

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL  
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
Quarterly Meeting  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
Friday, August 10, 2018  
8:00 a.m.**

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>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Good morning, team! Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Friday morning session of the Florida Coordinating Council. We're about to put one student on timeout. Can anyone guess who that student is?

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So I'm Karen Goldberg with HLAA representative for the Council. I'd like to go back through my little list. Let's start first with a call to order.

[Telephone beep].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Ooh.... really? That was you? I mean, not that I'm disappointed.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'd just be happy if it was 200 other people. Thank you for helping me. All right. Good morning to everyone. We are going to call to order. We're all present and we're going to make sure of that by doing a roll call. So, which side do we want to start with?

>> SHAYLA KELLY: I'll start.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right.

>> SHAYLA KELLY: Good morning, this is Shayla Kelly representing the Department of Health.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Good morning, this is Debbe Hagner representing the HLAA.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Good morning, this is Karen Goldberg representing HLAA.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Glenna Ashton representing Florida Association of the Deaf from Boca Raton, here.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Good morning, this is Chris Littlewood from ALDA Suncoast. I live in Seminole and work for St. Petersburg College.

>> CINDY SIMON: Good morning, this is Cindy Simon representing audiologists.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Good morning, this is Megan Callahan from the Florida Department of Health.  
And I have an announcement about the hotel.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Good morning, Shay Chapman from the Florida Department of Health.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Good morning, everyone.  
I also want to introduce our interpreters. We have -- I don't have last names and I apologize for that, maybe in the future we'll make sure we do that -- Elaine, Earline, Vladimir, and Dale, and we thank you for your service.  
For our AV technician, LaShay.  
And CART, that's the one last name I know, Lisa Johnston.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you for all being here.  
It looks like we're missing a couple of members; Darlene and Mary Hodges. And maybe they'll be coming in a little bit later.

Okay. I'd like to go over a couple of reminders before we get started.

There's no one on the phone; we just double checked.  
Anybody on the phone joining us or online?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: No members. Okay. All right. I want to remind everyone that there are emergency exits, should we experience any kind of pressure loss or....

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We have one in the far end of the room, on either side of the room, and two at the front of the room.  
And keep your seat belts fastened at all times.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: The bathrooms, go out, make a right, it's kind of tucked in by the bar.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Terrific. Shall we go on? Anybody have any issues that you want to bring up? Anyone at all? Anyone....? Nothing....? No....?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: [Laughs].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Megan?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: This is Megan. I just wanted to repeat so it would be on record again, the issues with checking out of the hotel. A couple of you have mentioned that when you tried to check out, the charges, they stated, were going to the master account, which is not true.

So I went to the front desk and spoke to the person that was up there and told him that there were supposed to be no guest rooms on the master account. They're going down to Accounting right now to fix the issue. And those of you who have already checked out, they have your personal card on file that they will charge and they will send an e-mail of your receipt so you can forward that to Shayla directly.

And everyone else, he said that it would take a little while down in Accounting, but I'm assuming by the time we have a break, I'm not quite sure what time it's at, hopefully they will be finished and the rest of us can check out and there wouldn't be any issues.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: 9:45 is the scheduled break.  
I have another question about the reimbursements. We've changed from the Go Travel back to paper receipts right now?

>> SHAYLA KELLY: Yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So with the meal tickets, what are we doing? Or is that still a per diem?

>> SHAYLA KELLY: It's your per diem, I don't need any meal tickets. It depends on what time you left, what time you returned, and that would determine your meals and your per diem.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. Fair enough, thank you very much for clarifying that.  
It determines the time that we left or the time that we arrived back at our home?

>> SHAYLA KELLY: For your meals and your per diem, the time that you left and the time that you returned back home.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Back home, okay. Is that clear for everyone? Okay. So hit up every single McDonald's.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm kidding.....  
Why was Shay smiling about that? Hit up one Starbucks.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Actually you can hit as many restaurants as you want because you're only getting the state per diem!

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. So now is a good time to go over the committee wrap ups. Anything that folks were thinking about, considering. I wonder if this is also a good time to talk about action plans.

And before you speak, Cindy, I have an announcement. I would encourage the committees to have meetings prior to the November meeting, so that we can get something rolling and cranking.

We're a very active Council, so let's get some meetings going.  
Cindy has a statement, and then I'll go with you.

>> CINDY SIMON: You know, some of the things that came up yesterday, do we have anything written on this, do we have anything written on that, maybe we need some one-page easy-to-read and understand information sheets that's easily available to download from the site on different topics, like maybe what are cochlear implant companies? And there can be, like you said, a general thing about implants. But a list of every company --

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Cheat sheet? Like a cheat sheet?

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, if people have a question, what are hearing aid manufacturers. You can list every one of them, I'm not saying list all of them, but one or two.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Are you saying on the website or but for our own information?

>> CINDY SIMON: No, on the website, an information sheet, what do people call in and ask and maybe that's something we can have, maybe they don't understand hearing loss and they want a short sheet.

We don't have to necessarily reinvent the wheel, but rather than having links to somewhere else, HLAA writes a lot of really good one-page sheets.  
There's another site that does that as well.

Maybe they would be willing to share with us so when people have a question, we already have information sheets on all these things that are easily available to anyone going to the website.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Something like what you would find on Medscape like cochlear implants or something like that?

>> CINDY SIMON: I wasn't even thinking about going that far.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. What are you talking about?

>> CINDY SIMON: Like HLAA have short one-page sheets, like what should alert you, who are the professionals I might meet. Maybe another sheet, you know, so that they're aware of them.

They don't know who they're going to or who to look for.

[Mary Hodges enters the room].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, Cindy, would it be okay if I put you in charge of that and creating something like that for the next meeting?

>> CINDY SIMON: Like creating a list?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, what your idea is so we can envision what it is a little bit better?

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, that's a good thing to have.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, terrific. Thank you very much.

So any other information on committee updates wrap up?

Oh, I'm sorry.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: If we're going to have a committee meeting, we have to inform Megan, we have to give her time, 30 days, is that correct?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: It's seven plus one days, so technically eight, they don't like to say eight, they want seven plus one, I have no idea why.

[Laughter].

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: So, yeah, if you'll just give me at least that amount of time. I would prefer it be scheduled farther in advance so I can have time to lock down the conference call line and Lisa, time to inform her for CART and things like that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I want to recognize that Mary Hodges is in attendance. And ask her if she wants to introduce herself.

>> MARY HODGES: Good morning, and I apologize for being late.  
Recording committee updates?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yes, ma'am.

>> MARY HODGES: I was thinking last night that I would like to help to develop or update the brochure for the Council.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, the brochure and the biennial report or the brochure

itself?

>> MARY HODGES: The brochure itself.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: This is Megan. I believe Mary's already on the biennial report committee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: On the which committee?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: The biennial report committee.

>> MARY HODGES: This is in addition to the report.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right, that's the other brochure.

>> MARY HODGES: I've not seen the old one. I understand we have an old one, but I really think we need a brochure so at these meetings, people can have a takeaway and we can also distribute those in our communities.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We do have takeaways that were given away at the Family Café and which we have for It's A Deaf Thing and I brought down the wrong thing this morning, but you're right, we should have them available. So thank you. Yes, Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: So just to clarify, Mary, has anyone seen the brochure that we have? You have. So it was really a communication brochure, looking at people of different ages and different walks of life, to enjoy communication and see a licensed hearing healthcare professional.

I think what Mary's talking is not redoing and revisiting that brochure, but, rather, creating a brochure for the Council, who we are, what we're about.

>> MARY HODGES: Yes, yes.

>> CINDY SIMON: Which is not what that brochure was.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think we're working on a -- while we're working on the PowerPoint, we can do the brochure at the same time and add some information, and do two things at one time.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: So it sounds like for an action plan, the PowerPoint and the brochure, can we assign a small committee for that one task? Not so much a formal committee, but a group that's willing to work on that? It sounds like Mary, Glenna, and I'll be involved as well. So we have committed. I like that. We have a commitment.

I'm looking at tab eight -- hold on one second, Chris. I'm looking at tab eight in which we have a number of action items, and I assume that there will be a tab eight for

November.

So, while we're doing these updates, we'll create an action plan so that we can have a little something-something to do.

She's doing it. All right, great. Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Okay. I was just going to say, this sounds like an awesome idea; just a separate committee is not necessarily what I would think needs to happen. It sounds like it should be part of the EMO Committee or something like that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right, I think that's actually an action item. Maybe committee was the wrong word. So an action item team that's going to work on it, okay.

So, Glenna, Karen, Mary, and Megan, we'll have you in the loop.

Megan, could you send to everyone what the old brochure, if you have it in the archives?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: This is Megan. I'm not sure if I have, like, a PDF file or like a Word document somewhere on my computer, but I could definitely send pictures at least. I mean, I can take pictures on my phone and e-mail that or, you know, however. But, yeah, I can do that.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Or scan it.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Yeah, I can scan it.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yes, Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: So, Megan, if you'll look at the files I sent you, you may find....

[Laughter].

>> CINDY SIMON: -- a PDF copy of that brochure within there, but without the beautiful pictures they put on there. So I would do both the photo and then the actual, you know, PDF.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Terrific.  
Other things that have come up on committees? Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Glenna. I've noticed in looking over the members list and what committees they're on, I'm on the Legislative Committee and I remember someone mentioned something about -- or you mentioned about changing a committee, so I'm wondering maybe if we can go through the committees, redo who can be on which committee, because some people are on lots, some people are on none, some people there's only one.

So I'm thinking maybe now would be, with the new Chair, would be a good time to take a look on who wants to be on which committee moving forward.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Excellent, yes, excellent idea. Why don't we do that.

Currently on the Web Committee, it sounds like there are Co-Chairs: Darlene and Debbe. Who else is on the Web Committee?

[No response].

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: I'm still on the Web Committee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So we have Darlene, Debbe, and Chris. Anybody else that we know of?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Anyone who's not here? I might need some assistance with that.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: If you look on page two -- or on tab two under the membership, it lists what committee everyone's on.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Tab two?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Mmm-hmm.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. Glenna was on it, she would like to be removed, is that correct?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: What?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Glenna was on it but would like to be removed?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, only Legislative Committee and -- I was listed on all of them before because I was the Chair.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: So at this time you would like to be legislative and biennial report?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Legislative and report, that's all.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And PowerPoint -- no, that's not an official committee [laughs].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It probably fits under --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's an ad hoc kind of thing.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. All righty. So right now who else is on the Web Committee? If anybody can help me kind of go through it.

[Pause].



>> CINDY SIMON: Karen? I'm sorry, what might be helpful is when we have more people here, put out the sign-up sheets and re-sign up, because we have so few here. Double-checking with everyone else would be very difficult, where it may or may not be accurate.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Although we have it listed on this tab two. So I'm just running through that.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And I don't see anybody else listed, okay, for that committee. For the technology, we have Cindy. Cindy, can you tell me if there's anybody else on that committee with you?

>> CINDY SIMON: I believe Darlene has joined us. People have come and gone, so to be honest, we put out the notice and anyone who wants to come comes. Julie was coming, but she's not here any longer.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: If you look at tab two, it has the member lists and the committees are listed on here and you can check your own.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah. That didn't mean everybody showed up.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: We basically had two people last time we did it.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: You and Darlene?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Mmm-hmm.

>> CINDY SIMON: And Darlene didn't even come on the last one, so....

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And Julie you had said, but she's no longer on the Council.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yes, Julie was there.  
I'm sorry, go ahead.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I would be interested in the technology one.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, terrific. For the EMO, Education/Medical/Outreach, Gina is the Chair, I'm on the committee.

>> CINDY SIMON: I'm on the committee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Cindy's on the committee.

>> CINDY SIMON: Debra Knox I believe is on the committee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Let's take a peek.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: You are correct, I see that. And Darlene is on the committee. That might be a bit much; she might want to consider just limiting it to two committees.

Okay. Legislative Committee was led by Donna Drake, who is no longer on the Council.

Glenna has generously offered to be the new Chair.

I would like to be on that committee, if that's okay.

And let's see, anybody else on the Legislative Committee?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm taking a quick peek.

I don't see anybody else.

Finally -- no, not finally, with the Budget Committee, Cecil is on that, he's the Chair. I don't know if he's planning to continue to be the Chair, but he always has really great reports.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Cecil seems to enjoy that role, so I would be surprised if he did not want to continue.

Darlene is also on that committee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. She may want to -- well, when she gets here this morning, we'll ask her if she wants to just limit it. That's a bit much.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Mary is on the committee as well.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: There's no provision that you have to be on a limited number of committees; you can be on as many as you want. But you want to be realistic about your time, too.

Okay. Anybody else that you know of who's on the Budget Committee?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Cecil, I'm just running through it. Darlene, you said, yes, I have Darlene.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Terrific. Okay. And then finally we have the Biennial Report Committee and that consists of me, Debbe, Glenna, yeah, she wants to be on it, and Cindy.

[Darlene Laibl-Crowe enters the room].

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Gina as well, because of the Executive Committee, Gina.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, thank you very much. That's the biennial report, Karen, Gina, Mary. We have a good team. I think everybody's on it [chuckles].

>> MARY HODGES: Everybody should be [chuckles].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Everybody should be, yes.  
Yes, Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: I know I'm probably shooting myself, when the Technology Committee was created, I look at what we've done and what went on, and truly it rolls over more into the Education Committee than technology. If there's questions on technology regarding current amplification and things, I'm anticipate to step in, but what we do is really more where we've been trying to educate. And because we're doing a PSA doesn't mean it's not part of education, so you may want to reconsider what is the Technology Committee, which had been suddenly created like that, and roll it over and then divide that committee up.  
It's just a suggestion.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, something to think about.

>> CINDY SIMON: I just never understood what the technology was based on what we were doing.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That's a very good point in how the committees were decided. I had said that yesterday also, that the EMO is just this huge, gigantic, like, committee.

>> CINDY SIMON: We had several medical, we had an outreach person. And the education was also taking that education and outreaching to the local universities.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I understand.

>> CINDY SIMON: So it all seems part of it. Same way those paper sheets can come from the education committee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Yes?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I was appointed by the Council to be on the TASA and because of the blip from the last meeting, I would appreciate it if you rewrite to Cecil -- who -- not Cecil --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: William something.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Curtis Williams.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: What's his name? Curtis?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Curtis Williams.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Can you explain, Debbe, about the TASA? Tell me -- just go through all of it.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I was appointed, I was taking over from Chris Littlewood because he didn't want that position anymore, and so I was going to take over. And then there was an issue from the last meeting [clearing throat] and so I understood I could not be on that committee. But I'm now okay, so I want to go back to that and get going on it.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So tell me again the whole -- what is the TASA Committee? Who can explain it? Maybe Chris can? And let's try to get away from the acronym and just actually tell me what it stands for.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. TASA is the Telecommunications Access Systems Act, or something like that. It basically is related to how telephone communication is provided for people that are deaf or hard of hearing, and also what services FTRI is allowed to provide.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. And what is --

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Different things that the PSC is able to do.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: What is the rule for the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with TASA? What's the connection?

[No response].

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: I'm not sure I understand the question.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Is it a committee? Like, what is it?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Glenna. TASA is under PSC and they have representatives from different organizations that it affects. So we have one from FCCDHH, FAD has their own representative also, two representatives actually, and we have one from -- I don't know what other organizations.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So this is something outside of the Florida Coordinating Council, and then there's a representative from the Florida Coordinating Council on the TASA Committee or Council or whatever.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, right.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: PSC stands for?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Public Service Commission.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Public Service Commission. Okay. You know, even in the medical profession, we're getting away from acronyms. Do you know that? They were not allowed to use a lot of those in our reports because they can be confusing, and I'm a person that doesn't do well with them until I know exactly what it is. Okay. All right. Thank you for clarifying. So, I'm sorry, Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: While we're talking about representatives from FCCDHH, to other things, Darlene is our representative for building, something with building?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Yeah.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Accessible building, you're a representative for that, right?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Mmm-hmm, yes, I am.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: What committee -- I mean, what council or department is that?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Okay. What the accessibility advisory council does for the Florida Building Commission is the staff actually analyzes applications for businesses that want to do a waiver concerning ADA, and once they do that, then the staff develops it and sends the analysis to the Accessibility Advisory Council who reviews it and then they accept it or deny it so that the Florida Building Commission would have something to go by.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Gotcha. Thank you very much for being our representative for that commission. What's your official title?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: What did she say?

>> SHAYLA KELLY: What is your official title?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Other than just representative.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: My title on it?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I actually started on the council for hard-of-hearing people.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. Thank you very much. I have another question before I go on to someone else. Darlene, we were reviewing all of the committees and it seems that you are a member of many of our committees and we thank you for your service, but I wanted to encourage you to think about maybe limiting the number so that it's not too much.

So maybe two to three of your favorite committees [chuckles], okay? Or whatever ones -- you know, take a few minutes, think about it, but you're pretty much listed on all of them, I think outside of Web Committee.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Okay. I'll think about it.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: No, you're on that one, you're on that one too.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: You're on all of them. So, I mean, if you want to, there's no provision that you can't be on all of them. But it's really up to you if you want to just say look, I'd prefer to just limit it to two or three or whatever.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: The reason why I signed up so that I could be aware of what is happening in each of the committees. Sometimes I don't get to make it to the committees, but I try my best to stay on top of it. But I would like to stay active as much as possible with it so that I can be aware.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, that's perfectly fine. And thank you again. Okay. So, getting back to the TASA issue, is there any other comments before that? Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Um.... a while back, and I had sent the information to the council and FAD and FRID, James Forstall who runs FTRI says there is a new bill that runs the wireless, but they can't write the bills, we can't write the bills, but we have to get the organizations to work together to write a draft bill. So we need to get moving on that. We can't -- there is a window of opportunity open for that now, so.....

I told FAD and FRID and I don't know if they're following up on it or not, but it was all of our organizations, that's one thing that all of the organizations probably would agree on to try working together on that. HLAA, ALDA, FRID, FAD, Deaf-Blind, all of them.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you for that update. So the issue at hand is that Chris Littlewood was, in fact, the representative, and that had been transitioned over to Debbe Hagner. Last meeting, there was some question about Debbe's continuing on the Council once her term ends July 31st. She has reapplied for reappointment. We will see -- rather, let me correct my grammar -- she has applied for reappointment, not reapplied for reappointment [chuckles]. She has applied for reappointment. We're not sure when any appointments will happen.

And pursuant to the bylaws, my understanding is that members can stay on. Is that something that's official in the bylaws? Okay, Megan, do you know if that's official in the bylaws? We have to really -- it's not in the bylaws, but it's something traditional.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Something that's traditional that has been going on. Okay.

There's no reason that a person whose term has expired and no new reappointment has been made, that that person can't stay on to continue to serve. And as such, we have determined that Debbe Hagner has the full ability to do so. So I want it clarified that she can, in fact, become the representative to TASA. Is there any discussion that needs to happen in that regard?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. It sounds like that's fine. So it is on the record that Debbe Hagner will now be the new representative to TASA.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: And I would appreciate a letter to confirm that to them.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: To them. "Them" meaning from us, from me? You say me?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: From you.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: From me. Okay. That sounds like a task force -- I mean a task item. A task force? Yes, Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. We do not select the person that's on the TASA Committee. We make a recommendation from the Council to the PSC, the Public Service Commission has to have their commission members appoint Debbe. I think that's what she's asking, is that we get the letter submitted to Curtis Williams so it can be put on the agenda at the next PSC meeting so that we can have her appointed. But that's the responsibility of the PSC to set up the appointment as a member of the TASA Committee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, I see.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: TASA is the Advisory Committee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So Megan, will you help me with that? Get it on letterhead.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Yes. If you'll just draft up a letter, I can put it on the letterhead and we can get it printed and I guess sent via snail mail would probably be the best.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Perfect. Okay. Sounds like that's done.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Thank you.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: What else needs to be done? It's 8:34. Wow, we have ten more minutes.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I have an announcement.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, hold on one second, Darlene. Megan?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: This is Megan, I want to make an additional announcement about the hotel. Everything has been fixed with the issue of the master account and checkouts, so on our break, whoever has not checked out can go do so and there shouldn't be any issues.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. Thank you very much.  
Darlene?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: The condition that I have, Usher Syndrome, actually they have the Usher Syndrome, and there's one in 50,000 adults in the country and also in the world has Usher Syndrome and they are very active nationwide and world wide with different conferences and things like that.

But Rebecca Alexander from New York will be along with the Usher Syndrome Society at the Buccaneers baseball game on September 14 and Rebecca will get to throw out the baseball, the first ball, so if anybody is attending, be sure to interact with her and things like that. Thank you.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you, Darlene, that's wonderful.  
Buccaneers is the football team.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Oh, it's a baseball them. I thought it was the Bucs; sorry.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I doubt it would be a minor league team. Is it the Tampa Bay Rays? Is it the Tampa Bay Rays game?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: It might be.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Because it would be hard to throw out the first football.

[Laughter].

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I just received the e-mail, so I will be forwarding it to Megan and she can forward it to you all.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Excellent.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Sorry!

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. All right. Yes? Hold on one second.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: [Laughs].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm just gathering my thoughts.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I don't watch sports.



>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Yes, sorry, I had a follow-up question to what Megan had mentioned about the hotel issue.

If we already did check out, are we still just getting the e-mail receipt for the update?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I have triple checked on that, I am waiting on a response, but you should. I've already verified it once that you all would receive an e-mail and I'm speaking with the hotel sales manager that I've been in contact with just to --

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Okay. We'll just work it out later. I just don't know which e-mail account it will go to, so we'll have to follow-up and make sure.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: If you would prefer, I can just have them send the e-mail receipts of the people who have already checked out to me and I can send them to you all, as well as Shayla.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: That would be perfect.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: That way we don't have to figure out which e-mail is on file.

>> CINDY SIMON: So they're all going to be sent to you.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: For the people who have already checked out, yes, and when I go check out, I will make sure to tell them -- I will ask them who all has already checked out from our group and if they can just send it to my e-mail.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Terrific. Thank you very much for that update. All right. So, we have about -- I need somebody else to do the math -- eight minutes [chuckles] left in committee updates. Anything else?

Can we get a commitment from each committee that there will be meetings prior to November? I'm going to ask the chairs to kind of jump in and give me their ideas on when they'll have committee meetings.

Since Gina is not here, I'm going to step in as her -- I'm not really the Co-Chair of the EMO Committee, but I'm just going to jump in and say that I would like to have two, so I'm going to put a commitment, two EMO committees. Is that reasonable to do? I mean, that committee is huge.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Two meetings?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, two phone meetings.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I mean, if we need to, we can. I know that normally the conference calls are for the quarterly letters to be sent. In the past, we have had multiples between meetings. I mean, I think it would just depend on how the conference call goes and if we get everything done.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So, I'm going to go through the action task.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I can do that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, do you want to go through it?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I think it was technically part of my update and then we got side tracked yesterday --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, please go through that because it affects the committees. Go ahead and do that now, if you don't mind. That's tab eight.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Okay. So the first action item was to add a link to the State's Department of Emergency Preparedness to the Council's website. That has been completed. And I believe it's under our public safety tab that's on the website or whatever the tab actually says. I believe it says public safety.

The next was to add the Florida Coalition for Spoken Language options e-mail address to the Council's website. That was completed by myself and that was added under education, I believe to the K-12 page.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Good, good.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: What's the next one? Oh, order a pop-up banner for Family Café to be ordered by the Department staff. That was completed. The next was order items for Family Café; that was done by Department staff and that was completed.

The next one was to send website suggestions to me from all council members. That's just a running action item.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And we discussed that quite a bit.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Right. The next one was to arrange a call between the previous Chair and Vice Chair and the current Chair and Vice Chair to review their duties. That was to be done by the department staff and those to be involved. Unfortunately, that hasn't been completed due to, I think, travel and just everyone's --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, and I was out of the country.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Yeah. So, I mean, honestly we could do that here when the meeting wraps up if we want. I think you kind of have an understanding. If not, we can also schedule something within the next couple weeks, a call.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I just want to make sure there's nothing that I should be informed of or tricks of the trade that I haven't figured out yet. But pretty much --

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I think you've been doing a great job so far and they've been kind of --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I love that they positioned themselves or somebody positioned it that they're on either side. That was awesome!

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: So let's go ahead and put that as completed.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Okay, we can do that. I just wanted to make sure.

And the last one was to send monthly updates of the Text to 911 spreadsheet and that's a running action item. I haven't done that, I don't think, since June, because there hasn't been, since I checked at the beginning of this month, there haven't been any Florida counties. I'll check again on Monday and see if anything has been added, since I checked, like I said, I think I checked on, like, the second day of this month and there weren't any Florida counties that had been added to the list. And that's it for the action items.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Debbe, I'm sorry, I do see you.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: The Text to 911, that's important to me personally. What's happening with why the other counties haven't been done yet? I mean, Pasco County is not done yet, Hillsborough, all of those have not been done. What's the holdup? What's the issue? I would like to find out. What would it take to get them to move? I mean --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Indicates].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I know money, but.....  
Can we get some kind of official answer? Is that really the issue?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Chris had a comment.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. Debbe, I strongly agree with you. However, I do know that it's home rule, budget, outreach, people need to understand what happens for texting to 911. One question I had for Megan is if you know that Palm Beach County was on your last list of who's been added because they can Text to 911 now.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: This is Megan. Since the last update that I sent in June, they hadn't been added, and I had been looking for that. And like I said, I checked I think on, like, the first or second day of this month and the last update they had was -- I might have even sent something earlier than that, but the last update I saw, no Florida counties had been -- there had been no additional....

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: There is a gentleman I believe in emergency management with the state of Florida that has established a committee for Text to 911 for the state of Florida.

It would be good if an action item was set up for you to connect with him, because he may have more updated information about what's happening in the state of Florida compared to the spreadsheet that's posted on the FCC website that I've given you before.

A lot of counties are just unfamiliar with what it takes to make texting to 911 possible and they're afraid of the budget costs that may be incurred when you add texting to 911.

It's a big animal. I wish I had more time to speak to the individual counties. I just don't. As one person, I do as much outreach as I can, I talk about it in my classes.

I have four classes in four different counties in September and will certainly be putting information out so that people are aware of that.

But some of it has to be trickled down from the state and when I say "the state," that's Emergency Management and make recommendations for texting to 911.

The Public Service Commission has said that they have no authority over texting to 911 at all, so that's completely out of their realm.

But I can understand your frustration, Debbe. The county that I live in, Pinellas County right next door to you, we don't have texting to 911 available in our county either.

And in 67 counties in the state of Florida, we have small progress has been made; I think we're approaching ten counties that do have access, but we have a long way to go.

And all I can say is we continue to work for that.

And I would suggest that you, each person in here, contact their own county if you do not have texting to 911 and ask them why.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Megan?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: This is Megan. Chris, do you happen to know who that contact is for that committee? If not, we can figure it out; I just didn't know if you knew.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: I don't know his name. You're gonna have to.... if you send me an e-mail and remind me, I can try to do some research to help you find the individual.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I'm sure we could find it.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Well, I'd like to help, and I might have it.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Okay.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: It's just in my small brain, I can't remember it.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: [Laughs]. Okay.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you for bringing up this issue.

Chris, I was noticing one of the things you were saying is it might be better to go to the state level rather than everybody calling individual counties.

Is there a commission at the state level that, like the Emergency Management, that

would have some support and influence over this? Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris, that's what I was talking about, home rule, the state has limited authority over individual counties as far as what they're able to do for texting to 911.

The state cannot tell Pinellas County or Dade County or any other county in the state of Florida that they are required to have texting to 911. It's individual budgets and individual decision makers at the county level. So --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right, but do they have a language in which they are supporting it or encouraging it at the state level? It doesn't mean that they're requiring it, but, you know, a lot of times counties may adopt something that the state is recommending.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: That's what I'm suggesting Megan needs to contact that person in Emergency Management and find out about that. But I can't remember that person's name.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I was thinking that we need to emphasize the number of population of deaf and hard of hearing in that county and emphasize look, we've had this many, that's why, therefore, why we need the Text to 911.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris again. I will emphasize that what I always propose is that it is not a deaf and hard-of-hearing issue, it is a deaf gain issue, where if you have an incident related to domestic violence or an active shooter situation where you cannot use your voice, texting to 911 benefits every person in the state of Florida.

So, like when I see the state of Texas that has hundreds of counties and the majority of those do have the ability to Text to 911 and that's just one state, I want to see the same thing happen in the state that I live in.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Okay. Darlene?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I want to ask some questions about that. I know that the state has made a requirement for the schools to have guardians to protect the students and the Text to 911 would be an advantage for students in high schools if they're in a situation that they can use. So it's not just for the deaf and the hard of hearing. And like you said, it's also for domestic violence and things like that.

Is it possible that we, as a Council, can send a letter just to say it's a recommendation such and such, so many counties have implemented this Text to 911 and list the advantages of having it in the county? That we can send to each of the counties that does not have it right now? And kind of put a bug in their ear?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Darlene, I think that's a great idea. Let me ask, are there other councils or committees that are interested in Text to 911?

Not just for deaf/hard of hearing, but you said it's deaf gain, you're correct, I mean, domestic violence groups, are there committees that are also interested in having Text to 911? Or are we the ones who are really supporting it?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We have no idea? It seems like....

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I think it would be a good -- this is Debbe -- I think it would be a good idea asking the domestic violence group and also the disability group, asking them, can you help support us, and make it stronger, or something of that nature. Asking around.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It's good for everyone. I would wonder, what are some of the objections you can imagine to having Text to 911? What are some of the -- besides the money or -- well, money is one. What else?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: The other one I've been feeling afraid of is getting prank texts, that it's, you know, people are just playing with it texting and it's not a real emergency.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, I can see how that would be a concern, though. Go ahead.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Same thing happens with phone calls anyway.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: But I do know when they announce about Text to 911, they emphasize they prefer voice so they can get a lot more information quickly that day. And the second would be texting, that's from the sheriffs that say that.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Can I ask a question?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Darlene?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Do any of you know if there is a committee or a council that is regulating the schools guardianship program?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Darlene --

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Or violence?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Let's finish up the 911 issue and then we'll go to the guardianship issue.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Who was that again?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We'll continue the discussion on the 911 issue and then we can change topics over to guardianship, okay?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Okay.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right, great. Chris, you had a comment?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. I think Darlene was talking about the pairing of the two issues.

>> CINDY SIMON: Right.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Related to school violence, active shooter situations, and the use of texting to 911.  
So the question being if there's somebody else that we can connect with.

What I would suggest is paired with the same issue that I mentioned about connecting with the Department of Emergency Management and finding out who the person is that is coordinating texting to 911 at the state level and finding out the most updated information for Florida.

We also asked them what the other partners are that we can work with and create a letter from the Council that states the importance of texting to 911, emphasizing deaf gain and that it's an issue that can help every member of the state of Florida.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: This is Darlene. Thank you, Chris, for that comment.

One of the things that the school session is starting, that's one of the things that the school districts all over the state are having to do, is set in motion these guardians programs to protect the students.

So, by reaching out to the counties individually that don't have Text to 911, it would give them the opportunity to implement it while they're implementing these programs. And it would be advantages for other groups as well.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Thank you for clarifying. I apologize, Darlene, I did not get that impression when you were first sharing.

Okay. So, we're over our time limit on the committee updates, and moving into review of upcoming meeting dates and locations.

I'm looking at the final sessions. I don't see where our agency updates are. Is that not on our list? Where we go around the room and talk about FAD, HLAA....

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: It usually happens during the general council discussion, but it's not labeled as such this time.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, okay.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I know sometimes it's labeled as updates and sharing, sometimes it's general council discussion.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, maybe in the future, just so we can have a little tag

line that this is a time where we can share about our individual referring agencies.  
Yes, Darlene?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Yesterday when we were talking about the Website Committee, I had been thinking that, you know, underneath each of the members' names is a link to their agency, and I was wondering if each of us can approach our organizations or respective organizations and have them put on a page, a mini bio and summarize what they do, and that link can be inserted under each of our names, and that way it can be clicked on and have an update on the agency and what the members do and about the FCCDHH and how the agency is able to support the Council.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, and I see that on -- under tab two under our names, that there are links, but, yeah, I think that's a wonderful idea.  
Yes, Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. That's already on the website under each member for membership, on the membership page, it has the links to the organization. And we were given the choice sometime ago if we wanted to have just local organizations or in addition national organizations.  
For example, for Darlene, persons who are deaf-blind, it lists fldeafblind.org.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Yeah, Florida Deaf-Blind Association.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: And for me for ALDA, it has both aldasuncoast.com and alda.org which is both our local chapter and national chapter.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Terrific. Thank you for clarifying that, Chris.  
We are over our time for this part of it. We should move into discussing our next meetings and going over any issues that come up with that.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: This is Megan. I took care of that at the end of the meeting yesterday, just mentioning to you all, and I'll go ahead and restate it, that the meeting date for the November meeting has changed to November 15-16 in Sarasota, and the reservation cutoff date, which I will remind you all of, is -- I'll e-mail you all -- is October 14th.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And you said you were still working on the hotel or you have the hotel? The hotel is which one?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: We have the hotel, it's the Hampton. We already have that hotel already figured out, we have the contract.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And the meeting room will be there as well so we don't have to travel?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Terrific. Yes, Chris? Chris and then Glenna.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. I would like to see it be added as an action



item for each quarterly meeting that the program office or Megan try to contact local organizations, if it be by e-mail or phone, just letting them know about our quarterly meetings.

And I am aware that you don't always know the local organizations, but neither do we. Like, for me here, I do not necessarily know that the Palm Beach County Deaf Club or something like that, and what I did, like for this meeting, I just did a Google Search and I'm checking for independent living and disability organizations, and in a lot of cases, the program office has a paid position and we're all volunteers and I don't necessarily have all the time I want to follow-up on that, and it would sure be appreciated, even if you just said to us in a group e-mail, "Is there any local organizations that you think I should contact?" And just remind us and we could let you know the ones that we have.

Just sometimes it falls off my radar, because I'm busy with so many other things, and it would just be really appreciated if we had the program office backing us up on that. Because I always want to see public comments like we had yesterday times ten.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: And it's a very big part of why we move around the state for our meetings.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I think that's a very good comment. And I also want to reiterate that it's all of our responsibilities to help Megan with that.

You know, I want to know who's in Sarasota County, Manatee County as well, so I don't think it should just be Megan. So I like that it will be an action item so it reminds all of us to step in to helping out with that as well.

Thank you very much, Chris. Now we'll go to Glenna.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You can start with the FAD website, we already have a list of deaf-related organizations and clubs and whatnot. So check the FAD website, because we already have a long list of deaf-related things, as well as CIL, local VR offices.

So you have a lot to work with from the FAD website. We already have a lot on there. CIL and VR offices.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I was wondering if it was possible that you can put it in the newspaper? Because that's public-public, or is that too much?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Shay?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Generally newspaper advertising is expensive and the readership of newspapers have gone down significantly over the years. I don't know that that's the source that a lot of people still get their information from.

But, I mean, we can find other sources to advertise. I just don't know if it's in the budget to do newspaper advertising and what that would take. It would have to be vetted through our Office of Communications and there's just a lot of stuff that....

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Thank you for clarifying that. Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: I would agree on that, newspapers can be a problem. However, we can do press releases to local organizations that have the ability to share, local media outlets, news stations and stuff like that, they might pick up on it. There is a requirement that a certain amount of air time for local affiliates is for non-profit.

So, they might pick up on one thing, they might not. But we need to get the information out there.

And I can guarantee you, every quarterly meeting, I make sure that I send it out to at least a few people. I don't always have time to send it out to 25 people. And I just hope that we're all doing that.

But, you know, once again, as a volunteer council, we need the program office to make sure that we're backed up on that and that goes out to everybody.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I think that we have great potential to have more public attendance, I really do.

So, yeah, I think we have a lot of great ideas on how to do that. Okay.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Darlene.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Darlene?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I know that each of the news stations and newspapers, they actually have community events that they list for free, so I'm wondering if we can -- I know Megan is really busy, maybe we can set up someone to Google that area that would take community events and send off to those locations to advertise.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That's a great idea.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: And that would help Megan.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Shay?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: We'll look at our list for advertise opportunities for the next meeting.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Action item. Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Okay. I just wanted to point out that I was just asking Glenna and verifying that we are going to Sarasota next time. Sarasota should be pretty easy in the fact that not only do we have one of the largest HLAA groups in the state, but one of the largest HLAA groups in the country is in Sarasota.

So, definitely we want to make contact with Joanne Frese who is the president, or maybe she's the past president of HLAA Sarasota. Anyway, Debbe and I can help you.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, I know all the people in Sarasota.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Yeah, but they should come out. And we want to draw people out as best we can. I really think that's important for our quarterly meeting.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, I think so too, Chris. Thank you. We also have the Suncoast chapter -- no, not Suncoast, I'm, the Sun City chapter of HLAA which is pretty active, which is not too far from Sarasota.

And also letting local agencies know that work in mental health, I mean, let them know that we're in town.

I think that we can do some good outreach. Okay.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: And I also know that the Sarasota has the Deaf Coffee Social, we need to pass out flyers and just pass it out.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I think this is a great discussion.

So, we have everything set up for Sarasota, we've talked about advertising or informing people.

Yes, Shay?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Can you all make sure these are great ideas that you go ahead and send those to Megan so she can start contacting these groups she's identified? I mean, we have no way of knowing how to reach the Deaf Coffee Social in Sarasota, but if Debbe has that contact, like those kind of things, we need to know who to contact.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That's a terrific idea.

And also the FAD website, Glenna had said that lists all over the place. HLAA, I don't think you need to be doing all the searches for that; let's help Megan out for that as we can.

Okay. Now, the meeting after Sarasota?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Is February.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Tallahassee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Tallahassee.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I can give you that meeting date real quick. We're already working on securing a hotel for that, so we won't be put in the same position that we were this time, since [chuckles]....

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Isn't that when session is open? So we want to definitely get a hotel early.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: We're working on that right now. Those meeting dates are February 7-8, 2019.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I feel like it's always February 7-8.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: It's just the second Thursday and Friday of the month.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. Shay?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: For clarification, do you all mind driving from the hotel to the Department of Health campus or would you prefer that Megan finds a hotel that has a room to meet in? Because I've heard back and forth both ways and we just want to do what makes the Council happy.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I don't mind. It's at the Easley Center and that's covered and paid for, whereas getting a meeting room might be an additional fee?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: It just depends on the hotel. We've never in the past, since we've had the meetings at the Betty Easley center, we have looked at the cost at the hotels. Sometimes the rooms are complementary and sometimes it's --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Is there a cost for using the meeting room at the Department of Health?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: No.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Well, we're there, it's the Department of Health, it's their building, that's my opinion. Other folks?

>> CINDY SIMON: Personally I prefer not to have to go out. If we can get a free room in a hotel, I'd rather stay in the same place.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Maybe we can do a cost analysis. If it's not free, you know.....

What does the Department of Health want us to do or do they not care when we're in Tallahassee?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: I mean, obviously it's easier for us if we're meeting where we work, but we're open; it's at the discretion of the Council.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Glenna, did you have a thought?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: For February, remember to add a couple of nights, because we want to arrive before to do legislative visits.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I'll just need to know, is it just going to be the Legislative Committee, so just you two or are we wanting more people?  
I just need to know how many rooms we'll need.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: There's three or four people.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: They're or four people, maybe Gina?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Gina, right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Three or four people, so we'll arrive, like, Tuesday night and do visits on Wednesday.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Right.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: If it's an issue with money, then them two can go. But if it's not, and they want more support, I'll go.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I can tell you, it's a very busy day. I mean.... who set up all those appointments? You did?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Nods head].

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It was a busy day! I do have to start my exercise program two weeks in advance to be ready to run! [Chuckles].

So, I think having three people is a reasonable number to do this, because apparently we want to sit for a minute and talk with these folks.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: The only reason I ask is because I'll be reaching out to our travel coordinator.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And interpreters.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Right, I'll be reaching out to our travel coordinator on Monday and the hotel and let them know we'll need three additional rooms for that Tuesday night. That's why I wanted to know the amount of people that would be attending.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And you also need to have the funds to request funds for an interpreter to go with the group.

Now, I can meet with -- hold on one second. No?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The Capitol provides interpreters. We have to let them know two weeks ahead.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So we can go ahead and let them know that we would need someone all day Wednesday and we have to follow-up with the schedule, and I'll take care of that.

The reason the schedules seems so hectic, the offices only schedule appointments for 10-15 minutes and that's it, so I asked them for appointments, and they tell me what time to fill in.

So we start our time to be as a group, but then what we do, we will split whatever we need to.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, we had to do a split, so even though they gave you a time of 10-15 minutes, they don't stick to their own time limit, and we end up running

late for the next one, but it works out, it work out great.

Okay. So I forgot what I was asking you right before. We were on the discussion of hotel meeting room or the Easley center and the cost analysis is going to be compared everything to zero, right?

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I was going to ask and I don't know if it's unfair to ask this, is there any possible way of having coffee? Is that an expensive endeavor?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Um.... so, two things. I mean, actually there is an additional cost if we have it at Easley that you have to consider, because folks might just Uber and they won't need a rental car versus if they need a rental car. Although Uber is taxi friendly but you may want to rent a car. That's a cost. Are you trying to see if the hotel can provide coffee?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, like one of those things but filled with coffee. Is that a huge expense?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Traditionally, if we want coffee, that comes with the food and beverage agreement, meaning they have to provide the food for our lunch break and things like that, which we typically don't do because everyone breaks on their own for lunch and things like that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Let me bring up that issue about the lunch breaks. It is really tight in that one hour. And is that something other people have noticed? I got a bite of my lunch before I had to package it and run back.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Just real quick, Cindy. We can definitely extend the lunch, the agenda is flexible and that's definitely input with you as Chair and the Council. We always have a lot of time at the end of public comment, and hopefully if we continue the recruiting efforts, it won't be a problem, but we can start public comments 30 minutes later and give us more time for lunch. It's flexible.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It was tight.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Traditionally since I've bon the agenda, it's been an hour.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Should we discuss it? Go ahead, Cindy, first.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay. First the agenda is written at the pleasure of the Executive Committee, of the Chair.

We have had an hour and a half for lunch in the past and it hasn't had to carry over into public comment where you started 30 minutes later. That's your option to do that. We could be finished earlier.

If we use hotels that offer coffee in the lobby or include breakfast automatically, so just Hampton Inns and Embassy Suites and someone who does a lot of conferences, the cost of a gallon of coffee is totally disgusting for what you're getting, I will tell you that

now.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Fair enough, fair enough, someone will maybe just run out to DD and get a thing. Maybe we'll do that.  
Okay, yes, Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. Also just know that I know state and governmental organizations don't always have the ability to offer food and beverage for meetings, so that may be a problem.  
I would reiterate Cindy's idea that we look for a hotel that offers free coffee or breakfast. I know when we're in Tallahassee, that one Hampton Inn that we use on Apalachee Parkway offers that option. It's not Hilton downtown.

[Laughter].

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Personally I've had better services at the Hilton than Hampton.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: It's the Hampton, right off Apalachee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That's where we stayed the first year I was here and it was great.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Normally with these hotel contracts, we tell them free breakfast is something to look for, especially for the travel coordinator, and she does, but West Palm Beach is expensive and no hotels she gave me offered free breakfasts and sometimes you're put in a bind.

We really do try to push for that, I tried pushing for it at this hotel and the best they could do is discount it, which I understand. There's protocols for all of these hotels and I get it.

But just know that, I mean, we do, we are really trying to get you guys free breakfast at every meetings so you have the coffee and you have the food.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Great, terrific. It saves the State some money too by doing that.

Okay. Since this is still part of the reviewing meetings, I'd like to put it out to the Council that we change lunch to 1.5 hours. Can I get a -- oh, do I need someone to make a motion?

>> CINDY SIMON: You can do it if you decide to do that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I like it to be a team effort. Is everybody good with that plan? All right, then sobeit [chuckles].

There was something else I was going to say. Oh, yeah, I notice in our public comments, that we have from 4:00-6:00 on the first day, I know this is something we could put towards general discussion, but I think we have -- how are we doing on time?

Well, I'm discussing public comments and we're in the public comments section. Okay.

So, I notice that, you know, people sit here all day, from 8:00 until 4:00 or 9:00 until 4:00 until they get a chance to say something. For someone like me who is quiet challenged, that's a long time. I know they have a lot of ideas. So when they finally get up to speak at 4:00 o'clock, you know, they have, like, eight things on their list of things that they wanted to share.

Is there any flexibility in making it two times, like 11:00-12:00 -- hold on Chris, I see your hand goes up, let me finish my thought -- from 11:00-12:00 and again at 5:00-6:00? Is that an option or is that statutorily mandated? Yes, Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. The agenda is yours to set as the Chair. You can change the times around as you want and discuss that with Megan and the Executive Committee.

What I will remind you is that public comment is important to have at the end of the day for those folks that may be trying to come here after they get off work at the end of the day.

So that's one of the reasons that it's been set from 4:00-6:00.

But there would be no problem with having one from, like, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and also one that was from, you know, 11:00 to noon or something like that. However you wanted to set it.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Why don't we try that.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: It's always been set from 4:00-6:00 p.m. One thing I wouldn't encourage is shortening the public comment. We have that big block for public comment so we encourage people to come in. If we're talking about shortening the public comment, we're setting ourselves up for failure, that we're not doing enough outreach like I talked about for getting people to come in for public comment.

One of the reasons I'm on this Council is because before I was on the Council, when I came to visit the Council, it was at a meeting in Miami and it was standing-room only. There was a council meeting and a huge number of people for public comment. Some spoke, some just watched. It was a great meeting.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Awesome.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: And I want to see that happen again. We've had meetings like that sense, but I want to have that be a regular thing, and I think it's all of our responsibilities to make that happen.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you, Chris, for that. I will make the recommendation that we change public comments as a trial for the next meeting 11:00-12:00 and 5:00-6:00. Other discussions? Darlene?



>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I like the idea of having it from 11:00-12:00, but I would recommend just making it from 4:00-5:00 just in case we have more that show up in the 4:00-5:00 and after that, public comment is done, we can take the last hour to discuss what has been said. But just in case we have an overflow, we still have time for them to speak after 5:00.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: So maybe we can be more flexible here. People like me who go to work and are running out at 5:00 to try to get here by 5:30, that's why we make sure we're here till 6:00 o'clock to allow for those people.

Also, public transportation isn't always so easy and a lot of times they put more on later in the day for people who are commuting, such as in Miami, the express buses don't run during the day or later.

And on the agenda, if we have public comment that wants to speak at 11:00-12:00, they can, or if we're going over or reviewing at another time, if there's nobody there, so we actually have something for potential, and then there's room later on, if public comment is finished early, then we can continue on with whatever we didn't get to, and anything, we should only be so lucky that we have public comment both times so packed that we don't get to it, and we have time to review it the next morning. That would be my recommendation, so we're fluid and not losing time.

I think that DCF Advisory Committee, we tried that at one point, having a daytime, because people wanted to speak, as well as having the evening comment. It didn't happen very often where they wanted to at that hour.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Thank you, this is Mary. Don't we have to notice when we're going to have the public comment period?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Mmm-hmm.

>> MARY HODGES: So we just have to remember that it has to be part of the....

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So we note that prior to the Sarasota meeting, that we'll have public comments from 11:00-12:00 and I recommend keeping it from 5:00-6:00 in order to capture the people -- I don't know that we need three hours of public comment. I would do 11:00-12:00 and 5:00-6:00 and that way we're giving the two hours of that day, without losing additional time on council business. Okay, Glenna, you had your hand up?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Parking and easy access to hotel also has to be considered, because here we have paid parking and I'm sure that probably discourages some people if they knew about paid parking. And one time we had a Miami hotel that was really hard to get to.

>> CINDY SIMON: Oh, my God!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And that was discouraging, too. So we have to think about the hotels not just for the Council but also for the public, to make it easy for them to park for free and get to the hotel too.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: This is Megan. And normally that's another thing we look for [chuckles], another thing we inform the travel coordinator that we need free parking because, I mean, you're right, it isn't just for the Council, it's for the guests as well.

And like I said, it's West Palm, so.... there wasn't a really a lot of wiggle room with parking either. All of the hotels that she sent me that sent back proposals had costs for parking and meeting rooms and things like that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Cindy, then Darlene.

>> CINDY SIMON: Just when you consider Miami, something to think about, we had one meeting on the Advisory Committee that was at the Miami hotel airport, a Miami airport hotel, so there's usually access to those areas through public transportation in the metro rail in Miami, and we actually had a huge public comment at that one. And so that's something to consider in the future.

And it may be, so we've done the Fort Lauderdale hotel, the airport hotel, and we've had really high attendance and we've had lower attendance.

So it just depends.

But I know those, especially Miami, has transportation there.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yes, thank you, Cindy. Darlene?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I was just thinking -- is this on? -- I was just thinking that we could kind of be flexible, because it is a public meeting. I know that when I sent out -- or post it on Facebook or send out an e-mail, I let the reader know that this is a public meeting and they can attend any time.

I wonder if we can put on our comment form if they need to speak within a certain time? And that way we can be flexible during our meetings and allow some to speak at certain times and still keep public comments at a certain time as well?

I don't know if that would be too much. But it might not ever happen, but just in case it does.

Like was mentioned, transportation can be an issue, especially after certain times, so that's something that we might have to consider.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you, Darlene. Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: The Chair can recognize anybody from the public to speak at any time during the meeting. If there's somebody that wants to speak at 11:00 o'clock in the morning on the first day and they give a note to the Chair or they let the program office know that they have a comment that they would like to share about something that we're talking about, that's the Chair's option to do that.

The other thing I wanted to point out is a discussion of public comments on the second day. The reason that usually happens is the majority of the public come during the public comment period and we have the discussion period on the second day so we're not putting pressure on the people that gave the comment to have us discuss all of their comments right in front of them, and vice versa.

Not that there's any secrets, but just so that we have a chance to discuss that. Sometimes it happens with the person being there as well, and that's a good opportunity. But we want to keep the discussion period on both days.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, thank you very much for all the comments. So, let's go ahead and we're going to just clarify that for the next meeting, public comments will be 11:00-12:00, 5:00-6:00. Is there an opportunity for any public comments on the second day? And any reason not?  
Glenna had her hand up first, so I'll go to her.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It's not related to public comments, but on the second day, we're trying to wrap up things so we can get out, so.....  
But if somebody shows up the second day that was not there the first day, again, the Chair can always recognize the person during the meeting anyway, so that would be taken care of.

The other thing is that we need to think about the agenda so that we can get the public notice out early, so that we have the hotel ready for Sarasota, and we need the agenda, so with the agenda, we need to think now about who we can invite to do presentations in the Sarasota area so that we can hope to move the public notice faster.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: This is Megan. I also know that we were talking yesterday about having the biennial report, basically the final draft.

I know when we did it the last time, we didn't have any presentations scheduled, so we could specifically work on the biennial report and do the public comments. So you had the whole meeting, basically, to work on the biennial report, if it was needed, and public comment and reviewing of the public comment, and if there's any other discussions, updates --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: You mean for the second day.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Well, for the whole meeting.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Although I'd like to see if, since we're going to be in Sarasota, I don't know if it has to be Sarasota, but there was that speaker I was talking about for the commission.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: That's fine, we can have presentations if you want --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Maybe limit it to one or two.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Right, and last meeting we limited it to just the biennial report. Whatever you want to do.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Right, in November, we really need to focus on the biennial report and we want to have it ready and so we can pass it out and get it ready. Maybe we should not just have presentations.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Or maybe just one.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Or maybe just one so we can focus on the biennial report and writing it up and agreeing on it and all of that, so that we can meet our goal to having it published by December or January so we can pass it out and send it out and pass it out in February.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Very good. I was going to check and see if the interpreters needed to switch out? I just noticed they've been sitting here all morning. Okay, they're good.

All right. So just a couple more discussions and then we're going to take a break. I know we're scheduled for a 15-minute break, but I was wondering if folks wanted to have maybe a 20-minute break or so, if you're still checking out and pulling your stuff out of your room?

I've got to get a big cart and get all of my stuff out of my room and bring it down here; I wanted to show you guys everything and then decide who's taking....

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I know, but I have to pick up a chair tomorrow -- I mean today, so I'm a little nervous!

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. So let's go ahead and we'll do a final discussion. For the agenda for the next time, because, remember, we're not going to have to do the Family Café review. We'll be discussing The Deaf Thing review instead.

I would recommend that we do public comments 11:00-12:00, 4:00-5:00 and I will recommend we do public comments available for Friday 11:00-12:00. I want people from the public to have the opportunity to come both days.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Just know that if you, if I notice that in the FAR, that we have in public comment on Friday, we don't break early.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That's fine.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: By ending at 5:00, we limit the people coming after work --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: What did I say?

>> CINDY SIMON: You said 4:00-5:00.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I meant 5:00-6:00.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: And the people that have to leave early on Friday, the ones that have to fly out --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I won't leave early. I mean, I know you have to have a representative here, I can't control what the rest of the Council does, I would like the rest of the Council to be here, if possible.

So if we know in advance that we may have public comments from 11:00-12:00, maybe people will look for flight arrangements after that. Yes, Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. You have to make sure even though you're committed to being here, you have to make sure we have paid service providers here. So if we're saying that somebody stays after noon or after 5:00 o'clock, we have to have the interpreters set to stay that same amount of time.

Also, the entire agenda is totally flexible for you to decide and the Executive Committee decides and work with Megan on the phone outside of this meeting. You don't have to set the times up here at this meeting.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. I like to have it as part of our discussion. We're here scheduled to 12:00 anyway and 6:00 anyway, it's not a huge time, but I want us to feel it.

I would also like to have meetings by the pool.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Bring our floaties.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, I'm thinking.... I lost it.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: See? The floaties got her!

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: She's thinking about that now. Okay. All right. Any other discussions? When's the April meeting? Is that too far in advance? Or the May meeting?

>> CINDY SIMON: The May meeting.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I don't think we have established that yet. We can go ahead and do that or we can --

>> CINDY SIMON: We should do it now.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. Whatchya got?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: The second Thursday and Friday in May, let me get there, the second Thursday and Friday is May 9-10, 2019.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Do we know what city?

>> CINDY SIMON: That's what we need to decide.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: We need to decide. If anyone has any suggestions of where they think we should go. Keep in mind, we're doing -- we just did West Palm, then Sarasota, then Tallahassee. For May.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: For May, may I suggest Daytona Beach?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Or Jacksonville. When's the last time we did Jacksonville?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: We did that I think in November.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Well, that was St. Augustine.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: It was basically Ponte Vedra, but that was --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, that's considered Jacksonville.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: That was the past November meeting, last year.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We ended up in Jacksonville and I wanted to do St. Augustine so we could have a school visit.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: In May.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And FAD had their convention connected, the 100th.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right, that's what happened -- I'm just remembering the last time.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: What areas need to be represented that we visited that we haven't seen yet? Yes, Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. I was just going to point out it's been five years or longer since we've been to the Panhandle, even though it's a real pain to get to for people that don't live in the Panhandle, there is a deaf and hard-of-hearing

population that we need to make sure are included. So near Panama City or Pensacola, it's something that needs to be considered probably in the next year or two.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: My vote is Pensacola because my brother lives there now.

[Laughter].

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I selfishly want to go there.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I think I need to do the math, I consider Tallahassee part of that Panhandle.

>> CINDY SIMON: No.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Well, technically Tallahassee is in the Panhandle, but it's four hours, you know, west of Tallahassee that we don't reach, so.... somewhere between Tallahassee and Pensacola.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Do we ever get down to the Keys? What's the deaf and hard-of-hearing committee -- I mean community down there?

>> CINDY SIMON: I vote for the Keys.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: There's very little. But there are people out there. They do have a Deaf Social or Deaf Club there.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Do they have a HLAA group?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: No. They tried.

>> CINDY SIMON: Miami.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Does Miami capture some of the Keys?

>> CINDY SIMON: No. I can talk to Miami.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: How about Key West?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That's very expensive.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Glenna. I know the Pensacola area is trying to become active again, so maybe Pensacola or Daytona Beach.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Are we missing the middle of the state? People, like, Highlands? I'm not sure what the....

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. We were just in Ocala.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, that's pretty middle.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I enjoyed it, it was a great space there. But there's a lot of good communities. But we want to get a city big enough that will be able to hold the Council and bring people.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We could do The Villages.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I actually think that would be a reasonable consideration in the future, to do The Villages. I mean Ocala was close to The Villages, wasn't it.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: That was one of the main reasons we did Ocala, because of The Villages, we may not want to do that right now for the meeting in May.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Is there any place that we haven't thought of -- what about the south southwest of Florida? Alligator Alley?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Ft. Myers? Like, below, Ft. Myers and the Naples area?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, where's Port Charlotte, or where's the Wilma or hurricane Charlie area?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: That's Punta Gorda.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We're trying to capture as many people as possible.

>> CINDY SIMON: What's the island? Marco Island? Although that might be expensive.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I don't know if there will be people there other than people from the northeast or Canada vacationing. I don't know if anybody knows about Marco Island, that's a vacation spot, isn't it?

>> CINDY SIMON: I don't know, that's where a lot of the hearing professional organizations for -- that work with hearing loss.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Well, they do their CEUs there.

>> CINDY SIMON: That's a popular meeting area.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right, if you're continuing CEUs or CME, continuing medical education, that's where they want doctors to go.

>> CINDY SIMON: I don't know how far -- but I'm agreeing with Chris, that's exactly what I was thinking, we haven't been to the Panhandle in a while. The last time it was wintertime and not the easiest that I remember being there, so May should be a nice time of year, depending where you are and how close to the border of the state, it could almost be easier to fly into the next state, like Alabama, and then come back.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Alabama is very close to Pensacola.



>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Are we allowed to do that?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: What, go to Alabama?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: No, fly like into Alabama.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: She heard Alabama.

[Laughter].

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Sorry, I'm checking an e-mail from the State.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I love it.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: No, if your flight is through Alabama, it would be considered out of state travel and that requires separate approval of the Department, which is not a level that we probably want to go.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right. So I am looking at a map for the first time in -- since childhood and I see that Pensacola really is further west and I realize that reality we will not capture that with Tallahassee and that is about a three, four hour drive from Tallahassee? That's significant.

So, yeah, I'm in favor of Pensacola. And then we have another idea -- what was the other idea?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Daytona Beach in August.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Daytona Beach in August. I want you to process those words: Daytona Beach in August!

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Clearwater.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: There is an ITT program at Daytona Beach College.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, and UNF is near there -- no, it's not near there, was it.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No, that's Jacksonville.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: No, I was just talking about Daytona Beach in August! The warmth, the warmth.

All right. We've got some -- I see some hands came up when I was.... I did not see hands come up? No?

Any comments?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm eager to give everyone 20 minutes for a break.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Are we agreed on Pensacola for May and Daytona Beach for

August?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yes, I am comfortable with that. Anybody else? I see a thumb up here and there? A couple thumbs up. Everybody's good. And set. See, isn't that awesome? We've got it set. And Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: What are the dates, I'm sorry, for August?

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Oh, the dates February 7-8 in Tallahassee, May 9-10 in Pensacola, and August 8-9 in Daytona Beach.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Awesome.

Okay. I feel really excited! I say we take a break, okay, 20 minutes. And then we have one of the -- we have a wonderful guest who's going to be presenting and I'm very excited to hear her presentation.

I'll be back in a jiffy.

[Break].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We have one minute until we're restarting.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We're waiting on the interpreters.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. It's 10:00 a.m., it's 10:00 a.m. and we're getting ready to start; we're waiting for the interpreters to get into position. I guess I will ask if June needs an interpreter? I'm not sure if should have it positioned. We need to figure that out. You've got it all taken care of?

>> INTERPRETER: My voice is not going to work today, I already have laryngitis.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Welcome back. I hope everybody had a pleasant 20 minute break.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: We need to get somebody back there to voice.

>> INTERPRETER: She's back there.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: I thought she said she couldn't do it with her voice.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. And we are back.

So during the break, I picked up some of those promotional materials that I gave out at the Family Café, that we gave out at the Family Café. They're in the back. Debbe has graciously offered to carry some back to the Tampa area, but I would like from a break from today to see if there's some things you may want to take or a couple of things that you need, okay?

And I also put on right in front of you the -- I wish Mary was here so she could see it -- but this is the one-page information about FCCDHH that we were giving away at the Family Café, so we could educate them as to who we were. And also inform them of upcoming meetings.

So, it's a beautifully-laid out paper and take a look at it just so that you have that. I know we're talking about doing a brochure as well, but I really thought this was great, too, so you have that.

And I think we have some extra brochures on information on parents statewide assessment and accommodations for kids with disabilities. Okay?

All right. And I don't want to take any time away from our wonderful speaker. Today we're fortunate enough to have June McMahon who is very active in the Deaf community for many years and we are excited to have her presenting today on concerns of senior citizens.

And pretty much, anything else she wants to talk about, we are eager to hear. We want to make sure her PowerPoint, if she has one, is up, and ready. She does not have one.

>> JUNE McMAHON: No, I don't have one.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, fine, we won't have to worry about that technology.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Whoever is interpreting for June needs a microphone.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Welcome, June.

[Pause].

>> JUNE McMAHON: Ready? Okay, should I go ahead? Okay, fine. Thank you. All right. Well, I'm June McMahon and before I was working in the Deaf School in Connecticut and I was a teacher, assistant principal, and then I moved here to Florida about 15 years ago. And my father lives here.

So I've been coming back and forth and my husband and I decided we would retire here, so we moved here.

And I've been working here as a teacher about five years now in Broward County, as well as Palm Beach County. And, yeah, last year retired.

Okay. And so Florida is a place where older people come to retire. And when I first moved here, there were lack of services for deaf senior citizens. And it's the same all over the state, you know.

Senior citizens services, you know, other states, you know -- yeah, it varies, you know, it varies every city.

But now we've been doing a lot of research in America. The Secretary, if you will, of Deaf Seniors of America and there has been a list of people who live in different states. We notice people who live in Florida, they want information, they want more information, and so the FC... the Council, yes, okay, so the President of the Florida Association in the past, you know, we kept asking, well, what do we do from here? You know, people

from the north, you know, parents moving here, they just need support services. Where do we go? That's been the question on and on and on, that's been the question, where do we go?

So, in the past, my grandparents were deaf, my family history, deaf, I'm like fourth generation in my family. My grandmother, she lived in New York City. I grew up there.

My grandmother....

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> INTERPRETER: Okay, thank you.

>> JUNE McMAHON: Anyway, she was in that building for senior citizens. But things changed, you know, things changed as people signed up for services, you know. Social workers were there and, you know, they weren't happy there with the services. In the past, in the late '80s and in the '90s and before she passed away, you know, everything went....

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Ideal.

>> INTERPRETER: Yeah, it was ideal, so.....

>> JUNE McMAHON: So.... yeah.... let's see here.... things went well. Okay. So, her health started to decline and then she moved to.... valley, yeah, in Pennsylvania, okay, yeah, it was a nursing home there in Pennsylvania, and she in Ohio, they have called Columbus Colony and it's, like, the people here, assistive living, you know, nursing homes, you know.... let me think.....

They would move up to that area and it was sad that people had to move out of the state, it really was, it was sad to get services, they had to move, they didn't have any support services here, so that's why I'm here.

Also, in New England, the deaf there.....

Okay, so, in New England, Home for the Deaf and I'm also the president of -- I was the president here of an association, what is that.... cardinal -- I was the chairman for -- I'm sorry, you guys, CCC, and it's an apartment building as well.

[Pause].

>> JUNE McMAHON: So, when we.... I'm sorry, I'm missing quite a bit here, you guys -- okay, yes, mmm-hmm.

Okay. So anyway, we kept putting it off, you know, there were lots of problems with HUD, you know, with the health issues, yeah, the Housing Department, you know, different things, and they didn't want the deaf and the hard-of-hearing in one place, you know, they wanted it pretty much mainstreamed and we kept going back and forth with that.

And the National Association of the Deaf, as well as the other association,

DC -- DA -- I'm sorry -- DSA, there you go, okay.  
Yeah, so, anyway.....

We decided that what we would do, there was not enough deaf-available apartments, and so they would let hearing people come in. And that would be the same all over, you know. Deaf people would be fine, but there were just not enough apartments or people to come into the housing.

So, what you see is the big picture, you know.

Because there were not enough deaf to take care of it.

Okay. So then people asked me, they asked me would I get involved with the whole senior citizen housing situation, and so we just kind of, you know, I waited, they kept, you know, asking me, you know, would I focus on -- is it New Jersey?

Okay, so anyway, we started looking, we started to see what was available in this area.

So, there were a few other states that they were looking at and so we finally decided that, you know, we could provide some Deaf Services here, we could provide some services here, we looked around for a place, and we visited other places, you know, and so we decided to move here to a place Windward Palms. You get three meals daily, it's an independent living situation, you get three meals daily, it's for older people.

But they weren't really excited about the whole, you know, cooking situation, you know, like I say, three meals.... it was a little bit pricey as well, you know.

So anyway, I asked if they were willing to provide interpreters, you know, to travel, and they said yep, they were -- they would do that, you know, so the deaf people would come and they would come in and look.

We had five deaf that came in and.... five of them, so the first one was a woman. And she had signage skills, her parents were deaf, so we were able to help with communication there.

Beachward -- Wayward.... okay, so the service staff, they knew some basic sign language, they were able to coordinate some things with them. Again, there were five deaf that moved in with them.

One passed away, actually. One decided to move with her children. And so then we have two left, you know, Mary and.... and they have two left here.

So we've been trying to encourage the deaf to move, but, you know, they decided to just stay in their own homes, and so.....

What's best to do is independent living, assistive living, as well as we need to look at -- the committee needs to look at, you know, group homes, you know, smaller places.

One deaf woman who lives in a group home with, like, 14 other people and she's the only deaf that lives there. She's alone. And that's a lot, you know, that's -- that's a lot. She's lonely, you know.

And then so there's another place here, Abby Clay, Abby....

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Delray.

>> INTERPRETER: Delray, I'm sorry, Abby Delray.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Life care facility.

>> JUNE McMAHON: There's a life care facility and an independent living and rehab center there and a place -- it's really not cheap there. That's kind of pricey as well.

So, there's an independent living apartment there, it includes some meals. And later they'll have support services.

There's three women and one of those passed away and I think there's two left, so now.....

I'm hoping that more deaf will move there, but, again, you know, it's the same situation. So now we have three deaf people living in this other place and that was....

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Venus.

>> JUNE McMAHON: Venus at Delray as well. It's scattered, actually. There's a nursing home and two somewhere else. All over the state, we've got the same situation.

The place here, at least is willing to provide interpreters for meetings, but that's about it. That's it, you know. You've got a deaf here, a deaf person here, you know....

[Pause].

>> JUNE McMAHON: For people living here.... okay, talking about the Deaf Club from yesterday, people living here, you know, sometimes they know, sometimes they don't know what's available here in the state. But we only have, you know, a few -- a few of the people that's involved in that club there.

Palm Beach. A while back, you had 15 Deaf Clubs all across the state and now we have only two left and why is that? Why is there only two clubs?

Most of the senior citizens, you know -- most of the senior citizens, we don't have young people that are joining.

And many of us, you know, grew up, we would go to the Deaf Club, it was part of our lifestyle and our parents' lifestyle, and it's really sad that the young people, you know, are being mainstreamed, right, they're going to public schools now, so Deaf Clubs are not, you know, on the rise. They graduate, they don't go to Deaf Clubs. They don't even know about them. They gather sometimes at a restaurant or they do the little social media thing and, you know, and, you know, they're on the internet and they're testing back and forth and they're on Facebook and they don't even know what's up, they're not coming to the Deaf Club.

You know, when you talk about Palm Bay (sic), we don't see many of them, we don't,

we don't see many of them.

So, you know, the whole idea is for supports. We're trying to figure it out. That's what we're doing, you know. The whole social gathering, gather to gather, the friends, when you're in the hospital, you know, going to visit one another and, you know, that's what's happening.

[Pause].

>> JUNE McMAHON: I noticed the National Association of the Deaf and for the hard of hearing, every --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> JUNE McMAHON: Okay, they held a conference recently, excuse me, and we asked the senior citizens the DAA, the Deaf of --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> INTERPRETER: Yeah, the Deaf Association.... I'm so sorry, please excuse the interpreter -- the Deaf Seniors of America.

>> JUNE McMAHON: Okay, so anyway, there was some discussion, and what we decided to do was to see what we could improve on, in terms of resources, you know -- I forget her name, can you help me with the name?

Anyway.... there was a meeting, all the deaf got together, we talked about the different services, everybody from all across the state, we got together.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> INTERPRETER: Right, the Deaf Services Center.

>> JUNE McMAHON: And we just shared and so what we agreed upon is we would work together, that's what we came up with, we would work together, the Deaf Services Centers and see how we could improve the services, you know, and see if we could do --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

[Pause].

>> JUNE McMAHON: Okay, so, yes, new resources would be coming out on the website next month. Just lots of support for the senior citizens, you know. You had your young folk there, of course, that was a separate group, then you had your adults, and then you had your older people, you know. But we want to support all of them, you know, all the resources need to be supported of all of those groups.

So now where do we go from here? I'm not sure, really. You know, are we talking about independent living, you know, whether the deaf will come? I'm really not sure.

I think it's best for as far as the committee is concerned, that we establish a group, that a place -- a group home, a place where the deaf can go.

And maybe home healthcare, you know, some people have home healthcare that comes in and out. But what about the interpreters? What about the need for access with communication, you know.

My mom lives near me and I'm very fortunate, you know, if something happens to her. Her children, you know, live in other states. Oftentimes that's an issue. So, you know, the seniors are moved near their children. For example, North Carolina.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> JUNE McMAHON: You know, they move to be there near her children in North Carolina because she was alone, she was lonely, you know, and that's what's happening, you see.

You know, older people sometimes they have their children and they'll move, you know, with their children or the children will move with the parents.

So, it's the same thing happening with the hearing people, it's nothing different.

And when my mom started to have health problems, for example, I invited, you know, home healthcare assistance, I needed that, I needed an agency to help find somebody who could help me communicate, and they were willing to have a meeting, a nurse came with an interpreter, I thought that was nice. We had discussions, we talked about going forward what would happen, you know, without an interpreter.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> JUNE McMAHON: Right, home healthcare continued to come without an interpreter.

And I was wondering if FCCD (sic) may be as we visited around the state of Florida, you know, that's a big state, you know, this is a big state, what's going to be happening. You know, West Florida, the towns there, the nursing homes, anybody know anything? We don't know what's happening.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> JUNE McMAHON: There's a program for the deaf that's literally dwindling. Do you know about that, Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: My really good friend, he lives in Clearwater and he recently passed away, but he was living alone and I was living somewhere else on my own as well, and there was no nursing home or anyplace that the deaf and hard of hearing could go to, and honestly we didn't know what places were deaf friendly that he could go to.

Before, I was trying to, you know, ask you maybe if you know any places that deaf and



hard of hearing could go or deaf and hard of hearing friendly places, you know, any nursing homes or anything like that?

>> JUNE McMAHON: Right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Chris Wagner.

>> JUNE McMAHON: Yeah, you know, Chris Wagner worked at a nursing home a long time ago before he moved away. I don't really know what happened to that place, I'm not really sure, I'll have to research that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen, I'm on the NAD website right now and I looked up different senior housing options for assisted living in Florida, they list Magnolia House in Safety Harbor, which I'm not sure if that's still up and running. I think it is. And then for -- for independent living apartment, Summer Breeze Apartments in St. Augustine, and I'm still looking. But I sent this whole list to Megan.

Hospice facilities, I see nothing in Florida. Minnesota has the Deaf Hospice Education Project; that's only education.

But, yeah, it's interesting. Like, it says future facilities, the states of Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Virginia are in the process of setting up facilities for deaf seniors. Social gathering sites, they list for seniors, I'm getting down to Florida, tri-county association of the deaf in The Villages, I don't know if that's still up and running. Yes? Okay. Senior citizens social gathering in Palm Beach County, is that still up and running?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm not sure.

>> JUNE McMAHON: Yes, I think it is, yeah, Joel says it is, yeah, yeah, Palm Beach County for the deaf, that's going.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I don't see anything for, like, specific nursing homes or assisted living facilities. Wow....

>> JUNE McMAHON: Right, exactly.  
I'm going to get off subject just a little bit here. But I don't know if you guys know or not, but some people older that have health problems, they'll go to the hospital and some of the hospitals will provide sign language interpreters. You guys know that, right? Okay.  
Some of the hospitals won't. We're still struggling with that.

And then on another subject, older people will go to the hospitals, oftentimes they're alone. There's no one there to support them. There's no support for them. Some of the hospitals will provide VRI, video.... relay interpreters, you guys know that. And then NAD and, you know, they have workers there.

VRI is not the appropriate situation, but, you know, sometimes we'll check with a place and, you know, maybe there's a young person that works there, you know, and they'll have, you know, meetings or.... or -- I'm sorry, websites. And the hospitals are all kind of iffy.

If you see problems, you know, sometimes you have a situation where it's visual issues or freezing, you know, connection issues or, you know.... and we've started some discussion with one of the hospitals, I think was it Broward? I guess about two years ago, we tried to have some discussion with them, you know. We invited a lawyer in and.... um.... and, you know, just tried to get some people hard of hearing, you know, list and --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> JUNE McMAHON: Yeah, there's a long history with that issue. And so there was a lawsuit, you know, in the past, so that's good news. That the hospitals will provide interpreters now because they won that lawsuit, yep, they do.

But it's the same in every area, you know. When it comes to seniors, when it comes to older people, you know, getting access is always an issue. I remember one lady.... um....

[Pause].

>> JUNE McMAHON: You know, I remember visiting -- her vision was not good, she was isolated, she didn't understand a lot of the things that were going on. There were other issues as well.

I'm all finished. That's pretty much all I have. Do you guys have any questions or, you know, please, you know, don't let the picture scare you.

My mom, she's alone, you know, she lives in her own home now and on a daily basis, she's being checked on.

But, for example, if you see somebody, you know, that, you know, that don't have children, they'll need some, they'll need support.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> JUNE McMAHON: Yeah, there's lots of struggle.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> INTERPRETER: Mmm-hmm, okay, so, yeah.

>> JUNE McMAHON: So parents, I mean children are coming in, you know, and come and check on her and then a nursing home.....  
Sometimes the seniors just have to move.

So, anyway, you know, if they -- if they don't live here, that's what the picture looks like,

basically.

But I moved. And then they go back and forth, so.....

Are there any questions?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Is there one -- what's happening with the one in Arizona? There's a nursing home in Arizona?

>> JUNE McMAHON: I don't know about a nursing home. CC....

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> JUNE McMAHON: It's not a nursing home, it's an apartment, I've visited there. It's a nice place, it's an independent living, ran by HUD, for people like me, you know, who would not qualify to live there, you know, because it's HUD. But it's independent living for people who need more assistance, they have to go elsewhere.

Still trying to figure out the best thing, you know, apartments, we still need assistive living, we still need group homes, we still need.....

You know, some people feel like, you know, group home, you know, would work, you know, it's a smaller situation, so.....

Yeah, but most people just stay in their own homes, and then later, you know, try and get the supports they need or, you know, move wherever they can get those supports. So, any other questions?

>> INTERPRETER: Can the interpreter say something?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I didn't know if you were interpreting a hand raise. Yes, of course.

>> INTERPRETER: I have a friend who moved his mother down from New York. She's in a nursing home, an assisted living with all hearing people, she's the only one deaf there, and she feels isolated, and that's in Broward.

But I've recently had calls and people asking me if there are, like, they have adult daycares. I wonder if that's something that has been thought about, like, maybe a central facility for adult daycare, where they can at least go a few days a week to not be isolated, but to be around other deaf and have that deaf conversation thing going.

>> JUNE McMAHON: Wow.... oh, my.... you know, so....

>> GLENNA ASHTON: What you can do is bring her to BCAD.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And, June, when you say BCAD, how often is that meeting? I mean.... this is, like, a once in a while kind of group get together that's open?

>> JUNE McMAHON: No, they're open, you know, only on Saturdays, so.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh.

>> JUNE McMAHON: And then people come and they have an opportunity for the Deaf Social, and that's about it. Palm Beach, you know, County Association, they have fellowship socials as well and oftentimes Joel and I will go and visit. But they just -- deaf people need to get out of the house, the older people need to get out of the house.

In California, they'll have volunteers that will, you know, take them from group homes and, you know, so they can have a little bit more support. It's a volunteer thing, you know. So, thinking about maybe we could do something like that here. I'm not sure.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. I would think South Florida, this area with a higher number of seniors who are deaf throughout their life, as well as those who are late-deafened would certainly benefit from having facilities or services in this area. I think absolutely. I was going to ask Mary if she had any knowledge with the Department of Elder Affairs?

>> MARY HODGES: This is Mary. And I must admit that this is a very eye-opening discussion for me.

I think like any disability, there needs to be awareness around the issue. And in regard to housing, we have lots of problems with housing in Florida already. So, this just kind of, in my opinion, compounds the issue. So, I think that part of the work for the Council can be public awareness. We're so diverse as a state, so services in some areas in the state are much better than in other areas.

For example, we're talking about the clubs. There's no -- I don't know what the movement is related to that and how to -- what the model is for developing those and how to, you know, develop those across the state. But something like that I think is what we need. We need some sort of movement.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you. Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is a huge issue for people that are deaf or hard of hearing having access in nursing homes and in medical settings.

I know personally when I was in the hospital myself, it's a scary experience. Because there's no access to communication and you know I train on this issue and I work with hospitals and people that are working in the medical profession. But June and I and all of us, we can't do it alone. So, I mean, we have to do the outreach and continue that effort.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Do you know Mike Goldberg?

>> JUNE McMAHON: Yes, yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: He's a deaf man that trained to become a home healthcare, so he can go -- he's able to speak, so he can go to either hearing or deaf. So I'm wondering if that's another way to try to encourage more deaf people to train as home healthcare and then we will have a group of people who can sign. Well, it doesn't have to be deaf people, but it could be another field to encourage people to think about home healthcare as a career and expand the number, deaf or signers can do that.

Because like you said, most people prefer to stay at home. And that's another thing that we can try to let people know about another career opportunity, and encourage that.

>> JUNE McMAHON: Yeah. I talked with Tim, I contacted him, and I don't know where he is right now, though.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I'm close friends with him, so I'll give him, and ask him to contact you.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Is he part of HLA?

>> JUNE McMAHON: I have his e-mail. He lives here.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: He lives near me, he lives near me.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I just met a Goldberg that lives in South Florida at National, but that's not him.  
Darlene?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: This is Darlene. I've just been contacted by a nursing home facility in Orlando that wanted to know where they could go and get ASL training so that they can meet the need of those who rely on sign language for communication and I suggested that they go to the local college and participate in the training of sign language.  
But I also connected them to different interpreting agencies within that area.

So I haven't heard any reports about it, but I -- but I had a man contact me about his mother that had been hard of hearing and she was losing more hearing, and he was concerned about what he needed to do.

So I gave him some information. He lived up in New York and his mother was in South Florida. So I gave him some information about what he could do about hearing aids, maybe have her consult with an audiologist to determine what to do in that area. And he and his siblings simply just did not know how to approach it.

So, the need is in the state for more information, not just for the deaf and the hard-of-hearing individual, but for their family as well.

And nursing home facilities and assistive living facilities are willing to do their part. And I would strongly advise anyone that is seeking those is to consult with a variety of facilities and ask them to teach and question and who knows, they might find a resource

that they have and they're prepared for, or bring them aware of how they can prepare for that group.

So, communication is very important. And ask questions of the group homes -- not the group homes, but the nursing homes and assistive living facilities, which are different from group homes.

So, I know even just a sighted and hearing person, when my sisters and I had to put my mother in a nursing home, we didn't just stick with one close by, we researched and contacted and met with them each individually to determine the best place to put her. So, I would suggest that anybody seeking that type of facility or services, is to do your homework.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you, Darlene.  
June, I'm astounded that there's not more facilities available.  
And we know that with hearing loss and deafness, communication is key. And isolation increases risk of health problems, worsening dementia if that exists in a person.  
And I'm curious what thoughts the Council has on how we can help that situation? If we can.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I was thinking that maybe the social workers or counseling retired can somehow be the people to evaluate help and visit, if we know if they're in a nursing home.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: On a volunteer basis? Like --

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Or somehow find a way to get a grant to pay that person to be the outreach for evaluating and check on the deaf people, like they do in California.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, that would be a good idea.  
In the Tampa area, we had scheduled a meeting, mental health professionals in the Tampa area who work specifically with deaf and hard of hearing, individuals have scheduled a meeting for September as a get-together or get to know each other. There's a few of us there, some social workers and a couple of psychologists.

I don't know if there's any other psychiatrists other than myself in the Tampa area that work with deaf and hard of hearing.  
But I'm actually going to raise that question.

I tend to work predominantly with children and adolescents, although I do see some deaf adults there, but what are their options, is my question.

Some of them are older and they live at home at this time, but I imagine that question will come to me at some point about where to go.

Actually that question is coming. I have a young man that I'm seeing who is almost 30 and had cognitive damage as a child due to a birth injury, and now at 30-years-old, I'm struggling to find where can I send him for an independent living environment.

I don't know if anyone is familiar with Noah's Ark in Lakeland that has a series of apartments for young people with developmental disabilities and intellectual disabilities and cognitive issues.

And I've asked them about setting up an apartment or a section aside for deaf individuals, and they really haven't -- you know, it's also about putting people in beds, right? I mean, we can't just leave them open until someone comes your way.

But, you know, I try to really encourage them to think about that so that they can have a social environment to go to an independent living. So it's also for the transitional age, too, they have this issue.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. I've never heard of Noah's Ark, that place, but my concern is you said that there are rooms put aside for people with developmental disabilities, and I know that if it's regulated by APD, that APD is not always classifying people who are deaf or hard of hearing under a developmental disability, and that can be a conflict for people getting the accommodations that they need.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That's a good point. Noah's Ark and Noah's Landing is a community that has built up with little homes in a little neighborhood. I can't even describe it. It has a clubhouse, it has a pool, and they have voc rehab works with them, they have health -- I mean they help them get jobs in the area, in the community.

And it would be ideal for this young man that I'm thinking of, but I, you know, what's the benefit of him going outside his family, where at least his family signs and communicates with him, to an environment where no one can communicate with him, even though it would fit him age-wise. And that's the challenge. It's not just senior housing but young adult housing who may have DD or ID who may need assistance with that.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris again. And that was my point, if you were saying that some of the housing is set aside for people with developmental disabilities --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All the housing is for people there, all the housing there is for DD and ID.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: But people who are deaf and hard of hearing are not included in the people with developmental disabilities.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And are you suggesting they should be?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Absolutely -- well, I mean, I'm saying they should be included in getting access to the communication that they need. And if the housing is set up to help people with disabilities and you're suggesting that people that are deaf or

hard of hearing are included in that, it's contradictory, because APD does not include people that are deaf or hard of hearing in that classification.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Maybe we should investigate the definitions of that classification?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, I'm not suggesting any classification by APD. But what I am saying is that I would like to see places that offer DD, ID, or independent living. I mean, this is a young man who has both. He's deaf, he depends on sign language, he is most comfortable in communicating with sign language, although he has a cochlear and has some cognitive damage from birth. So, this would be an ideal setting for him.

I would like to see more places have transitional age housing, as well as the senior housing for folks who are deaf and hard of hearing. That's just what I'm saying.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yes, Mary. I'm sorry, I skipped Darlene. Darlene first.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I was going to say, I agree with Chris. There are some organizations such as the Ark, and those serve people who are intellectually disabled. I notice on their website they say they serve all people with disabilities, but that's not the case. They do not offer everyone who has a disability, they only offer services to those who are developmentally and intellectually disabled.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you for clarifying that. Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: This is a question of ignorance, but why doesn't this fall under the Disability Act for public -- or nursing homes, et cetera, that they have to have staff who are able to communicate with people with hearing loss?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Is that a good question.....  
I admit that I'm under some ignorance with that as well.

>> MARY HODGES: So, if I have a nursing home, does that mean that I don't.... I'm not required to have.... I'm not.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We have a member of the public who is here who has some information. I'm going to permit that individual to join the conversation.

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good morning again, Council. Beth Wagmeister here. I know that a deaf person going into any type of nursing home or institution or hospital or senior center of any sort, you have to provide accommodations and services and it's the responsibility under the ADA.

So, again, our comments yesterday about making sure cities are accountable and having somebody who understands the ADA law and making sure we're holding people accountable to following that law, because it's been established for 28 years, any public



or private have to provide interpreters.

Let me double-check on private, but I know any public entity has to provide access to people with all disabilities, which includes the Deaf community as well.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I will permit the interpreter to step out.

[Microphone feedback].

>> INTERPRETER: And just to add a nursing home, those are Medicaid and federal dollars, not only under the ADA but under Section 504 of the Rehab Act, they must be providing accommodations and that includes interpreter services, communication, captioning, whatever.

So when we're talking about healthcare services especially, you have to focus back, not just on the ADA, but under Medicare and the Medicaid regulations at the federal level.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you for clarifying that. Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: This is Chris. It is a requirement by federal law that accommodations and access in healthcare is provided to people that are deaf or hard of hearing. The problem is it's not happening. And it's accountability that Beth is talking about.

We need to communicate more with hospital associations and doctors' offices and make sure that it is part of the requirement.

You know, and with friendly advocacy wherever we can, where lawsuits are not necessary, but there's a lot of problems here, where people are not getting the access they need in the most serious situations.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: So I just wanted to -- I pulled up Noah's Ark in Lakeland, okay, so it's a pretty large -- not a huge -- community, if people can see. And I was just checking on their funding. Of course they must have funding from Medicaid and Medicare or DD/ID. I'm just taking a look at it....

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Any other comments?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you. Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Thank you. I was just going to point out that we address the issue of the compliance with the Act in our biennial report. I'd like to suggest as we work on the PowerPoint and the brochure, that we pull some of that out. Sometimes we are silent and we're not in the face of the public, people tend to forget.

And so I think being a conscience that we are of the -- for this group, I think we need to advocate in a way. And it's just part of what we would do on a day-to-day basis as the Council.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you, Mary. Darlene?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: Is there any way that we could contact, like, I think the AHCA, maybe they govern or regulate nursing homes and assistive living facilities? I'm not sure.

But maybe ask specific questions, like "What do you do when you have a deaf person in a nursing home?" What are they required to do?

And that way we have an idea of what is supposed to be provided and approach in a different way.

I'm not sure; write a letter or this and that.

Because we really don't know the information. So it would be good to gather the information so we can know what we can do.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I wanted to clarify. AHCA, it's A-H-C-A, and that is the Agency for Healthcare Administration in Florida, just so people know what she's referring to.

Okay. And Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Even a group of us from NTID, we have been talking about oh my gosh, I'm getting older, I don't want to be in a nursing home alone, so some of us friends have been saying, you know, where are you going? Where are you going? Okay, let's kind of stick together and find a way to be together so we're not isolated.

I mean, even my friends are even talking about it and thinking about it, okay, how can we be proactive -- if that's the right word? -- proactive and thinking about planning, part of our plan for the future.

I mean, we don't know what's going to happen tomorrow. Anything can happen. So we need to talk about it and not be afraid to inform families hey, please don't -- I mean, I can just see my nephew -- I have two sisters, and if they're gone, my nephew is not going to -- could care less -- maybe they care....

[Laughter].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: They would put me in a nursing home and they would be happy to have my money instead of.....

So, it bothers me.

And a group of us friends, we're talking about making plans.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I can understand why that would make you nervous. It makes many people nervous to talk about the future.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I mean, I already have a living will, all of that stuff already, just in case.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Any other comments?  
Oh, yes, Beth?

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm sorry. Thank you. I see that we don't have any public comments today, so I really appreciate you hearing what I have to say this morning, but I think the point that June was trying to point out as well as the nursing homes and assisted living is that there's a group of people in our community and all over different communities who have the money to live independently who are not looking for assistance through the state or from the government for funding, necessarily, to live, but they need somebody to help move along the process for some of these buildings and construction companies that could possibly just get a home or an area or a community of people, you know, the Deaf community could live amongst each other to support one another, so they don't have to worry about, you know, the barriers of being alone or not having communication, if they need a friend or a neighbor.

So, the agency that June was working with, Cardinal Capital, has kind of just been procrastinating and putting off building in South Florida and many of the discussions I've also sat in with some of the meetings in June, they're not making South Florida a priority, and we can't believe they would be the only company that would be willing to undertake this project.

So I think we're coming to the Council to see if there's any resources to help move it along or other builders or other people who might be interested in this project who can help us accomplish this goal faster.

It's almost been, like, I think, what, ten years or something, June? I'm not positive. But it's been a while. Has it been ten years?

>> JUNE McMAHON: 2013.

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thirteen years, it's been 13 years already and we see buildings being put up left and right all over the place and for people to come and tell us well, maybe you should build by the airport because they're deaf and the noise won't bother them, I've heard those comments, that's ignorant, that won't do anything.

But those are the type of responses that we're getting from our community and yes, we do need help for low-income people but what about the people that aren't low income and they just want a good quality of life as they get older, they have the finances to live independently and just want to have an area or a building or a place that they can get services, maybe that a bus would be able to come to and go on an outing together where transportation is limited, because even here in South Florida, we have Palm Trans-Connection which is a wonderful resource for people to get around, however the Palm Trans drivers don't know how to communicate with the deaf either and it's a domino effect and where we're going or what we're trying to do, we have all of these barriers and we just want a good quality of life, as anybody does.

So I appreciate you hearing me with that.

And my comment really quickly about adult protective services is that I have a deaf woman that was taken into adult protective services and has low cognition and it's

unfortunate, she left an abusive situation in a home with her family who were not communicating with her, but then when she went into adult protective services, they don't have any idea what to do with the deaf -- this deaf individual. They don't know how to communicate, they don't understand why she's walking around with a scowl on her face because she's, you know, not communicating with anyone or she stays in a room and not socializing.

Nobody is using her language or willing to learn her language. She's being told she can't have WiFi in her room. Well, that's how she uses video phone.

I'm training and working here in South Florida, but it really needs to be a collaboration of people and, again, it goes back to holding accountable and expectation under the ADA. It's just.... it's just very frustrating!

Whenever I try to do some training, I use the hurricane and the tornado example, I grew up in Illinois where we had tornados and they're destructive and unpredictable and scary and now I move to South Florida and we have hurricanes which are also scary but they're a little more predictable, so we don't have such a nervous feeling and we go in and train people who have no experience with deaf or hard of hearing or deaf-blind and what we've been discussing the past two days, at least they'll have a little bit of an understanding when they're faced with a situation versus somebody walking in for the first time looking for services and they have no clue what to do.

I really encourage and challenge everybody to really study up on the ADA and understanding what our rights are and what the responsibilities are from the community to this community of people.

I appreciate your time this morning. Thank you!

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you, Beth. Very thoughtful comments. So much work to be done still. Chris?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: I want to say one last time that the hospital and nursing home situation is an upsetting and scary discussion for me personally.

And also it is a difficult situation for people that are deaf or hard of hearing in a healthcare setting, because in most cases, if it comes dependent upon their family members' ability to advocate for them.

And in most situations, their family members are hearing and they may not have the ability to advocate for communication needs for somebody that is deaf or hard of hearing.

So, there is a very, very strong need for patient advocates for people that are deaf or hard of hearing.

And one of the things that I would strongly suggest we do after this discussion as an action item is that we have a letter that goes out to the hospital associations and other places that states what our needs are for communication and the requirement under the law.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: So are you recommending that we send out a letter to every hospital, every doctor's office, every nursing facility?  
What are you requesting?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Well, that's impossible to do that. But the association for hospitals or something like that -- I don't remember the acronym for some of them, the regulations. You in the medical profession probably know some of them. But where we can count on the larger organizations hopefully to disseminate that information better than we can.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: So maybe inquiring about AHCA which is Medicaid and finding out, you know, what agencies. They have that are working with deaf, is that what you're asking? Or send out a letter to them outlining our concerns?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: Well, that's one of the acronyms. AHCA, we should be sending a letter to them and also we should be sending a letter to The Agency For People With Disabilities to make sure that cracks is included in what they're doing.

A lot of the times, APD distributes the funding for Medicaid and if that is the case, like I said, developmental disabilities does not include people that are deaf or hard of hearing.

So, we need to make sure that access for communication is included, even though they're not considered under the same category for developmental disabilities.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Although they may have -- there may be plenty who have co-morbidity, so you have -- morbidity so you have somebody who is DD or ID who is deaf. Where does that person fall? Where do they get the services they need? Darlene?

>> INTERPRETER: [Away from microphone and unable to clearly hear].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Darlene first.

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: This is Darlene. I want to say, I agree with what Chris said, but we also need to let those agencies that serve the deaf, the hard of hearing, and deaf-blind, to increase sensitivity training as to learning more about the deaf and the hard of hearing and the deaf-blind, to understand what their needs are.

Because even in vocation, you know, the Department of Vocation in the state of Florida, a lot of the counselors, the division of the Blind Services, Division of VR, they don't understand what the deaf and the hard of hearing and deaf-blind truly need.

I've actually had people tell me that one person told me that her VR person told her that they have deaf-blind individuals and they even go as far as to waking them up to go to work instead of letting the deaf-blind do what they need to do to be accountable. So there's a lot of misconceptions and misunderstandings of how they should be serving them.

It's education and awareness, it's definitely something that's very much needed, for

social workers, for VR counselors.

And, you know, I've actually used this as an example: When I go out into public with my guide dog and I go shopping, if a sales associate or anybody that is working in that retail is scared of my dog, then that manager of that retail outlet needs to seriously consider about who they hire, because that employee is serving the public.

Service animals are part of the public. So they need to be aware that if they have someone that is scared of an animal, they are not going to be the most appropriate candidate for the position.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you, Darlene.

The interpreter has requested to step out of role so she can comment and I'm going to permit that.

>> INTERPRETER: Thank you very much. This is Dale. Just in listening to the conversation, what I'm hearing are particularly a couple of different levels. One is acute care in the healthcare settings, hospitals, emergency services, those sorts of needs and issues, which are very different than certainly long-term care issues, group home settings, living situations, vocational services, work adjustment needs.

Sometimes unfortunately our systems are driven by different governmental forces, unfortunately, and it's going through that maze of not only government regulations and services and who really has oversight and responsibility, but also the professional associations and organizations.

And unfortunately they're not all the same, and that creates a lot of confusion.

And we end up splintering I think, our time sometimes and our energies because we're going in all of these different directions and thinking about how do we hit this big picture. And it's challenging right now.

But there are very unique discussions and distinct discussions and separate discussions and the differences between acute care and the healthcare settings, long-term care, comorbid conditions, not just people with intellectual disabilities but psychiatric disabilities and different state agencies here in Florida and in other states, than the IDD agencies and the deaf-blind agencies and you have a deaf person or hard of hearing person or the deaf-blind person that gets cause in this maze as advocates and service providers, it can be really challenging and sorting out the needs and where we need to go to and where do we need to focus our energies.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you for that comment. And I think it was very valuable to hear from you in this regard, and I agree completely.

We have much work to do in this state.

I'm sorry, I saw somebody else's hand up and I apologize.....

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: There was one other person that wanted to share. Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Yeah, I was going to say, if we send letters, maybe the Florida

Healthcare Administration in regards to nursing homes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you. I agree with you.  
Any other comments?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Is it possible we can invite them to come to our next meeting that would be our speaker?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Sure, we can certainly do that. I think that's very valuable.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Or one of our meetings, upcoming.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I was going to say, the next meeting you already have somebody in mind and I think you were only going to try to do one.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, on the commission and how they developed a commission in another state.

So, and actually this all could fall under that. My understanding is that in the other states, in this particular case it's Minnesota, they have, you know, a commission on Deaf Services and a number of different avenues, and including a director of deaf mental health services for the entire state of Minnesota and I think it's, you know, I'd love to hear how Minnesota or any other state has developed into having an actual commission.

And I know a lot of the questions that get raised at these meetings for the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing could be addressed by having a commission who oversees these type of things, rather than going to AHCA specifically or APD and having to go to all of these different agencies, we would have a Deaf Commission or a Deaf Services Commission in the state of Florida.  
Okay. Did somebody else tap me for a question?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Does LaShay want to add anything?

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I want to make sure I don't miss anyone who wants to add anything.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: June, any other thoughts?

>> JUNE McMAHON: No, I'm all finished. Thank you. Wait a minute, I agree with what you were just talking about, the Florida commission, we need that, you know, for the deaf. We really could use that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And the question is how do you make that happen.

>> JUNE McMAHON: And how to improve services, you know, you know, a commission in different areas, you know, that would include, you know, improving services and funding, you know.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I would love to see how we can make that happen. June, thank you very much.

[Applause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you, thank you.

>> JUNE McMAHON: Thank you. And thank you for inviting me.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. We have about five minutes before our next section. Do people want to take a brief bathroom break?

[Break].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It's 11:17, let's resume, please. Okay. We're going to resume to stay on schedule, people have plans and flights to get back to their home areas. If you've not signed all of your paperwork for Shayla, please make sure that you meet up with her and get whatever you need signed. And we send you the receipts electrically for the hotel, right?

>> SHAYLA KELLY: Yes, if you don't have one.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I sent her Cindy's because I received Mary's, I think there was reimbursement -- I sent you Cindy's that I got electrically, I haven't received everyone's on the Council yet.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So we have a staggering of some people from this head table, I'm not quite sure where they all went. They're right outside the door, someone said, if we can go.... if somebody can grab them, lasso them. I have 45 minutes, I can chat as much as I want.

[Pause].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Oh....

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. This is the time in the agenda that we do general council discussion, and we've already determined that part of that includes going around and hearing the agencies' updates and what's happening all around. Oh, Cindy's gone.



>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I think Glenna also had a couple of specific things, Council business, to discuss, so whenever she comes in.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Glenna? Glenna?

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Glenna?

[Laughter].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: She's in the ladies' room.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right. We are moving the meeting to the ladies' room so that she can share.

[Laughter].

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: Sorry, Chris, you have to stay outside.

[Laughter].

[Glenna Ashton enters the room].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Glenna?

Okay. Glenna, you had a couple of things that you wanted to address for general council business before we go on to agency updates? Megan said that.

>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: You e-mailed me about it last week, I think. There were a couple of things you wanted to discuss.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, we already did it. It was Facebook and -- we -- remember to vote August 28 for November, or whatever it is.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Thank you.

I always look forward to this part, hearing about what's happening in the council members' agencies that they represent.

So, I thought we could go around the room and hear a little bit. Darlene, do you want to start?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I basically just shared yesterday about what FDDBA is doing right now. Other than that, that's fine.

But I wanted to say something. You mentioned yesterday about the Governor's wife being hard of hearing. It would be very interesting to have her as a speaker, just to share her experience of being hard of hearing and being the Governor's wife and her passion about things that are hard of hearing and deaf, just to get an idea and get to know her a little bit.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That's a wonderful idea. I really want this not on the record.... when is the Governor's election? Is that November or is that.... November 7th? The second Tuesday in November, correct? That's when we're doing it?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, August 28 is the primary where you vote for the democratic person and the Republican person.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. I didn't know. I just know a lot of the medical stuff but not the others.....  
I was trying to think of the best time for her to come and speak, but I agree, I would love for her to come and speak.  
And I think we heard everything from Darlene yesterday about what they're working on in her agency.  
She seems a little busy now.  
We want to go around the room now and hear.

>> MARY HODGES: Yes, this is Mary. I want to ask Megan to update my information as a member.  
I have been preassigned at the Department of Elder Affairs, so I would just be the Department of Elder Affairs representative.  
My reassignment has to do with focus on evidence-based programs in working with the Department of Health and other entities in the community.  
We really are under a mandate to increase the implementation of those programs.  
So that is my focus.

And also on the Department's new information system, we've gotten some funding to create a new client information system.  
I'll still be representing the Department, but in a -- just in a Department capacity, rather than the bureau chief.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you very much for clarifying that, Mary.  
Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I am the president of the HLAA Gulf Coast. I am also the president of HLAA Tampa. We have not had any meetings during the summertime, but other than having a social movie get-together every month, it was so popular, that people asked us/me to continue that every month, so we will have a social movie gathering every month from now on, the second Saturday.  
Starting September, we'll have our meetings start up again. And then -- so there's that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you, Debbe.  
I also represent HLAA. I'm on the Florida State Board, I have quite a bit to report.  
There's been some changes.  
In -- gosh, I don't know when the elections were that Linda was elected.... when did that happen?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: February -- November last year.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. November of last year, we had a change in leadership. The president at that time, Cynthia Moynahan, her term was ending and she was also planning a move out of state. And elections were held and she -- and Linda Tossoonian was elected president at that time and -- and they had some other leadership changes.

There was no vice president that ran, nobody ran for vice president, and I volunteered to, if they wanted me, I could be the interim vice president. We were planning an extravaganza for the state of Florida, I thought that Linda would need some assistance. Everybody embraced that idea and, in fact, I was voted in in April of this year as the vice president.

And soon after that, Linda resigned and I became the president.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It caught me off guard a little bit, because I think I might have been the newest member of HLAA at that moment [laughs].

So, to be the president of the State Board was a bit -- or the State Association, excuse me, was a bit overwhelming.

And then it turned out there was some other internal issues and Cynthia resigned as advisory council member. There were some other changes that happened.

So, at this point I am the president of HLAA State Board. We'll probably hold elections again, I think there may be some other people who have more experience with HLAA who may be better candidates down the road, but at this time I'm the interim president until we decide otherwise.

So a lot of changes have been happening.

And the group is now small, the Florida State Board is small. The Executive Committee, so to speak.

And I also wanted to be clear in reviewing the bylaws, is that every member of HLAA in Florida is, in fact, a member of the HLAA Florida State Board Association.

Am I saying that correctly?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, that's correct.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: [Chuckles]. Okay. So it's actually a very small -- you know, we have quarterly meetings also and it tends to be very small, but if everyone realized they were actually a member, it would be very, very large [chuckles], and if they decided they wanted to come to the meetings. The meetings are held quarterly in Lakeland. The extravaganza that was being planned is now on hold, with all the changes that are happening.

The other exciting thing is that I attended my very first HLAA National convention in Minneapolis. Wow! That was amazing. The speakers, just the sheer numbers of people who were there, including our wonderful CART Provider was there. This lady really gets around.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That doesn't sound right, but it actually was a very positive statement.

And it just was an overwhelming and powerful experience. I felt very connected.

I think a lot of us who have moderate, mild/moderate to even on the severe side of hearing loss, but who manage in their lives with it don't realize what we have been -- how hard we've been working.

I mean, I always minimized it and I shared that quite a bit at this conference that I didn't share with a lot of people about my hearing loss until I was in medical school and realized I had to get a hearing aid and I had, you know, a lot of anxiety about whether or not I'd be able to hear through the -- I'm sorry, not a hearing aid, a stethoscope, I had a lot of anxiety as to whether I could hear through the stethoscope, and what would I do and, you know, yeah, I had a lot of fear if people found out I was hard of hearing, they would ask me to leave medical school.

That was kind of my own internal neurotic stuff. But I am not alone in that. People do hide their hearing loss.

And I met many new friends there, I met many new friends but I met a new friend who is an internal medical doctor and has hearing loss and has progressed over the years, she's the same age as I am, and she shared the exact same thing. She had no idea about resource, this was her first convention too, we were newbies, and we're going to build a group that meets at the National Convention of medical professionals, as kind of a support group.

And there is one nationally, it's called the American -- AMPHL, the American Medical Professionals with Hearing Loss Association, of which I am a member of as well.

And this other physician had no idea that group even existed, so I was able to kind of pay it forward and give her some information.  
And there's just, wow, what a powerful connection.

We also saw Mandy Harvey, who was the young woman who was on "America's Got Talent" who was deaf, she's a singer. She did a concert. It was fantastic! It was amazing! I thought I would stay for the one song that she did on "America's Got Talent" and breeze out and go to bed, but I could not leave, wow, it was beautiful.

And the next night, we call went to see "West Side Story" and it was beautiful! They had interpreters, they had captioning, they had assistive listening devices, they had everything. I think the entire audience was from the convention.  
Lisa, did you go to that?

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): [Shakes head].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, wow, that was amazing, "West Side Story."  
Just the connections and the networking, all of it was just wonderful.

So people with hearing loss that you know in your community guide them to HLAA or FAD and connect them even higher to national levels.  
That's it.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Tell them about where next year's convention is.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, thank you, next year's convention for HLAA is in Rochester, New York. Why am I excited about that? Because I love the cold.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It's in June anyway.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I go because RIT and NTID is there.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: You tell them about RIT and NTID.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Oh, NTID and RIT just recently celebrated their 50th reunion and they had well over 3,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing people there, and it was wonderful to reconnect with some of the people and -- it was wonderful, it was super.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And that's the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and lots of exciting things. Think about that for next year. I've chatted long enough. It's now time for a FAD update.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: FAD had their conference last May in St. Augustine and we celebrated 100 years, and it was not a record conference, it was more of a -- we had a banquet and we had awards and we visited FSB, the museum was included in the FAD history thing they had set up there, and of course when it was founded in 1917, it was teachers from the School for the Deaf that set up that organization and most of the early officers were from teachers from the school for the deaf and that was a long connection between FAD and FSDB and that was fun and there was a good turnout for that. So that was there.

Next year, FAD conference will be here in Palm Beach County and, of course, I'm already on the committee for that.

June, who recently spoke, she's Chair for that, the conference Chair for that.

The new FAD Board that was elected is a younger group -- yay! -- and they are really active, they have a very active Facebook page and they put up a video, vlogs quite often called Kitchen Talk and they encourage people to follow along, everything they're doing.

And sometimes they -- sometimes it's captioned for the signing impaired....

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And one of the things they're trying to do is town hall meetings where they travel around the state and they have their board meetings, plus in the morning, plus they have the town hall meetings in the afternoon and they hold it at a restaurant or a bar to encourage more people to show up there, so I'm very happy to see that it's really progressing a lot with the new blood, really, and it's making a difference.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Wonderful. Chris, how's ALDA?

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: That's awesome, Glenna, and I wanted to show that getting those vlogs captioned will make sure that people that are late-deafened and learning sign language watch them, because the interpreting and the captions together are very important and will be more involved with FAD when that happens, I know that. For ALDA and Suncoast, things are kind of quieter in the summer.

What I will say is we are gearing up and getting information together for the national conference as much as we can to support them.

It's on the other coast this time. We were just here in Orlando last year, so we're in Portland, Oregon this year. So, it doesn't affect Florida as much other than the fact that I hope people that live in Florida can go out to the national conference and I will certainly be bringing back information.

Also, the southeastern regional director for ALDA National, I will certainly be in attendance and bringing information back as well.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Portland, Oregon happens to be a fun town to visit, too.

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: It's my understanding that they have the most microbreweries in the entire country.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Isn't that the claim of every --

>> CHRIS LITTLEWOOD: That should make it very interesting.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Isn't that the claim for a lot of towns, isn't it? That's wonderful.

So Cindy has already left, so we don't get an update from that but she's shared quite a bit and we get a sense of what's going on.

And the other members are not here and we look forward to hearing their updates in November.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: HLAA is having their Sarasota is having their expo --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: When is that?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: October 28th, I will send Megan the information.

We're also going to have a first time, going to have something similar for support for families of the deaf and hard of hearing for HLAA.

We're also going to try having a social at night to give the opportunity for people to mingle with other people that are deaf or hard of hearing.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Wow. Sounds like that's going to be a good time.

Okay. Okay. So, we've heard all of the updates. Glenna has another?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I have a question, for October 6th, for It's A Deaf Thing, what do we do about the hotel? Oh, you live there. Do I get the hotel myself? Do you get it for us? Are you getting the hotel or what?

Because that deaf thing is not connected with the hotel. So there's no official hotel for that. As far as I know.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: Then you all can find a hotel that you like, as long as it's under \$150 a night.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Now, I live in Brandon, Florida. What's the --

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: I don't know how far of a drive --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I don't think it's quite 50 miles.

>> SHAYLA KELLY: 50 miles is the cutoff.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: If you're under 50 miles driving there --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, I don't think Lakeland is 50 miles from Tampa -- I mean Brandon.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Now, from what I understand, it's 50 miles one way or round trip?

>> SHAYLA KELLY: If it's more than 50 miles one day, you would be able to stay overnight and the state could stay. Glenna, you should have been able to stay there but I didn't know you were driving back and forth.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I didn't know, I thought it was local, but okay.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. I'm just trying to see if....

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: So, yeah, you would get your own hotel room if you were eligible to spend the night and just under \$150.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, it's 28 miles from my house.

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: So you would have to drive.

>> SHAYLA KELLY: You would have to drive.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, no problem.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Any other Council business that we wanted to address?

It sounds like we have quite an action plan, lots of great information that we've received through our speakers, as well as from members of the public. And very grateful for that.

I'll open it up and see if any member of the public wants to share anything else, since we have a few minutes before we adjourn?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: A lot of pressure on Beth....

[Laughter].

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a whole hour and I could go on and on. I'm good, thank you.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We want to thank the members of the public for attending. I'm going to check and see if there's anybody on the telephone or online?

[No response].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Darlene?

>> DARLENE LAIBL-CROWE: I want to say -- remind you, don't forget to vote.

I actually work with my supervisor of elections to use the voting machine for the first time as a person who is blind, because I've been doing absentee ballots for years and that was an experience, and that machine is very, very simple to use. So, you have no excuse. Go vote!

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you, Darlene. I'd like to thank everyone on the Council for helping me with my very first time being Chair and guiding me through it. And thanks to Glenna and to Debbe for their excellent leadership in the past year. Well, actually past years.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I want to say that Karen has done a great job for the first time chairing. A fabulous job.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you very much. Yes, Shay?

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: I was just saying you did a great job.

[Applause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Thank you. We have about 20 minutes, does anybody want to tell jokes or tell stories or would you like to adjourn early? Boy, she's jumping up on that one!



>> MEGAN CALLAHAN: I was going to say -- [laughs].  
You can adjourn early if you want, because, you know, today isn't part of public comment. That's up to you, I'm just reminding you.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thank you for the reminder. All in favor of adjoining early at this time, a show of hands, please.

[Hands raised].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And nobody can use double hands! Put down one of those hands!

[Laughter].

>> SHAY CHAPMAN: We have to drive six hours.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We are officially adjourned. Thank you all for attending.

[Concludes at 11:41 a.m.]

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