg Conference Center or at “Ole Jim”. Because many of the potential participants in the summit are members of DHHCAN, we do not want to overburden participants with too many meetings. Since not all DHHCAN members will be participating in the summit, it was agreed to cancel DHHCAN’s February meeting.
- Rep. John Rutherford of Florida has accepted to be the Republican co-chair of the Congressional Deaf Caucus. He replaces former Rep. Kevin Yoder who was defeated in the November 2018 election. Rep. Mark Takano of California remains the Democrat co-chair of the caucus.

Vice-Chair’s Report

- No report.

Secretary’s Report

- The revised minutes of the October 2nd meeting need to be approved. Mark Hill (sec) moved to accept the minutes as corrected. PASSED

Treasurer’s Report

- The balance as of October 31st was \$25,968.54.
- Membership renewals have been sent out. So far, responses from the NAD and ALDA have been received. ALDA has not yet identified a replacement representative for Bernie Palmer.
- Will check the DHHCAN website to ensure that the list of members is up to date.

POLICY REPORTS

TRANSPORTATION

- Legislation for autonomous vehicles (AV) has basically been at a standstill in Congress. Zainab has a meeting with Congressman Payne’s office, along with other AV advocates, to discuss the bills.
- The first meeting of the new advisory committee under the Department of Transportation which Zainab is a member of will have its first meeting March 10-11, 2020. The meeting will be open to the public and will take place at a yet to be determined location in the DMV area. It is hoped that visual announcements and captioning of PA announcements will be discussed.
- The topic of recognized colors of canes for Deaf Blind users was brought up. There is no standard color. This might be something for DHHCAN to look into. Zainab suggested that AADB and Art take the lead and work with NFB and ACB to push for this.

- Susan Buckland at NTSB has been working on making improvements for TSA accessibility and any input collected will be shared with her. After a meeting with TDI and NAD, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration sent a letter to all car manufacturers seeking proposals on making keyless vehicle fob alerts accessible for deaf and hard of hearing drivers. This was a couple of years ago so after no responses, the NAD also contacted the car manufacturers individually. So far, Volkswagen is the only one who responded to the NAD and seemed willing to consider ideas, such as auto shut-off. Eric mentioned that Toyota recently made an announcement that they made changes to their key fobs. We need to check to see what they did without any consultation from Deaf and hard of hearing consumers.

CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

- Senator Peters hopes to have representatives from DHHCAN at a meeting to discuss issues related to a proposed bill that would amend the Communications Act to permit a Communications Assistant who witnesses an emergency during a relay call can contact emergency resources. The NAD opposes this idea given the slippery slope for privacy and making snap judgments. The NAD's feedback was shared with Senator Peters and it is hoped there will be a follow up meeting with more stakeholders.

EDUCATION

- The Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act has been reintroduced in both the House (HR 4822) and the Senate (S2681). There is widespread support and involvement for the bill; however, more sponsors are needed. CEASD is setting up meetings with staff on the Hill.
- The Education and Advocacy Summit will take place on February 25-26, 2020. Barbara has shared information with the DHHCAN membership and hopes many of us will attend.

EMPLOYMENT

- Zainab continues her effort to fill the chair role for this policy committee.

HEALTH CARE

Absent, no report.

HOUSING

No report.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SERVICES, AND VIDEO PROGRAMMING

- TDI, ALDA, CCASDHH, CPADO, DHH-RERC, DSA, HLAA, IT-RERC, and NAD submitted reply comments to FCC-CGB re: Convo's request for clarification of offering incentives to VRS users. Consumer groups oppose any clarification of the rule that allows distribution of VRS equipment and urged the FCC to refer the question to the iTRS Advisory Council to make recommendations on any further action.
- TDI, AADB, ACB, ALDA, CCASDHH, CPADO, DHH-RERC, HLAA, IT-RERC and NAD submitted reply comments to FCC's proposal to create a framework which other broadcasters could sponsor core programming on another station in the market to meet its children's

programming requirements. Consumer groups urge the Commission to again review our June 27, 2019 ex parte. We do not yet know all the possible accessibility implications of modifications to the rules. We are still concerned the exemptions may have further implications on accessibility of children's programming specifically those with visual and hearing disabilities.

- TDI and Pluto, Inc. filed a joint motion to extend public and reply comment deadlines regarding Pluto's request for temporary waiver of the Commission's IP closed captioning rules.
- TDI, ALDA, Captioning DRRP, CCASDHH, CPADO, DHH-RERC, DSA, HLAA, IT-RERC and NAD submitted reply comments on long-term development and implementation of technology-neutral quality metrics for closed captioning and guidance on the use of Automated Speech Recognition (ASR). We attached qualitative comments from LALA's survey and showed there is still a need to better improve and monitor captioning quality. Consumers should not be burdened to report captioning issues and urge the Commission adopt a metric driven report to determine captioning quality. Finally, ASR should not be further deployed until it is demonstrated that ASR meets the Commission's current standards of best practices.
- TDI, AADB, ALDA, CPADO, DHH-RERC, DSA, HLAA, NAD, NTID, and UI-ITA submitted comments recognizing the FCC's strength in operating an accessible agency, and advocates further steps for improving access: improvement of the National TRS program and the Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program. FCC should consider the benefits, not the cost. FCC should conduct outreach to people with disabilities and education them about the tools available to interact with the Commission.
- Mark mentioned that there will be a pre-meeting to strategize before an advocacy meeting with the FCC regarding the provision of CDIs in VRS.
- Art shared that there are many complaints from the DeafBlind community about iCanConnect, a national program that provides free equipment and training to people with both significant vision and hearing loss who meet disability and income guidelines. TDI and NAD will be happy to meet with AADB to discuss issues.
- The proposed merger of Sprint and T-Mobile remains in limbo due to multiple states suing to block the merger. Consumer Groups are waiting to see what happens, many state's cases parallel Consumer Groups' concerns with the merger.

OLD BUSINESS:

Charity Warigon, Interim CEO of RID thanked DHHCAN for its support during the CEO search. The CEO search is over, RID has decided not to hire a CEO at this time. Instead, RID will be stepping back to determine if a CEO is needed/desired and in what direction the organization is headed. Charity will remain on board to support RID.

NEW BUSINESS:

Eric nominated Zainab to continue as DHHCAN Chair. Nomination accepted.
Eric nominated Marcia to continue as DHHCAN Secretary. Nomination accepted.
Mark nominated Al to continue as DHHCAN Treasurer. Nomination accepted.

Only voting members can vote in the election next month. If necessary, will offer option of proxy for those who are unable to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Metro Center Sprint store provides VRI access. ZVRS has enterprise booths in NY.
- ADARA 2020 Breakout Conference will take place in Boston, MA May 4-7, 2020. They are now accepting proposals for workshops. Check adara2020.com for more information.
- CPADO board meeting will take place in January or February at NAD headquarters. On February 18th, Mark will provide training to the NAD staff on CPADO and its work. This is part of NAD's ongoing monthly training for staff members.
- Information on NVRC events for employees and employers was previously shared with DHHCAN membership who hopefully will share with others. The annual NVRC Gala will take place on December 14th and will feature deaf and hard of hearing performers. Check www.nvrcgala.org for more information.
- There will be a social event with members of the Deaf Blind Interpreting National Training and Resource Center - PT Rocks Social at Union Market on Friday, November 8th from 5:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.
- Applications are open for the Nancy J. Bloch Leadership and Advocacy Scholarship. Qualified applicants will spend the summer at the NAD Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD where they will participate in advocacy efforts to protect the civil, human and linguistic rights of the American deaf community and receive a stipend.
- Zainab recently attended LG Electronics' summit where new products were introduced to the community with an opportunity for accessibility related feedback and questions. There was a Smart TV displayed that will sell for \$30,000. Zainab was shocked and asked if anyone has actually bought this television. To date, a few Hollywood types have purchased the TV.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47p.m.

The next meeting will be December 4, 2019.