



DHHCAN Meeting

January 6, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held online using the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

ROLL CALL

Voting Members	Organizational Partners	Others
Zainab Alkebsi, NAD	Neal Tucker, RID	Jan Nishimura, Interpreter
Eric Kaika, TDI	Eric Raff, NASADHH	Jayne Tubergen, Interpreter
Marcia Zisman, GUAA	Eileen McCartin, NVRC	Lianne Tomlinson, CART Captioner
Lise Hamlin, HLA A	Caroline Pezzarossi, ADARA	Dawn Watts, Interpreter
Mark Hill, CPADO		Brittany Watts, Interpreter
Al Sonnenstrahl, DSA		Elaine Navratil, DSA
Art Roehrig, AADB		Michele Mulligan, CPADO
Ken Arcia, ALDA		Kelby Brick, NASADHH
		Angela Rogers, TDI Intern
		Star Grieser, CASLI

Communication protocols were shared. Attendees introduced themselves.

Meeting called to order: 12:04p.

Quorum: Met

Chair's Report

- Happy New Year to all and hoping for a better 2021. Kelby will be reporting about vaccines during the health care report.
- We'll be voting on the DHHCAN revised bylaws later.
- Welcome to Star Grieser of CASLI who will be making a presentation to us later.

Vice-Chair's Report

No report.

Secretary's Report

- We need to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2020 meeting. Art (sec) moved to accept the minutes of the December 2nd meeting. PASSED

Treasurer's Report

- The balance as of December 31st was \$29,315.26.
- All organizations have paid their membership dues.
- A letter was drafted and sent to six or seven organizations asking them to consider joining the coalition. Deadline for response is February 1st.
- DHHCAN's expenses for accessibility are about \$1,000 for each meeting, so we'll need to increase our revenue through membership and possibly fundraisers.
- Although DHHCAN has been around for 27 years now, there are still a lot of people who are not aware of its existence. One idea is to have someone, perhaps the secretary, write up a summary of DHHCAN's actions to share with all member organizations to share with their own memberships.
- Zainab also mentioned that DHHCAN is not active on social media, something that we may want to also consider to increase our visibility.

POLICY REPORTS

CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

- The preliminary results of the run-off elections in Georgia of yesterday are promising and will impact our work as a coalition as well as in our own organizations in what we'll be able to accomplish legislatively for the next few years.

EDUCATION

Report was relayed by Zainab since Barbara Raimondo was unable to attend the meeting.

- CEASD submitted a letter to the incoming Biden Administration on priorities for deaf education.
<https://www.ceasd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Education-Agency-Review-Team-CEASD.pdf>
- CEASD worked with the NAD to submit four position statements on deaf education issues. (Not currently posted online.)
- CEASD and other organizations participated in meetings with representatives from the incoming Administration to discuss priorities.

EMPLOYMENT

Absent, no report.

HEALTH CARE

- Lise had no report. Kelby reminded us that each state is developing its own COVID-19 vaccination distribution plan and priorities based on CDC recommendations. Governor Hogan of MD announced that people who live in group homes, developmentally delayed individuals, individuals living in group homes are high priority. Priority of vaccination of deafblind individuals, interpreters, and SSPs will also be determined by each state.
- Eric Raff reported that Washington state recently prioritized interpreters, SSPs, and communication facilitators to be vaccinated ahead of others.

HOUSING

- Mark reported that President-Elect Biden has nominated Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio) to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Zainab added that if approved, she'll be the third female and second Black female to head HUD.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SERVICES, AND VIDEO PROGRAMMING

- There was one filing in December related to CaptionCall who requested the addition of automated speech recognition (ASR) to their IPTS caption telephones. TDI filed some comments on their application. Like we've been telling FCC, there needs to be technology-neutral minimum standards of service established before the FCC can begin approving ASR. Comments from two commissioners - Jessica Rosenworcel and Geoffrey Starks were included. Starks indicated that ASR seems to have a lot of bias in how it translates speech by marginalized communities.
 - CaptionCall is to be commended in making sure that when a 911 call is received, it will not go through ASR and will be automatically routed to a live captioner. A toggle between the use of ASR and a live captioner is not allowed.
 - As deaf consumers, we have no way of knowing if a machine or live captioner is being used nor if there are errors in the transmission.
- President- Elect Biden will be appointing a Democrat Chairperson to replace current FCC Chairperson, Ajit Pai. There will be three Democrats and two Republicans which likely will increase the number of TDI filings which we are hopeful will lead to adoption of more progressive policy proposals to get information technology telecommunications to be more accessible.
- Zainab reported a follow-up on the petition for reconsideration that the NAD and other organizations filed in October with the FCC related to text access and direct video communications to the 988 Hotline for Mental Health Emergencies. There was no opposition to the petition and two organizations who had previously opposed it have changed their minds and now support it. Plans are to file an ex parte with the FCC emphasizing that there is no opposition and to reiterate their rationale. She will share the document with DHHCAN members who signed the petition.

TRANSPORTATION

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Eric Kaika (sec) moved that we approve the revised DHHCAN bylaws. PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

Star Grieser, Director of Testing at the Center of Assessment of Sign Language Interpretation, LLC (CASLI) updated us on what has been happening related to CASLI and testing. Initially, she covered a bit of history and background. CASLI was created by the RID in 2016 to administer, develop and maintain the testing that the RID utilizes for its certification program. RID is the sole shareholder of CASLI. CASLI has its own Board of Managers and operating budget. CASLI only administers the testing and has no input on the awarding of certification.

At the RID conference in New Orleans in August 2015, a moratorium was announced for all performance exams. The NIC Interview and Performance (administered to hearing candidates) was under moratorium for 10 months and CASLI had been administering the NIC IP since November of 2016. The CDI Performance had been under moratorium for 5 years until just recently on November 15th we released the new performance exam for Deaf interpreters.

All licensing and contracts that had been administered by RID were turned over to CASLI. CASLI was assigned the task to come up with a new version of the interpreter certification tests.

CASLI has developed the new Knowledge exam, performance exam for Deaf interpreters (we were not able to finish the new performance exam for hearing interpreters due to COVID-19) and have already developed the CASLI Exam System. - the test platform we use to administer our exams.

This past November CASLI made a major announcement about the knowledge test, the deaf interpreter performance test and the hearing interpreter test. The new CASLI Generalist Knowledge Exam is bilingual and is on the platform and ready to be administered. The performance exam for Deaf interpreters is currently being administered and the beta testing will last 6 months so in about 6 months, we will see results of the Deaf performance exam and hopefully new CDIs in the field! We were not able to complete the performance exam for hearing interpreters and will continue administering the NIC Interview and Performance exam until we are able to complete filming.

Tactile ASL and Protactile will require a different kind of assessment. Yes, while our knowledge and performance exam already include superficial knowledge of various specialties (Pro-Tactile, DeafBlind interpreting, Trilingual, interpreting for Deaf people with mobility issues, etc.) we are open to working with organizations on the development of a specialist exam, especially after the completion of the generalist exams.

These new tests are currently undergoing beta testing and due to COVID-19 less people are taking the tests which is delaying the beta phase.

With computer-based testing, there is a need for local testing administrators. If anyone's organization or agency is interested in becoming a test administrator please contact CASLI (Director@CASLI.org) for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elaine announced that DSA will be hosting a panel discussion "Covid-19, Vaccines, & Your Health" on January 21st from 4:00p to 6:00p EST featuring deaf and CODA doctors. The webinar includes a 30-minute presentation followed by Q and A's. It is open to all DSA members. DHHCAN-affiliated members are also welcome to attend. Registration is required - send an email with your name to dsa.cv19@gmail.com.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 3rd at 12:00 noon EST.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m. EST.