

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL  
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
Quarterly Meeting  
Fort Myers, Florida**

Thursday, May 12, 2022  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes? Okay. It's 9:07. We will start the meeting.

Good morning, everybody. My name is Glenna Ashton and I am the Chair for the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

I'm calling the meeting to order now at 9:07.

Welcome, everyone that's here in person and on the phone and on Zoom. So it will be interesting to see how it works out today with all the technology going on in three different ways of being present!

We'll start with the introductions. I already introduced myself. Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I'm Gina Halliburton, representing FRID from Jacksonville, Florida.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Good morning, this is Karen Goldberg, I am representing HLA Florida and I'm from Tampa or Brandon or wherever [chuckles].

>> CORY PARKER: Good morning, good morning, my name is Cory Parker, I represent the Department of Education/Florida Division of Vocational Rehab.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Good morning, my name is Sean Isaac, I represent the Florida Department Health and the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

>> SHANNON HARP: Good morning, I'm Shannon Harp and I represent the Florida Department of Health.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe who represents HLA. I live in Port Richey, Florida.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Good morning, this is Mary Hodges, I'm with the Florida

Department of Elder Affairs.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Is there anyone else on the phone or in chat?

[Music playing in room]

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Cindy is --

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I asked Cindy to introduce herself; she hasn't answered yet.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hopefully Cindy will introduce herself.

So here are four ways we are being connected: In person, phone, Zoom, and chat!  
Woo!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I want to recognize the services we have today.

>> CINDY SIMON: Cindy has joined the conference.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Lisa Johnston on CART.  
Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: I'm here!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Introduce yourself.

>> CINDY SIMON: What? I'm sorry. It's really hard to hear. I'm having a real hard time here getting anything to stay up; it keeps disappearing. But I'm here.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Can you introduce yourself?

>> CINDY SIMON: I'm trying to get back to CART right now, because it was up and it disappeared.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. That was Cindy Simon who represents audiologists. Mary, she was here, on before, and I don't know where she is.  
Okay. So we have Lisa Johnston --

>> CINDY SIMON: Sorry I'm not there. Um... the problem is my daughter just got COVID... [Sighs]... and I wasn't comfortable exposing anybody to me until I can see if I'm negative or not.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, sorry to hear about that.

So, Lisa Johnston on CART. Lashay Lewis on AV with all the wires. The four interpreters: Carrie Moore, Donna Flanders, Jody Belcher, and Chris Costa. Thank you for your services!

Remember that you must be recognized by the Chair or by Gina for today, because Debbe's on Zoom. And we'll try to keep it more organized of being recognized from four different ways.

So, if you're out of order, we will hold you until you are recognized properly.

Remember to say your name first before you speak.

And I want to welcome Cory Parker as a new member of the Council representing Voc Rehab, so welcome!

>> CORY PARKER: Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Next we have the approval of the minutes from February 3rd. And it's in your packet, so if you want to take a moment to read through it quickly, to see if there's any modifications or corrections or anything. And then when you're finished, I will entertain a motion on the minutes.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The minutes are in your folder under the first red tab on the upper side.

[Pause].

>> [On Telephone]: [Papers rustling].

[Pause].

[Ping sound].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay? Sean, thank you for doing the minutes. And I see that you did a very long, detailed point on the Sunshine Law, almost like a reminder to us each time to keep that connection handy.

Do I have a motion on accepting the minutes? Karen makes a motion to accept the minutes. Do I have a second

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Second.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina seconds the motion. So all in favor, aye.

[Ayes].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Pass.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Cindy says aye.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Next is the agenda for today's meeting. Again, we did get that in the mail -- e-mail.

Are there any modifications or questions on the agenda for today and tomorrow?

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Do I have a motion to accept the agenda for this meeting?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: [Raises hand].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I second the motion.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina makes the motion. Do I have a second?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Second.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe seconds. Okay. Thank you.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right next will be the Department updates with Sean Isaac. You have to -- Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you. Good morning, everyone. Plenty of updates to go through today so we'll get right to it.

First off, we have an update on the position for the liaison between the Department of Health and the Council.

Last time we spoke about this I believe was in February. And I told you we would be entering -- interviewing soon. And we completed those interviews and we have a candidate that is routing for approval to be hired.

I am expecting that candidate to be hired within the next two to three weeks.

I can't give you the person's name at this point, but I'm very excited about the candidate and she's very excited about the position.

Once the position has been filled, I will be sending that e-mail to all the council members and you will all know her name and will be introduced to her and we will be able to complete that process.

Just a heads up, the HR process --

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Excuse me. Cindy says she can't hear, she says the audio is very poor.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Hmm...

>> LASHAY LEWIS: On the phone or Zoom?

>> SEAN ISAAC: She's calling in, I think. I think she's calling in. Did she check? She said --

Cindy, can you hear me now?

>> CINDY SIMON: A little bit better.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: She says she's on her phone.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Understood. I'll try to speak up. Thank you.  
So, long story short, we have a candidate. Is there a question about that?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes. The last time I helped with interviewing, but this time, apparently not?

>> SEAN ISAAC: The Department had to move quickly, per the nature of the end of the fiscal year, and therefore, we had to change our procedure. Okay?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, thank you.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. Next up are appointments. So, we have an update on appointments as well.

Everyone that's sitting on the Council is still appointed officially.

I asked that question to the Department of Health Appointments. We also got the update from Linda McMullen at our last council meeting, per the statute, that states that once you're on the Council, you're always on the Council, unless you resign or are officially removed.

Therefore, for everybody that had a question and they're currently on the Council, please note that you are still on the Council officially, okay? No question about that.

There is a question about the process of how to become an official member of the Council. And Cory and I tried to tackle that in a conversation between the last meeting and this meeting.

It turns out the Department of Health does not have an official process to do that. Evidently the Council has not had an official process to do that in the past, other than the application, and submission of the résumé.

There's not one written. There may have been a procedure followed, but there's not one written. So what the Department decided to do was to develop those procedures and then work through that along with the Council.

And then Cory and I will have something to present to the Council after that, okay.

Currently, the only process is the submission of the application to the Department and the résumé along with that.

Questions?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy has a question. Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: I do have a question. So, typically if you were on the Council, you continued on the Council until they appointed someone else to that position or reappointed you.

Is that changed now and you don't have to submit for reappointment? Or are you saying that we're just on there until they appoint someone else?

>> SEAN ISAAC: It's my understanding you are on the Council until you are removed or until you resign. So I'm not familiar with any reappointment process.

Cindy, do you recall that happening every year or how often did that reappointment process happen?

>> CINDY SIMON: So, typically when your term is up, you continue on until either, A, you submitted an application and you're reappointed; or until someone else is appointed.

So the continuance is just until the position is officially filled. That's after the end of your three-year term limit.

So, that's my understanding.

So, I'm not sure that you can sit there and assume, yes, you're on there, as long as no one has been appointed to that position.

Otherwise, you have to be officially reappointed after submitting your application or someone else is appointed.

So, it's... it was more of an interim thing until it was official.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Agreed. Thank you for that, Cindy, and thanks for the clarification. You will have to be reappointed for your term. I guess --

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: -- I should clarify that. Because we were in this dilemma with the pandemic affecting everything and that there was a delay in new appointments, there was a question about how current appointments would be dealt with.

We currently have an answer to that particular question. When it comes to reappointments, that's still being handled by the Office of the Governor and the Department of Health Office of Appointments. Question?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Question.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Everybody here is appointed are they going to notify us about the requirements for financial disclosure? When is that due? Because I don't want the same mess that we had last year with some people.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. As far as the notification of reappointments, I will send out an e-mail letting all of the current appointees know that they have been officially reappointed.

I will ask the Office of Appointments will they send something else out officially so that you all can have some terms along with your appointments.

When it comes to the Commission on Ethics and their requirement for financial disclosure, I would like to know if you all have received anything from that Commission. Because some members have received a notice and some have not.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I have not.

>> SEAN ISAAC: If you could please send me an e-mail and let me know.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I went through the process of all of the members, or who are were members as of December 2021 and they were notified that you all were current members, with the exception of Cory.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Cindy says she had not received anything either.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Like I said, please send me an e-mail so I can have that in my e-mail box and I will act on that when I get back to the office, okay?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Good morning.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Good morning.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It just doesn't sound we loud, but that could be me. Okay. A couple things. Cindy addressed the question I had about the reappointments. So I don't have that question anymore.

I did want to bring up an issue about the Commission On Ethics.

You can go to the Commission on Ethics website and download the form.

I think they start to give you the notice... um... gosh, I can't remember when they start to give you the notice, but I would say that you fill it out as soon as possible.

And I've had quite a bit of discussion with Miss Holmes at the Commission of Ethics over the past year and a half and, regardless, if you have been reappointed or not, if you sit on the Council, you are responsible for filling out this financial disclosure.

This is a requirement for all of us. So because I had a difficult experience I think for the 2019, going into the pandemic, that they did not get my form -- even though I filled it out, but let's not go there! [Laughs] -- they didn't get it, I've already filed mine [chuckles] because it is -- it's \$25 a day if they don't have it passed the grace period that they give you until September, so I think it's due in July and they give you a grace period until September.

And if you don't pay by that -- or file by that date, it's \$25 a day up to a maximum of 1500.

It's serious business.

They have a whole commission and council to decide if they will waive that if you have a good enough reason or partially waive it.

But it's a serious requirement.

So, I think I sent you, Sean, a bunch of information about filing. And I had hoped that we were going to be able to arrange to have a representative from the Commission on Ethics here to discuss it, but I don't see it on the agenda.

So, I think it's really important to hop on that.

And I'm happy to share mine and where I found it and how to do it today so everyone will have it done and smiling

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: The sunshine and Sunshine Law will shine on you.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you for that --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We have Cory and then Debbie and then Cindy. Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. So I've got a new-person question. In the

beginning, Sean was talking about the two of us working on some kind of guidelines so that we have something tangible to offer new people coming into the Council. Or reappointing to the Council.

So, when it comes to honoring the Sunshine Law, do we have those particular terms and permission from the Council to develop something tangible? Or -- do you understand the question?

I'm saying that I don't want to be in violation of the Sunshine Laws when Sean and I meet, you know, two times a month to discuss this and that.

Do we have any leadership on that?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Yes, thank you for the question, Cory. Actually, in your minutes for the last meeting, that was a question that Linda McMullen, the attorney for the Department of Health, addressed.

You all can contact staff, meaning me, at any time. There's no issue with you contacting me to discuss any matter at all.

You can also contact each other, as long as you don't talk about any business that may come before the Council.

So, if you have a question about something, please reach out to me, no problem at all.

And if we're talking about the matters before the Council, there's no problem with that as well.

I did want to address that we are going through the process of approaching and welcoming new members with some type of handbook. And quite honestly, that is actually part of my updates this morning. And you all would have input on this, because we started a handbook for new members.

So the topic of requirements for new members, what to expect, the website, the services that the Council provides, as well as the Department. It's going to be in there. And you all are going to have access to it and what else needs to be in there.

I do want to add one more thing --

>> CORY PARKER: Oh, could I add something?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Let me add one more thing. I did take the information that Karen provided. I did go to the Commission on Ethics, their website, and I believe I shared that information with the entire Council via e-mail.

There's a whole question and answer section on the Commission's website regarding financial disclosure.

I put the contact information for the Commission on there. And I can re-send that information out to everyone to make sure we're all smiling in the Sunshine, okay?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you, Sean.

So that means Cory and any other council member can give you feedback on information to include for new members and you would be responsible for typing it up and that's how it would be done, correct?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. That's correct.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Thank you. Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Hi, this is Debbe. One of the things that it would be nice to have a -- some kind of a letter saying that we are officially appointed for whatever we represent, some kind of a letter... um... that way we know our term is up when. Is it another two more years or three years or what.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you, Debbe, for that comment. That can be done.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy? Cindy? Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: Oh, no, I was just responding to Cory's comment before that something was sent out that I have never received.

For some reason, it seems like I'm missing a lot of e-mails from here. Like, I never received Sean's e-mail with the agenda and all the, um, connection numbers until this morning when I told him I didn't receive anything, how do I get in?

And I did check spam

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> CINDY SIMON: Because I found seven e-mails from Sean in spam, but nothing with this. So I have no clue what's going on.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you. The agenda was sent out, because that actually has to be completed before the notice of the meeting.

There were some updates for the agenda. And my apologize, I did not add the passcode, it seems, to the agenda, so the passcode was just sent this morning. But I re-sent the agenda and the meeting packet to everybody this morning.

But the actual agenda was sent out at least a week ago, at least, so we can talk about that, Cindy, if there's a question with you receiving -- with you not receiving e-mails

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, I did not receive it. You know I respond to you right away.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yeah, no worries.  
Any other questions so far?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. You may want to check your spam mail to see if it's there. Or junk mail.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: Debbe, that's what I did, I did check my spam this morning and that's how I knew I didn't have it anywhere and let Sean know.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I will try to keep that in mind and somehow let members know when an e-mail has been sent so that you know.

But it's kind of tough when we send out a lot of e-mails. So when it comes to the agenda and the meeting packet, maybe I'll try to text some of you all; maybe that might help.

I have a couple more comments. But were there other questions regarding this area?

[No response].

>> SEAN ISAAC: No?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So, with the COE, I strongly encourage everybody to try to complete it before July, the form one. As far as I know, two people have done it, maybe three people. So please do it, regardless whether you think you're on the Council or not on the Council or whatever your status is. Just go ahead and do it to be safe.

Second, maybe Sean, maybe you can double-check which e-mails you use for this Council, to make sure you have the one they prefer to be used for the Council.

And maybe have a backup, either text or phone to check if they got the e-mail.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I will do that.

I do have a couple of e-mails for a few members, so I will go back through those lists and double-check them to make sure that they're up-to-date.

And second, I wanted to say that I believe Karen is right, that June 30th is the deadline for those. So please submit those on time.

And... I think that's all I have for that particular topic.

I will say we did invite the Office -- or the Commission on Ethics to this meeting and I have not heard back from them yet, okay.

The same with the Department of Health and the Governor's Offices for Appointments, have not heard back from them yet. So I will continue to reach out and maybe we'll have better luck in August.

Okay. All right. Travel procedures. We learned a lot last quarter and we're hoping that we can benefit from that during this process.

All members should have received an e-mail from me asking them to submit an authorization form. I believe I received forms from most everybody.

Those forms do have to be signed and dated. And if you have questions about those forms, please reach out to me.

I am updating that process as well to make those forms a little bit easier to understand, with some helpful hints.

And then I believe I sent out an e-mail including due dates for that process and you will know ahead of time what to expect.

And then I also have a colleague with me who's going to help facilitate that process when we get back to the office, so that it goes a little bit quicker, as far as what we can control.

We will still need you all's partnership in submitting information once you return home.

And if you have any questions about that, please let me know.

>> CINDY SIMON: I actually have a question. I found that form to be kind of daunting, that car form.

In the past, we've had someone who came in with the forms pre-filled out for us, except

for the last things we needed to fill in.

And then we just handed the form in, signed, with our receipts.

Do you think we can do something like that?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I try to fill it out with some information that you would not have to add. We can go to that type of process.

The only problem is we have to get the travel pre-approved before you actually arrive to the meeting.

So, I will try to pre-fill out the form for you and make it simpler so you only have to indicate your departure date, arrival date, and times, and I guess how many miles you're going to be traveling. And then if you're going to rent a car.

I try to keep it as simple as possible, so those forms can be -- they can be daunting, even to those of us who have done it for years. So you're not alone.

But I will try my best to simplify it. So thank you for that.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay. Thank you.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Mmm-hmm.

>> CINDY SIMON: You were really, really helpful when I was doing it and I really appreciate all that you do, how fast you stepped up, and I want to thank you.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Well, thank you! I appreciate that!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you. Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory speaking. I would like to repeat Cindy's comments. Working with Sean, with your help, the complexities of the travel forms, now, of course that form itself is familiar to State employees in general. We, you know, in VR had the same form, I believe they call it the C7376C form, back in the day.

So we know the form!

But, again, with the blank stare until you understand all of the complexities of filling out that form, I understand!

And Sean is fantastic at being a help to us!

And so I want to reiterate that and at this moment tell you that I thank you as well.

>> SEAN ISAAC: You are quite welcome. Thank you.  
Other questions?

[No response].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. Future meetings. So, one of the comments we've had is we want to do a little bit better job of planning so that we can get -- have better attendance at these meetings.

And one of the things I took up was to set some sites and dates out there.

Did I put those in the agenda? I don't think I did.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Give me one second.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Hollywood would be the next one in August. And this is because I did a count of the past meetings that I have been to since 2013 and we had a lot in north, a lot in central, and not as much in the south. So it was time to come back south, to Hollywood, Florida, meaning I hope you can get the Hard Rock Hotel maybe?

[Laughter].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. So thank you for that comment. I did take that into consideration.

[Laughter].

>> SEAN ISAAC: The meeting habits geographically of the Council in the past several years.

You're correct, Kissimmee -- I'm sorry, Hollywood is scheduled for August 4-5, 2022. And we will see what we can do regarding the hotel choice.

And then the next meeting will be November 3-4 in Kissimmee, Florida.

As a reminder, February 3-4 is a meeting that we always have in Tallahassee, from my understanding. So keep that in mind.

And then we're working on next year, as far as May and the rest of the meetings. Questions on that?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Cindy.

>> CINDY SIMON: So, Sean, again, when you're looking at hotels, if we can't do the Hard Rock -- and honestly, I agree with Glenna! I think it would be great to have it at the Hard Rock! -- then you may want to look, there is a lot of hotels in an area called Dania Pointe and it's on a main street, right off the highway, and it's a lovely center with lots and lots of restaurants that everyone can walk to.

So, you may want to look in that place.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. Thank you, Cindy; this is Sean. Thank you for that; will do.

Okay. Next on my list was the actual handbook. And if you'll look in your packets toward the end, there is a copy of a form called... let me... Florida Department of Health and Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Handbook and there are some categories and topics there that you can look over.

This is a draft. It's also a living document. And this is, by all means, not something that has been approved or finalized. So please take a minute to look through it.

And I will entertain any additional categories that we need to discuss or topic areas.

But understand, this is after a brief conversation with Cory, as well as a conversation with other colleagues in my office who also coordinate councils.

So, the continuation of that conversation will happen throughout the next year probably, at least.

We wanted to get something in writing so that you all can see that and also get you thinking what's helpful for you as members and as new members.

So, any --

>> CINDY SIMON: Comments, Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yes.

>> CINDY SIMON: I'm looking at the meeting section in there.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Uh-huh?

>> CINDY SIMON: And you may want to put down how many, because we do have it, I think, in the bylaws, let them know how many meetings they are expecting --

>> VOICE: The interpreter has left the conference.

>> CINDY SIMON: -- that we have a year, whether in person or remotely.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you, Cindy.

>> CINDY SIMON: Because if you don't, it's grounds for dismissal from the Council. I think it's only happened once, that I know of.

So, I think it should be very clear to them what their expectations are.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you for that; will do.  
Any other comments on this topic?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. There's a lot of information in there. And I would suggest that maybe tonight, you kind of take your time to read through it, think of other ideas and other feedback and get back to Sean tomorrow.

Because it's a lot to go through.

And -- that was my blank comment.

Now, talk about dismissal, I would be careful with that, because we don't want to lose the few members that we have on the Council!

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you for that comment.

I know it's 9:48, 9:49, so I'll be brief with the other things on my list here.

Um... the request for assistance, I think what I'm going to do is create that list of questions that the Council has received and the Department has received regarding the Deaf and hard of hearing and submit that to you all tomorrow so that you can see those topic areas.

We've done a pretty good job in responding to them. Sometimes a bit delayed, but for the most part, we have responded to every single question.

There are a couple that we would like for the Council to provide some additional input on that are a little bit more complicated, involving services for those that have medical conditions.

But if we could, I would like to delay that until tomorrow.

The only other thing I wanted to mention, and I think it's on the agenda, is that we have to do some work on the biennial report for 2023. And so I look forward to us having that discussion.

Any questions for me?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I don't have anything, I don't have the binders. Normally in the past, those who are not showing up, it would be FedExed to us that are not

at the meeting so we have something.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you for that, Debbe.

The binder is really the meeting packet that I sent this morning.

We will make sure to include that and send that out sooner next time.

We will look at our budget when it comes to sending out FedEx, because as I mentioned to the folks in the room, things are getting pricier and pricier, and gas goes straight on most budgets.

But I will make sure to send that out sooner, okay.

Thank you for that.

Any other questions?

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, yes.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yes?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. What about the report on phone calls, e-mails, or website contact about -- from the Florida citizens about help? Do we have statistics on that?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Right, I was going to address that tomorrow, if that's okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay, fine.

The next part is the organizations' updates. So we have each organizations or agency to report whatever has happened since the last meeting.

I will hold mine to last, because I have a story... hmm...

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Question. This is Sean. Sorry to input. I would like to let us know the next meeting that your organization is going to have so we can have that in the record as well, if you know it.

And if you don't know it, can you, I guess next meeting, be prepared to share that so the rest of the Council knows and the public does as well.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. This is Glenna. Which kind of meeting? The board meeting or general meeting or conferences?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I was just thinking the next general meeting. We usually announce the conferences as well, so I think that's also a good idea.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Thank you. Gina, we'll start with you.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. This is Gina. For the EMOT and Cindy, you're

online I think as well, and if I miss anything --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No, we're talking about organizations.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Oh, I'm sorry! I thought you were asking about EMOT!  
Excuse me!

There is nothing new that I have to announce today. We are still reorganizing. So there's nothing new that I have today.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Hi, this is Karen Goldberg representing HLAA. I'm going to defer to Debbe about the next meeting. But we do have the HLAA National conference is going to be held in Tampa this year, I think it's June 24-25 weekend.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe, do you want to follow-up?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, this is Debbe. It's the 23-25 [clearing throat].

We will have the Walk4Hearing on a Saturday. We also have baseball game, where you can come and join us for baseball. Some of the money -- the tickets you buy for the baseball will go towards HLAA and HLAA Florida State.

So, please come and join us for the Walk4Hearing.

And if you'd like, you can join us under -- or set up a team.

We also have several teams that you can join and just donate to any of them or become a walker.

So come and join us to be a walker as well.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe, is this all happening in Tampa?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes, yes.

I will be receiving an award, so that should be exciting too.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: [Applause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yeah, this is Sean. I have a question. That information is on Facebook, right?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes, I will make sure it's on Facebook again.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Great. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Can I ask Karen and Debbe, you're both going to the conference?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: [Nods head].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: [Nods head].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean has been in the process of getting us a booth. Would you both be available to man the booth? Take turns with the hours?  
Karen?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I think Debbe may be... um... I don't know how available Debbe will be. Just because she's the president of HLA Florida.

And, um... I mean, I think we can man it some of the time [laughs].

It might be tough. I mean, I can't do it the entire time because I have some volunteer responsibilities too.

So if we can figure out. Debbe, maybe you can address what the hours of the booths are?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: We will have a list of volunteers and what the jobs will be. We have 15 people who signed up as volunteers. That will be -- we'll meet on May 15. So we are looking for more volunteers.

But I don't know until May 15. So you can check back with me on May 15 what the schedule is and what the breakout for each of the volunteers, or what we need volunteers for.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. But I'm asking specifically about our FCCDHH booth. We really can't have just any volunteers, because they wouldn't know about FCCDHH information to share. And it has to be a board member. It would be two of you.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. I think Debbe was talking about the volunteers for the HLA conference. So there's a whole team of people who are volunteering for that. And she's saying that she'll have that schedule set up, I think then so I'll know what my schedule is.

Um... I may have some limitations on that Saturday morning, because I see patients that day, in the morning.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, can I -- this is Glenna -- can I request that Karen be listed as a volunteer for our extra booth?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm cool with that.

>> VOICE: Mary Hodges has left the meeting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hopefully it will work out. Okay.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Question.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I have a question for Debbe and then Mary also responded for hers on chat.

Debbe, for those of us who don't use Facebook, how would you support the Walk4Hearing? You said you could sponsor a person that is going and walking. How would a person do that if they don't use Facebook?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: You could look under HLA Florida or you can look under my Facebook page and it's already there.

I just sent you the link for the Walk4Hearing in the CART, I'll put it in the chat box in Zoom.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. I see it in the chat for Walk4Hearing. Thank you.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: And Glenna, we have Mary and Cindy on chat.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I appreciate that. We're going to have face painting and all kinds of different activities. There will be a place, a spot, for you to have your hearing screening, so that will be helpful. We're going to be talking about over-the-counter hearing aids, we're going to be talking about lots of different things.

I will be one of the speakers there as well. Um... so, I know that HLAA Florida will have their own booth there at the exhibit.

The exhibits are free. You do need to show proof of vaccination. That's required.

So if you're planning to go for that, please submit your vaccination proof.

I don't know about the outside Walk4Hearing, if that's -- if you still have to show proof, I don't know about that part.

There's already been a few protests about that, but I'm not going there, so...

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. This is Gina. Cindy in the chat said let her know if you need her to help and hopefully she will not have COVID.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary? Did Mary have a comment?

[No response].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Mary's in the chat. She said DOEA is celebrating its 30-year anniversary. To check out the link, and she put the link in the chat. I'm stepping away from the meeting until 11:00 because she has another meeting at 11:00, so she is going to have that information.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: Hi. Hello, my name is Cory and I just wanted to add briefly that I will also be attending HLAA conference this year and I am truly looking forward to my first time going to that HLAA conference.

So, this is my first time to make comments. What would you like for me to include in my report, Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. VR, what's happening with VR related to Deaf and hard-of-hearing programs and services, any changes, improvements, issues that would be of interest to the Council?

>> CORY PARKER: Well, next month will be one year for me to be on the new job! I have learned so much in this year about our operations, what it is that we do on a daily basis, how we consult with the field as a unit, particularly the unit that I manage for Deaf and hard of hearing and deaf-blind program services within VR.

VR is considered -- we are considered a consultant unit. And what that means is SME, subject-matter expert, we are subject-matter experts, SMEs, on anything related with hearing loss that has to do with VR clients.

We are always learning areas of the state and the unique needs that exist in the state as far as communication.

We are learning more and more about people who are requiring trilingual interpreting skills, and we are certainly on the search for those interpreters.

Unlike other states, Florida has... uh... particular consultant services -- other states do have particular consultant services for Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. We don't really have that in the same way, in Florida.

We have interpreters working with our counselors.

So, if we have a particular counselor assigned to a caseload, they may have a Deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind client within that caseload, and the counselor may call on our unit and use interpreting services through our unit to make those services.

They spend a lot of time building skills to understand the language, the identity of that client, and provide whatever services apply, whether that's counseling, job coaching, supported employment, to those clients who are Deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, working together in order to plan toward successful rehabilitation.

We have approximately 16 staff interpreters across the state. And we are doing good work.

We are, of course, still looking to fill some staff positions. They're very difficult, very complex positions to fill, particularly in some areas of the state.

But overall, it's been an excellent and productive year.

We are part of the national platform called Engage For Change, which is the National Deaf Center, formerly the PEPNet service that you may have been familiar with, PEPNet is this old platform.

We work with Deaf and hard-of-hearing students as well as employment personnel, that tends to be the state coordinator of the Deaf, SCD, that's me, yours truly!

So, we overlap, we work together side-by-side in making plans to -- with -- along with Deaf education and employment services and working together and we focus our efforts on pre-tests, pre-ETS, that is pre-employment transition training focused.

And so we are impacting young people earlier in their life journey, as early as high school.

We are familiarizing those students with career opportunities, jobs that they may see themselves in the future as a Deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind student.

And we are preparing these students before they graduate so that they can transition into VR services after graduation.

And so we have this national platform, enabling us to work with other states. And we're always excited to partner with those other states, working together with the Florida Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, partnering to identify recommendations or communication planning for the students that we serve.

In addition, this year is rather unique. We are part of an organization called the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness. We call it SERID.

This is an organization that's been in existence 50-plus years. And SERID focuses on Deaf and hard-of-hearing needs related to voc rehab.

The people who are vendors, resources, organizations, and agencies that can serve Deaf and hard-of-hearing people and deaf-blind people within VR as a structure.

So we're focusing on our conference this year, 2022 will be in Altamonte Springs, Florida. Will be at the Hilton October 13-16.

And we are currently doing outreach for people to submit workshop topics related to voc rehab, related to deaf and hard of hearing and deaf-blind, young people figuring out careers, job placement, how to work with those employers.

Also topics around mental health, topics around interpreting.

And in addition, we are partnering with NTID. They have a regional -- let me get it right -- center -- nope... National -- hmm-um, nope... it's Alabama that's partnering with their STEAM center -- I'm sorry, STEM center, and they have 12 different states where teachers of Deaf and hard-of-hearing students are supported to come and take -- or come to this SERID conference, S-E-R-I-D, so they're sponsoring 15 different educators who can come and teach curriculum that will support Deaf ed teachers who are excited to, you know, open that... and open that center for deaf sighted, Deaf and hard-of-hearing sighted students.

So during our conference, we have quite a variety: Education for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students, we have vocational rehabilitation workshops, we have mental health as a focus.

We have a pre-conference as well.

And a few workshops for interpreters as well.

So... truly enjoyable!

FRID, please, council members, please, HLAA members, please do come! Be involved.

And if you know anyone who might make a workshop presentation for us, we are certainly seeking.

Florida VR is really focusing on that, a lot of our time and energy.

Other than that, we are going strong. We have a new director. That person's name is Brett McConnell -- sorry, McNeil. Brett McNeil is our new director with VR. I believe he's been on the job maybe as long as four months now.

So, very exciting to welcome him, our new leader, in the Tallahassee area. He works heavily with VR.

You know, we've lost a few people who worked with employers, so we're trying to rebuild that office.

We are serving consumers in the community and really good things happening at VR. Good?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's a lot of information!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's good.

>> CORY PARKER: Oh, I'm sorry!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No, that's good! Letting us know more about VR and what's going on, that's good. There's a comment from Debbe?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Debbe put in the chat a link getting more about Hearing Loss Association about workshops and conventions, if you would check your chat.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy or Mary, do you have anything to share about your organization or agency?

[No response].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Mary gave her comments about the things.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: She said she had to leave for another meeting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: Both organizations will be having their annual meeting this summer.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I'm last. All right. I represent Florida Association of the Deaf. We recently had a BIG mess!

Because of the bill that was passed called Parents Rights in Education that was popular -- that was a popular label called Don't Say Gay bill, NAD apparently got a lot of contact from gay/lesbian people concerned about the safety during the NAD conference, which is this summer, the end of June, the beginning of July, in Orlando.

They didn't know how the bill would affect them, being in Florida.

So, the president went ahead and made a vlog trying to assure the people, it will be a safe place, and encourage you to go to the NAD conference.

They do not support the bill, you know, working with FAD.

FAD, under the past leadership, did not handle it well. They reacted very quickly, by writing a letter and making it -- writing a letter saying we are disassociating from NAD.

We... uh... we were never contacted by NAD to discuss this and so on, so on. And the vlog was made by a different person who argued in support of the bill. And it became a big mess, because the full Board was not there for that discussion. I'm on the Board and a few other people, Debbie, we were not there at the board meeting.

And so there was a fast pushback and reaction to the letter and the vlog and they realized that a lot of people were upset in how they responded to the NAD vlog, and so the person resigned, the past president resigned. The vice president became the new president.

And people who were former board members, like myself, I used to be secretary, and other former past presidents, got involved in the e-mail and Facebook discussions about this whole situation.

So, the new president decided to just take the time and listen to everybody on their feedback.

And basically withdrew the letter, emphasized yes, we are still under NAD and yes, we are supporting the gay and lesbian people, and the bill applied to education, not to general population.

And so with the new Board, we have a new president, vice president, the treasurer remained, we have a new secretary.

And so we are trying to move ahead. And they will be supporting the NAD conference and they are still looking for more volunteers to work at the NAD conference.

This went on for several months. It went on for several months. And there was a lot of e-mails, Facebook, vlogs, everything... this just came a national thing. This is how bad it was.

Thankfully, the new president was humble enough to try to find the right way to move forward and resolve the whole thing.

So it seems things have quieted down now.

Um... and so FAD will be there at the NAD conference and FCCDHH will be there with an exhibit booth there too, Debbe and I will be there to manage the exhibit booth.

So... that's the story!

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This went on for months, because it really became a very emotional thing, an ugly thing. At some point, you know, some people were trying to, you know... you know... just find ways to move forward. And so it was, like, whew!

Okay. Yes, Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. No comments on that particular issue, but regarding the Florida Department of Health and the Council, I just wanted to remind you all that we will be hosting a booth and being in attendance at the Family Café June -- I'm sorry, May 26-29, I believe. So just a heads up; we will be manning a table --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Family Café?

>> SEAN ISAAC: That's correct.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We have an exhibit booth at Family Café? Who decided that?

>> SEAN ISAAC: We were asked to attend as part of the Department of Health.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: One of the --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We have done -- okay. We have done the Family Café twice and both times we had different people do the exhibit booth and we felt it was not worth it, it was not worth it. It was very, very, very focused on other particular disabilities.

I would not do the Family Café. We tried it two or three times with different people that went. It looked interesting, yeah, but it really did not meet what the Council represents. So I would not do the Family Café.

We were invited and we were there before, but we, as the Council, had already decided before it was not worth it.

Karen was there before. I was there before. Debbe was there before. Chris was there before. And we all decided -- Karen, do you want to add to that?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, this is Karen. So, yeah, it was actually an honor to be asked to attend. And we did go. But there's so many different types of disabilities that are represented there, that it was, like, a very small handful of people who even stopped by our booth.

And, um... and I think, if I'm not mistaken, Glenna gave a presentation? Am I confusing that with a different... I thought you gave a presentation?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No, no.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I thought you did.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I don't remember.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Anyway, it wasn't very well attended. And there were maybe two or three other booths that dealt with Deaf and hard of hearing already there, so it seemed like it was duplicative and not necessary.

So, um, we ended up putting I think a lot of things on FAD's table too, just additional information.

But they already had so much information already, so I don't think it's going to be useful.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: FAD? I think it was -- it was FSDB, FSDB. Whatever.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, yes, yes, FSDB, right, right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah.

The point is that the few people that did come up, hearing loss was not the primary, it was the secondary, third, fourth, fifth, in addition to other disabilities that they had. So we need to go into places where hearing loss, on a spectrum, is a primary.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you for that comment. I'll make sure to take that back, okay. We've already committed this year, so we can't necessarily pull out this year, but I can certainly let the Department of Health know you all's feedback on that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. Is it the Department of Health that's going to be represented there or specifically FCCDHH?

>> SEAN ISAAC: The Department of Health will have several tables there and so one of those tables will be the FCCDHH. We will have some information to share.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Who will be going to that? Who's going to represent?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I will.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, okay. I mean, it doesn't hurt.

>> SEAN ISAAC: [Laughs].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Honestly, I mean, I hate for you to shoulder that yourself, but... um... what's the date?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Sure. It's May 26th -- I'll be there the 26th, it's May 27-29. I think setup is the 26th.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm not going to be in town; I wish I could help set up.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Sean, I know you'll do a great job but usually there's a Deaf person or Deaf and hard-of-hearing person there representing the community. That's just my thought.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's true. There's always been a Deaf and hard-of-hearing person there representing the Council. That's the whole point.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Bring the books --

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean, I did members on the Council and no one was available at the time, so I just wanted to make sure and let you all know that I did ask. Are there any members that are now available or would like to go or attend?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I would love to go, but unfortunately I will be driving to another state for the whole next week, I'm leaving on the 27th.

But I think it would be a good idea to have somebody there available.

It's interesting they're doing Family Café on Memorial Day weekend. Unless I have Memorial Day weekend wrong?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. That is Memorial Day weekend, this is my first one, so I don't really know exactly what to expect, but I will certainly keep my phone ringing and available for anybody who calls and says they're available for that weekend.

I realize it's a holiday weekend.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We already have conferences in June, and that's enough.

But what we did when we went to Family Café is that we figured it -- we let all the other booths know that we're here and --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We gave out things. Nobody was interested in my idea of the ear, if I recall correctly. But then we found the ear at several other booths! [Laughs]. The little squishy...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: Hi, this is Cory speaking. I'm always trying to be diplomatic and I understand, you know, that two or three times on those years, it wasn't well attended at the Family Café, which is meant to focus on parents particularly, but families that have children who are impacted.

But you really never know who's going to be there this year. You never know who's going to walk into a conference. You never know who's going to come in and say "I've got a kid" and they're going to bump into Sean, you know.

Hopefully this is the year that this happens.

But it shows that you are invested. You took the time to set up, you're there, you're standing there, you're representing this Council. It shows a commitment.

But I do hope that this year that there is some impact, Sean, in the information that you provide to them. It's relevant.

And I know VR tends to have some kind of involvement.

I think we are supporting communication access, so that's our part, that's our

involvement in the Family Café this year.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you, Cory. Cory, that means you're going to be there?

>> CORY PARKER: No, no, no, I'm not. We are supporting interpreting services financially, we've invested that way.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I do remember there were interpreters there and they were almost never used, because Deaf people who use sign language didn't go to Family Café. They had interpreters there -- from what I remember -- they were not used.

>> CORY PARKER: Well, that's good to know. That's very good for me to know. So, I will bring that information back to our team for discussion. But, yes, we have sponsored them and we have learned throughout this process. And we've been a sponsor for a long time. And we're doing it again this year. Hopefully someone will be impacted by the information offered.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cory, yes -- this is Glenna -- it's true, one person might show up who is losing their hearing and we give them resources. But what the business calls ROI, the return on investment, it's very little, very little. And you have to remember --

>> CORY PARKER: Understood.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- Deaf and hard-of-hearing people don't see themselves as part of the disabled community, they don't tend to go to things that are supposedly the whole spectrum of all DA and Deaf and hard-of-hearing people don't normally go to those kinds of things.

Parents are one group that would be good to reach out to, but, again, the ones that we've seen so far tended to be parents that have a disabled child with multiple disabilities and hearing loss was not the primary one, that was way down there

>> VOICE: Cindy has left the conference.

>> CORY PARKER: I'm happy that water wasn't open.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So just so you know, okay. But you're committed to go, fine, go and visit the other booths, go and visit the FSDB again. There were only one or two that were related to Deaf and hard of hearing. Find those.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. Also -- sorry, this is Cory speaking -- also, there tends to be the Florida Virgin Island Deaf-blind Collaboration, FAVI, they tend to go, and I know about that, from my former position whether I worked with the Helen Keller National Center, I was with HKNC and that was my focus.

So they tend to share that with FSDB, FAVI, other organizations.

This year, they're already committed to do what -- I think it will go well. And I would love to see that impact someone who we might not hear from for one or two years, that they had information, right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. You're right, the Virgin Islands, and if it's the same woman, chat with her, she's really interesting.

>> CORY PARKER: Who are you thinking of? Emily? Emily? She retired, actually. There's a replacement, her name is Angela Perez. You haven't met her? I would be happy to introduce you by e-mail before you go.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The one thing that's a little bit different is that in the past, the Governor was there.

>> CORY PARKER: Oh.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The Governor was there. The last time we went, it was Governor Scott and we lined up and shake hands and photos and we found out his wife was losing her hearing and she had just gotten hearing aids and we thought oh, great! But nothing came after that.

So I had no idea if the current Governor would show up.

Okay. All right. We are way, way, way, way, way past a break time and we need to rest the CART and interpreters' hands and we need to rest our brains to make room for more information. We've had a lot of information this morning!

Karen?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Debbe's waiting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes, I just wanted to -- I don't know if Chris Littlewood is on, on the chat, but I wanted to tell you that ALDA will have their convention in San Diego, California, and it will be in October. If you want more information, let me know, I'll put it in the link.

But this year, it will be in San Diego. Next year, they plan to be in Texas, Austin, Texas next year.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Thank you. We need to take a break now. It is now 10:31. We will come back at 10:45, sorry, it's one minute short. 10:45, and we will proceed with the committee updates, which will kind of lead to council projects.

Okay. Break time!

[Break].

>> SEAN ISAAC: I'm unmuting.

And as a reminder, these phone calls are public, so keep in mind.

Also during breaks. If you don't see these red dots, the phone is still live, so keep that in mind.

And we will start recording on Glenna's word.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: I'm recording now.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. You're recording now. Very good.

[Pause].

>> VOICE: Has joined the conference.

>> VOICE: Recording in progress.

[Pause].

[Echo].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

[Echo].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna.

[Echo].

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Did he just join?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Oh, the new guy, the new guy has to mute.

[Echo].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna Ashton.

>> INTERPRETER: It's over here. Gina.

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): Is it the polycom?

>> INTERPRETER: It stopped, Gina. Nope, it didn't.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Somebody's phone is on.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Somebody's phone?

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): Gina, the Zoom on your pad?

>> INTERPRETER: I hear it from Karen's laptop.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Oh, your mic.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: My mic is off.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Hello?

[Pause].

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Hello? Let's give it a try now.  
Are you on the phone?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is a phone.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: No, I'm saying, are you on that phone?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: No.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Let's give it a try now.

[Laughter].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I'm on the chat and CART.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Check your computer.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I'm looking now.

[Pause].

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Is Zoom up on your computer?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: No.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Okay. Let's give it a try.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay, this is the Florida Department of Health and Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We're after break.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you, Sean. We had tech problems. Okay. Now we are moving on to committee updates. The Education/Medical/Outreach/Technology, Gina and Cindy.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yes. Do we have -- oh. Okay.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. In your packet, there's the minutes from our EMOT meeting [echo] which was really well done and it was a great meeting.

The only thing I want to add, Sean, is it says the templates that Karen provided were sent out. I didn't get them. I don't know if Cindy received them or not, but we didn't get those.

But it was a great meeting!

Karen gave some great suggestions in terms of how to streamline the information and was going to give us kind of a guideline and template that we can use to add the information that the council members provided.

And it was reminded that council members who signed up to do particular letters, to please submit them, because we only had about three that we could discuss.

Cindy, do you want to add anything to what I've said?

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: No.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Hey, this is Karen. So, yes, I did fix those letters -- this is so weird. You guys can hear me fine?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. It just doesn't sound right to me. I don't think... I have them on my -- what do you call those things, USB thing?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Flash drive.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That's up in my room upstairs in my purse. So I'll do it later and send it to you. And the Council can look at it. Is that okay if we do it tomorrow, to look at it and review?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Actually we'll be doing it later at 11:00 o'clock.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. This is Gina.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah, I will have Glenna speak for me because I'm going to have to leave early and she can decide and just let me know.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We're going to talk about it after the committee updates, we're going to work on the council projects that includes the letter, so we'll work on it today.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And again tomorrow. Okay?

The Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee, we tried to have a committee meeting, but we did not have a quorum; it was only me and Cory showed up.

So, we couldn't do anything.

But I will mention, that the other FCCDHH bylaws was last amended in 2013. The original Florida Statute has not been updated since 2004. So they both really need to be updated. So hopefully we will have time to work on that tomorrow, and we can focus our attention on that.

Budget Committee, Sean, do you have any information on the Budget Committee? The budget?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yes, I do.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: So we still don't have a -- technically a Budget Committee. Can you hear me? Okay. But we do have budget. And as I mentioned earlier, the Department is approaching the end of its state fiscal year, and so what that means is as an agency, we have to sort of make decisions as to what we can spend for the time remaining.

I want to say first that the Department has worked to identify vendors and contractors for next state fiscal year, so those are almost in place. And we're going through that process now of completing those for the start of the fiscal year, July 1.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Two questions: Do we get feedback on what we want to do with the money? And do we -- maybe you can e-mail -- when you go back home, can you e-mail us a breakdown of the budget where we can see where the money has gone this past fiscal year, to give us an idea of where we want -- because we're using more technology, so that costs more, I guess.

Second question: Cory? Would you be interested in doing the Budget Committee?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. It's not really my area of expertise, but I am willing to learn and jump in, as long as I have somebody with me working side-by-side, yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you. Well, I hope that Cecil Bradley would be willing to mentor you and so you're free to contact Sean for information. So, between the two, that should help a lot.

>> CORY PARKER: So you're asking me to be a solo member of this committee or work alongside with Sean?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, in the past, Cecil did the Budget Committee, he did it alone, but he worked with Sean to get the information.

>> CORY PARKER: I can get in touch with Cecil, because he's local to my area, yes. And if he's willing, then I will let you know.

But I'm really not an expert when it comes to budgeting. But if it's a simple thing, sure. I can't imagine it would be overly complicated doing this for the Council.

But I'm certainly willing. I'm always the kind of person who is willing to just jump in and help out wherever I'm needed.

So, yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's all I need to know "Yes."

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you!

No, really, Sean will help you a lot, because he has all the numbers.

It's just basically reporting on getting the budget spreadsheet and reporting on where the money went and how much we have left

>> CORY PARKER: Oh.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's all it is, basically reporting. You would not actually do the numbers itself, you should get the information from Sean. Right?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yes.

>> CORY PARKER: And just format it together and figure out how to report out properly? Yes, sure.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Thank you. Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you for that, Glenna, you're correct. We have the categories and how much has been spent. I was able to locate a formatting that the Council has used in the past. I did not have that a year ago, so I will make sure to go over that with you, Cory

>> VOICE: Mary Hodges has joined the conference.

>> SEAN ISAAC: -- and make sure that the Council understands.

The main categories continue to include salaries, expenses, and supplies, and then contracting services.

And when I say expenses and supplies, that also includes our travel. So it's just those three basic categories, okay?

And since we're currently at the end of the state fiscal year, there's still some salary budgeted, because we expect to bring on that individual, like I said, this month.

There is still approximately 16,000 in expenses. However, because we don't believe we're going to spend \$16,000 between this month and next month, we may have to provide some of that to the rest of the Department.

And then there's still sufficient budget for contractor services, for our four contractors right now, which includes the Florida Administrative Register, the interpreters, the audio/video court reporter represented by Vanguard, and then AQI -- I'm sorry, and then CART services. Those are our four standard contractors currently, okay.

>> CORY PARKER: Sounds good.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Am I correct that Cory would need to be familiar with Excel? Because then it's just a matter of plugging in the numbers and the formulas are already in place, is that correct?

I don't want him out there in the dark, that's all. I've been there!

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. He will not have to be an expert in Excel. Like I said, I will help him with the formatting. It would be great if he could just report it to the Council and then discuss it with me and meet regularly, so that he's on board and understands.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Hi, Debbe.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe, yes?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah. I don't know if Cory is allowed to talk to Cecil without violating the Sunshine Law. I think he still has to go through Sean. Is that correct?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Sean, go ahead.

>> SEAN ISAAC: So, this is Sean. Now that Cecil is no longer part of the Council, he is free to talk to Cory and Cory is free to talk to him without violating the Sunshine Law.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, this is Cory. So imagining having a discussion with Cecil and that that discussion would focus mainly on the process. The actual technical process and procedures of reporting out on the budget.

But thank you for pointing that out, because that was going to be my next question.

Just because I'm so unfamiliar with the Sunshine Law at this point.

But, again, I would say it's good to know that in advance.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You wouldn't -- this is Glenna -- you would not really be crunching the numbers at all. He will.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You just have time to make the budget Excel sheet ready for the next meeting. You contact Sean and say okay, what's up with the budget, what are the numbers, what does that mean, blah, blah, blah, blah, and then you kept... and then we will all get a copy, we should have a copy at every meeting, and then you just report what the numbers mean. You don't actually doing the work. You just say this is what it means, this is what it means. That's it. He does the work. You just tell what he did.

>> CORY PARKER: I do still want to learn!

[Laughter].

>> CORY PARKER: Just in case Sean got the bid, Sean falls ill and can't do it for some reason, I can take on the mantle and carry it forward.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I want to reiterate, the Sunshine Law focuses on council members, making sure council members don't discuss anything outside of council meetings. You can talk to anyone outside of the Council at any time, okay?

So, again, former members of the Council are no longer council members. There are no restrictions on discussing the business of this Council with them. Okay?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Mary is back, she just wanted everybody to know she is back in the meeting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Welcome back, Mary.

>> MARY HODGES: Hi, this is Mary.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Legislative Committee. Nothing to report that relates to this Council, really.  
Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I did enter in the minutes discussions on the bills that were before the Legislature.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, yes. Um... the hearing aid one finally passed, the hearing aid for children, that finally passed, after it being brought up, like, three, four times every year.

The others failed.

Web Committee. Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes, this is Debbe. On the website for FCCDHH, I submitted to Sean some of the comments that I had.

One of the things that I would like to see is the meeting is on the bottom of the tab. Could we move that to the top above where it says membership?

That way, people will see, okay, when our next meeting is, instead of looking at the bottom.

Do you understand what I'm talking about, Sean?

If you go to the FCCDHH website, you have the tab on the left side and it says membership, report, resource, general information, agency, organization, education, public safety, hearing loss, across, communication, assistance, technology, employment, medical, legal, and then meeting. I would like the word "meeting" to be moved up to the top, if that's possible.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I believe that is possible, Debbe. Thank you for that question and comment and I'll ask our IT team to see if we can make that move, okay?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. This is Glenna. Debbe, on things related to improving the web, small changes or technical changes, you can go ahead and contact Sean, every time you notice something and you can inform him through e-mail and it would be easier for him to follow-up on, okay?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Will do.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Anything more related to committees?

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Based on what contract we get for the next fiscal year, we need to take the opportunity to have committee meetings, first of all, committee meetings, so we can try to get something done more than before.

I want to encourage committee chairs to think about that.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Glenna?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. There was a request for this Council to provide Zoom services for the council members and the public. And so the Department took that into consideration and did just that.

We have placed that in our planning and budgeting for next year as well.

However, there are some limitations, based on the budget.

The main limitation was the number of council meetings -- I'm sorry, committee meetings.

The council meetings will still be four quarterly, but the number of committee meetings, we would have to place a number on it, and so what we did is we said that it would be 12 for the year, a limit of 12, no matter what committees are, and then no more than two per month, okay.

And I guess the Council would have to see how that works for next year and if there are any adjustments, we can consider that at that time.

But that was the original issue.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I would like to put in a bid for the EMOT meeting to be on July 21st, if the council members are available.

Cindy, check your calendar, please.

And that will be prior to our meeting in August, and by then, we should have everything that Karen submitted, everything finalized, so that we can just present it for a final review.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. What time on the 21st?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: We did 4:00 o'clock last time, right? At 4:00 o'clock on July 21st.

If everybody could check?

Cindy said she's good at 4:00 on July 21st. So if all of the EMOT members can check and we can confirm that now, or, you know, before this meeting is over. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you, Gina.

Karen, do you want to take a minute to go up to your room and get your USB on the letters? Because we're ready to start that now.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We can talk about the entry/exit policies while you go get your USB.

The next part is council projects and Karen is going to get the USB that had the letter that she did.

And while she does that, we'll have Sean talk about entry/exit policies.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you. This is Sean. So, as I mentioned before, my meeting with Cory gave us an opportunity to identify what we've done in the past and discuss, as an agency, what we did.

I had a chance to go back and check with our agency. And like I said before, there was nothing agency-wide that was available for us to use for members that are joining or leaving.

Then with some discussion within my division in the Bureau, we found out that we didn't have anything available and that this Council did not have anything written or any procedures to go by, and so we're starting from scratch.

And as I mentioned before, even though that sounds like that means nothing, we do have a process of collecting the applications and the résumés and submitting those.

And then notifying the members somehow that they are a part of the Council and applying those timeframes, that they are part of a committee.

I did want to ask a question of the Council. Is there a standard for time of appointments? Is it three years? Or is it five years? That would be helpful to know.

I did also --

>> CINDY SIMON: This is Cindy. Typically appointments are for three years. And what was done in the past and has not been done in many years, but what was done way back is when the new council members are appointed, they have to go through an orientation, which includes Sunshine Law, before they can join in the meeting.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. Thank you.

>> CINDY SIMON: And there was nothing for exit. When your term was up, either you reapplied and you stayed on. Once someone else was appointed, you left. And we had a whole discussion, and I believe that they received a Certificate of Appreciation for the service that they filled and then they leave.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you.  
Anybody remember anything else regarding that process?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. One thing we need to emphasize is that if you're leaving, you still have to fill out the financial disclosure. That was never informed, um... informed in writing about that.

That the Commission of Ethics still has to be filled out, even though it's a volunteer position. I'm one of them that got fined. I was not too happy about that.

I just want to make sure that it gets presented for everyone else.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you, Debbe, for that comment as well.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, this is Cory. I want to back track just a little bit, because I'm noticing this comment that you were fined?

Correct me if I'm wrong, but a financial disclosure is typically completed before the end of the fiscal year. Am I correct? Meaning that this year, okay... well, I'm going to make a

note of that personally, so that I will take care of that when I get home.

>> VOICE: Has left the conference.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Mary, Cindy has a comment but she says she had to leave and will be back.

Mary has a comment. The statute presents the following: Each member shall be appointed to a term of four years. Any vacancy of the Coordinating Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. And any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of death, resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve only for the unexpired term of the member's predecessor.

Oh, come on, thing! So many chats are coming in. Hold on, let me find where she was.

Prior to serving on the Coordinating Council, all appointees must attend orientation training that shall address, at a minimum, the provisions of this section, the programs operated by the Coordinating Council, the role and functions of the Coordinating Council, the current budget for the Coordinating Council, the results of the most recent format audit of the Coordinating Council and the requirements of the state's public records law, the code of ethics, the administrative procedure act, the other laws relating to public officials including conflict of interest laws.

Florida Statutes 413.271, Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. Thank you. We will look into that.

I will say we did look at what was available on -- oh, what was it....

There's a Florida training available for state employees and what's available for that.

But at the same time, that information is for state employees and might not be the same information that needs to be available to council members.

Then I went to the Commission on Ethics and found out that they actually had a training section that was specific for council members, and I believe that information was available on YouTube.

So, that information can be viewed via YouTube, and so that information will also be a part of this entry process.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Sean, I would say to add in the handbook the process for travel, with due dates, like it has to be signed by this date, submitted by that date, you know, and clear instructions on how travel is handled and what the expectation is if you don't.

There should be clear instructions and consequences.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you, will do.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. If I remember correctly, we did the orientation ourselves as a Council and we used to, like, about once a year, we would have someone come and explain about the Sunshine Law.

And then the other information was to inform the new members or the office person would inform the new member. But that was what we did. And we all went through the Sunshine Law. We didn't just do it for the new members, we all went through the Sunshine Law review and we did that, like, once a year, kind of.

For a while, we didn't do it once a year because it was the same council members, because we had no new appointments, because it was a long time.

Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. So it sounds like an orientation was done all at once, along with the Council as well.

Can I make a suggestion that we do something like that in August?

Because it seems like the new Chair and Vice Chair are officially starting in August, right?

So that seems like that might be a good time to make sure that this happens.

There will always be exceptions when people have to be appointed in the middle of the year, but at least that's a timeline on the calendar that we can make sure that we know this is going to be done.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I don't remember having an orientation when I came on.

Glenna just told me everything to do and not do

[Laughter].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I didn't have an orientation. And then when they had the Sunshine Law, I said oh my goodness! What have I gotten into?!

[Laughter].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah, so that would be good, if we had a formal orientation, where people are assigned to walk somebody through the processes.

Because when I came on, Glenna just told me what to do and what not to do

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. This is a good idea to restart when we get a new Chair, a new Vice Chair, and the new fiscal year. So, yeah, we'll plan for one hour for the Sunshine Law and other information needed.

Wait, it's probably one hour on the Sunshine Law alone, and then another half hour for other things, we need to know, like, travel or whatever.

Okay. Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: Here's another new person question for you: How do we strengthen our connections or contacts in the Governor's Office so that we can get a response in a timely manner?

Did --

>> VOICE: Has joined the conference.

>> CORY PARKER: -- that person change jobs because the Governor's Administration changed?

Or... I would say how long would you typically expect to wait for a response?

Knowing that will help us in our process. And by that, I mean the process of appointments, making that a more smooth procedure. Knowing how long we can expect to wait for those responses.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you for the question. I don't know how long a typical appointments process is, because my beginning to be a part of this Council and support this Council started during COVID, when most processes were shifted due to the nature of that COVID, it had on all of us.

So I can't tell you what the normal appointments process looks like.

Perhaps more senior members can provide some comment as to how long it took for someone to apply and then be recognized as a current member?

I will say that there are two Appointments Offices. One with the Department and then one with the Governor's Office, and so they communicate with one another. And that's been the typical process that I've seen since I started.

But I don't have a contact within the Governor's Office.

We can all joke about that.

I will say that perhaps more communication between those two offices on how they work and what those processes are could be helpful to us. And I will continue to reach out to DOH and ask them to also reach out to the Governor's Appointments Office to make sure that they can get us in touch with them.

Yeah?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. We only knew about the Governor's Appointments Office. Myself, I didn't know about DOH's Appointments Office.

Second, this was a problem before COVID. For myself, I sent in my application, it took one year before they finally got on to appointing me. That's one example.

So, it's been an ongoing problem for a long time, before COVID.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I appreciate that comment.

Again, all I can refer to is what I've been told by the DOH Appointments Office.

I do know that there was an absence in that particular position at the Department for sometime. I don't know how long. But for sometime, that impacted appointments.

And so while you all, as a Council, may have experienced this first hand, my understanding is that you're not the only council that has experienced this. The Department has had some challenges when it comes to appointments, from all areas. That's my understanding.

When it comes to the Governor's Office and the appointment of the Office of Appointments in the Governor's Office, I don't know anything first hand from that office as well, but I will say that, from my understanding again, this is a statewide issue because of the impact of the pandemic. That's my understanding, okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So are you saying that the application for this Council goes through DOH Appointments Office first and then to the Governor's Appointments Office? I didn't know that.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Well -- this is Sean -- it's a good question. I am learning. And one of the things I learned is that there's even two different applications for each office. Before last month, I was only aware of one application. So what I'm understanding is that has contributed also to some of the miscommunication, because folks applied directly to the Office of Appointments in the Governor's Office and then sometimes that information is given back to agencies, and vice versa; people will apply to the agency and then that information is provided to the Governor.

And then I believe also that there's a part that the Legislature plays as well.

So, like I said, I am still learning about this process. I would rather be -- the official person would be the Office of Appointments at DOH. I will give you all a good and full and complete overview. I think that's the best thing for all of us and that is the correct way to go.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So the application that is online that we look at, is that DOH or the Governor?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. The only one I've shared is the Department of Health's application online. If you all have found one outside of that, then that might be in the Office of the Governor. But the one I've shared is from the Department of Health's process.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. This is Gina. Sean, what you just described is a hot mess.

So who would be the driver to get that fixed?

Because unlike Glenna, that is confusing. And who knows where they're applying for what? You're waiting for an answer from whom?

So who would be the one to fix that? Especially with new members coming on, that would be frightening.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. And it is complicated, because there are several avenues to becoming a new member of a council.

The process, from our perspective, includes completing the applications and submitting them to me. I'm their entry point for any new members that want to be a part of this Council. That's a simple process.

If you submit it to me via e-mail, that's a simple process.

There is an online application. And from my understanding in the past, there were some issues where people submitted application and they got lost.

And so that process, from my understanding, that's improved. I would rather the Office of Appointments tell you about that.

But if you send an application directly to me, you would have a record of it, I would have a record of it, and I could send that directly to our Appointments Office.

That's the simplest process that we have in place.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory speaking. So, we have the application and financial disclosure that goes to the Commission on Ethics still. Where does that form go?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. So let's separate these two different processes.

The application process or the appointment process is at the beginning of anybody's desire to be a part of this Council. You submit your application and résumé. That information is taken and submitted to the Department of Health

>> CORY PARKER: Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Office of Appointments and they share that with the Governor's Office.

Once you are a member of a council, then you are required annually to submit the financial disclosure form, the form G30 (sp) that's a separate process from being a new

member. That's my understanding.

>> CORY PARKER: And this is Cory. And that goes directly to you, right, Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you for the question. No, it does not go to me. The financial disclosure form goes directly, from my understanding, to the Commission on Ethics.

I have received one form and I've informed that person to please don't send it to me, because that is not part of the Department of Health's responsibility or jurisdiction or anything like that, okay.

>> CORY PARKER: Got it.

>> SEAN ISAAC: So I don't want that to be something that the Council misunderstands. I do not receive financial disclosure forms.

>> CORY PARKER: Wow! Again, what a complicated process!  
And like you said, I echo that, Gina: Hot mess!

[Laughter].

>> CORY PARKER: Thank you for that, Sean.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe, I see you. Wait.  
Be aware that the new financial disclosure form one for the Council has to be done online and sent to a specific e-mail address. No more paper.  
Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, it has to be spelled out online and then it says for you to submit it, but it didn't go through, so I was concerned, you had to get some kind of a code from the department -- or the Commission on Ethics. I didn't get it, so I was concerned about it.

So I sent it to Sean just to be on the safe side, proving, hey, I filled this form out. But I didn't want to get fined again.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna --

>> CINDY SIMON: This is Cindy. So can we not have them mailed to us and mail it back to them? Can we request that?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. This all has to be done online. They will not accept paper forms anymore. You have to do it online. You have to send it to a particular e-mail address. And then you can go to their website and check to see if your form has been received. You have to kind of hunt around for it. But you'll see your name and it will show up.

You don't get an acknowledgement that they received it, blah, blah, blah, you have to go in and check to see that they got it and your name will show up.

My name showed up

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina.

>> CINDY SIMON: I find it amazing they make it so difficult for volunteers.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Cindy, they're doing this for all councils, all boards. They don't care. If you're on a council, if you're on a board, you do it.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. This is Gina, from Mary. She wanted to have clarification as to the appointments.

She said according to statute, the Coordinating Council shall be composed of 17 members. The appointment of members not representing agencies shall be made by the Governor. The appointment of members representing organizations shall be made by the Governor in consultation with those organizations.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. So then which members have been appointed by our current Governor? Do we have none? Just with all of the issues, maybe? Why?

I guess that's another thing then that Sean and I can continue to work on, is finding the right people. Who is the right person that we should be going to so that we can make this a smoother process and be in compliance. Those that are appointed by the Governor, especially.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I'm thinking about Karen and how she got appointed. She filled out the application, sent it in, and then I guess at that time, I don't remember what year she joined, but at that time, before she joined, she called the office, like, every two weeks, and then she -- they moved her paperwork and she got on the Council.

But I think they -- that was when they had a person in the office. And afterwards, nobody was there and that was it.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory --

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina --

>> CORY PARKER: -- so can we make appointments?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: That is Gina. Karen and I came on about the same time. And at that time we did online application to the Governor's Office. The Chief Medical Officer, I can't remember her name right now, but she called an interview right now, she called an interview twice, and then she checked, did her background check or whatever they do, and then I was sent a notification that I had been appointed.

So, that was through the medical officer, whoever that was. I can look it up, if you need that person's name, but that's how I went there.

>> CINDY SIMON: Back when I was appointed --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: When you say medical --

>> CINDY SIMON: -- you filled out the application, sent it in, and then you were notified if you were appointed and that was it.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Yes, Cindy, before this, it was just an application and you got a notice of acceptance on the Council. Then they changed it later and they added the background check interview, they added that.

And you mentioned medical officer. It had to be the Department of Health?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: Well, then, I guess every two weeks, I need to make phone calls. Put in the work! So that we can make sure -- we'll put in an appointment reminder for ourselves to just keep calling that office, at least until Sean and I can develop that handbook.

Because we want this process to be effective, because those of us that do volunteer take our work on this Council very seriously. And we would certainly hate to see the Council be disbanded.

And hypothetical it could happen. So those are just my thoughts.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you, Cory. This is Glenna. Make sure you have the right person to contact.

>> CORY PARKER: Exactly! That's right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I know of two people who have sent in applications and we have sent in applications again, and are still interested. One is the one that would represent a hearing aid specialist and another would represent parents of deaf children, and I don't want to lose them!

>> CORY PARKER: Right, you're right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Okay. Karen is back with the letter.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Hey, this is Karen -- this is not on -- hi, this is Karen. So, I do have the letters. Is there a way to put them up on the board of some sort?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I think -- this is Gina. I think, Lashay, didn't you say -- she wanted to put the letters up on the screen. You have to have a second laptop, right?

>> LASHAY LEWIS: What letters?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Letters she has on the flash drive that she wants to share.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Yeah, I have to do that.

>> CORY PARKER: So if you can put it on the Zoom and post it on the Zoom so that others can see it as well, share screen if you're on the Zoom.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Let me connect to Zoom.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Glenna?

>> CORY PARKER: What is the passcode? It requires a passcode to get in. If you go on the web for FCCDHH, there's a link that you can get into the Zoom. And then it requires a password.

Once you enter there, then you can share screen.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: If those permissions have been allowed. Who's controlling the Zoom? That person has to decide if --

>> LASHAY LEWIS: That's Nexis (sp) is the host, I'm just the secondhand for here. So just go in. I have the password and everything here, you know, the meeting ID and the password.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yeah, we have the passcode.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: So we have to see if she allows permissions for the person to share personally.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: The Zoom -- I see the Zoom passcode, I don't see the Zoom link. I have a Zoom -- it says Zoom passcode.

Can you send me the Zoom link real fast?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Go to the website.

>> VOICE: Has left the conference.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Glenna? Real briefly. You might want to have Karen explain her experience about the Appointments Office. She missed a lot of the good discussion. So I would like you to catch her up on what was being said briefly about the Appointments Office and the two different forms. Let her know.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe -- this is Glenna -- Debbe, let Karen finish connecting to Zoom first, okay?

>> CORY PARKER: It's not working, the passcode.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Why is it updating? Why is it updating now?

[Laughter].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay, it worked. Excuse me, it works. I just tried to share a document through Zoom and it came up, so...

>> SEAN ISAAC: Oh, great.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: They won't see you guys now, they'll just see the Zoom, I mean the presentation, whatever she puts up.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yeah, that's fine.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah, everybody here will see it. I'll get out of here now.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: You guys will be on the right now and smaller.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Let me figure out how to unshare! Ahh!  
I got it. Okay.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: While she's setting it up -- this is Glenna -- while is she setting it up, I want you to be aware of the time. It's 11:40 already, so we only have 20 minutes left to discuss the letter, and we need to stop at 12:00 because we have a presenter at 1:00 o'clock.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Wow! Is that a tiny font! Let me see if I can make it bigger.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: It's easy. On the bottom, on the bottom, use the slider.

>> CORY PARKER: There you go.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: There. Now we can read it!

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So the letters looked really good overall. I just did some tweaking in what we were saying, and I don't know if we want to compare them.

But basically what I did was I just -- I just tweaked it a little bit to explain what we worded first.

Glenna worked on it and it was really good and it was just a matter of tweaking it a little bit. Do you guys want me to read it or is that extra work for Lisa and the interpreters [laughs].

But basically I just tweaked it and I did a summary of what is what is Florida Coordinating Council for the first paragraph.

And then I, the second paragraph, I said the purpose of this letter, so that they can understand, and so you want to give them the positive feedback of what they're doing that's working.

And then where they can still improve.

So, what I did was I acknowledged in this letter, this is to FDLE, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, that they're using Text-to-911 and I wasn't quite sure I knew how many counties that's currently in right now, so I left that as an X, okay.

I think Chris had the actual numbers

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: He did.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: So if I could get that.

Okay. Then the Deaf Cop Chat which was a program in Duval. Communication placards present in X amount of counties.

And if there's anything else we want to acknowledge what they're doing, okay.

Then I said, and basically using the same paragraph, despite the valiant efforts, there is still a great deal more that we can do.

Well, and by "we," I mean you [laughs].

And here are some of the things that we can do or they can do.

And it's very detailed, okay.

And so I'll send this to Sean and he'll send it out to everyone, and I want you all just to, you know, red line what needs to be adjusted, okay?

And where else we can go.

Now, I finalized the paragraph with -- or the letter with, we want to thank you for your commitment. Um... and we want to be a resource to you, okay.

And then I said contact us through, and I put -- I said please put in the e-mail, I don't have the correct one, I don't want them sending it to a wrong one, okay?

And then I signed it as sincerely Glenna Ashton and she's the Chair.

I really think we need to have the Council's, all the names on it. We are a Council. And so, you know, it can be Glenna Ashton and underneath it could be here's all the little ducks that follow Glenna, her little ducklings that follow her

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: But I think it should have everyone's name. Okay? And so that was the law enforcement one.

And then I have one on... um... let me see if I can share it again... how do I do that...?

The prison edits. I want to make sure my e-mails are not coming through...

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes, stop the share and then come out and then come back in.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Can you see this one?

>> LASHAY LEWIS: That's backwards, isn't it?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: No, it's not, you're right, it didn't quite... no, this -- I'm sharing to something else. So I have to stop, stop share and then start share again.

I had it a second ago... the big green button... that's the prison one. Yeah, I want to go to the prison one. Okay. Here we go. Making it large.

Okay. So, this is basically the same thing. Now this one, there was no acknowledgement of what they were doing in the letter, so I still like that format of let's acknowledge what they do.

One, you recognize they're deaf. That could be one [laughs]. Maybe not. But what are they doing that works? And the letter didn't really have anything.

Um... so, I don't know what they're doing. And I don't want to go in there ignorant, because I don't want them reading a letter and saying well, we're doing X, Y, and Z, you know.

One of the things that Glenna noted is that the Florida Department of Corrections is the largest state agency. Is that a correct statement? I want to make sure.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I got that off their website, so they claim to be.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: They claim to be. Okay. And the third largest prison system in the country.

So what I then wrote was that the Council hopes to shed light on the importance of communication access for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals engaged in the criminal justice system in this state. There are concerns about inconsistent access to communication and, as such, these individuals are often confined in solitary confinement -- I can probably say that a little differently -- even when they're housed in general population.

But that was something that Glenna had written, which I thought was really, um... um... a really powerful statement. That there is a sense that they are all -- these individuals are always in solitary confinement.

Now, I didn't write down the actual sentence that says --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You wrote that.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I wrote the letter, yeah.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina did.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I thought that was very powerful that they were already in solitary confinement or something to that effect and I wanted to reiterate that.

I didn't add the part that that can lead to more mental health issues. I mean, it certainly can and we can add it back, but I was trying to pin point.

What I would recommend in this letter that we do know ahead of time what are they doing that's working? And where can we help them improve?

And that's similar to the law enforcement letter, because we start out with acknowledging, these are the efforts you're making and here's where we think it could benefit.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Karen, this is Gina. The problem I ran into, it was inconsistent.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Well, I think that's why you put that word in, inconsistent.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Some areas were doing things and some areas were doing nothing.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Maybe we want to say it's not a unified system across the state.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: That would work.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Inconsistent access to communication among... among what?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Among the Deaf population.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: No, no, no, I mean, among what? The different prisons? Is there a difference between state prisons or local jails or federal?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: There is. Yeah, just put that in red and when you send that out, we'll fix it.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. Among different sites? Let us tweak that.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah, just... yeah. Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. Just -- just to go along -- while we're wordsmithing here, that first sentence I want to review again. You mentioned that the Department of Corrections claims to be the third largest state agency. Our purpose of the letter is to say -- the intention of this letter is to say that communication access is important. I don't think we have to realize -- or recognize how large this state agency is and give it accolades for being the third largest in the country. They know that already.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We can say --

>> CORY PARKER: We need to get to the point and say that communication access is important for inmates who are deaf or hard of hearing, period.

That's my suggestion. I, looking at the English as you have it, I think that sentence can be removed.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I have an idea, if you want to just see something. What part of red isn't clear? Red. Um...

[Pause].

>> CORY PARKER: As one of the largest state --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah. Yeah, everybody wants to be the biggest.

[Laughter].

>> CORY PARKER: One of the largest in the state. There you go.

>> INTERPRETER: You got it.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: How about this? Is in the unique position to implement full access to communication?

[Pause].

>> CORY PARKER: I likey likey, likey Mikey. Like the cereal commercial.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That kind of thing. You want to do it that way. To implement the changes, you're in a unique position to implement changes and these are the changes we want to see.

>> CORY PARKER: I like that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Our time is kind of running out and I want to make sure that we're on the same page, because if I remember correctly, Sean said we don't have a shared site where we can have live edits and everybody can see it at the same time, so we may end up with another mess, with sending the letter out, this one changes this sentence, that one changes that sentence, you know, that, that could be a nightmare!

So, I think that maybe either -- we have a presentation at 1:00 o'clock and we won't be able to revisit it then. But if there's time to revisit it, maybe revisit it to how we're going to make the revisions.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Perfect. It's on the schedule at 3:15 today.

Cory has suggested that he and I work on it, but I don't know that he and I can work on it outside the Council.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: No, you can't.

>> CORY PARKER: I keep forgetting; please excuse me.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: No, that's okay. I was just thinking that won't work. What is this in the image?!

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: What to do now?

But that's the general idea, is to give them some specific ideas.

Maybe we don't need to say this is what you're doing right, you know. Because, um...

>> CORY PARKER: That was -- this is Cory -- which is my point. That was my point. It's -- oh, it kicked me off of Zoom! It kicked me off! Crap! I'm so sorry I said that!

Anyway... my point was is that we want to say well, yeah, you are in a unique position to provide, you're actually in a unique position to become a trail blazer. That's what you're trying to say in that sentence.

And by doing this, it will benefit not only the Deaf or hard of hearing folks that are in prison, but give you recognition nationally. I don't know... I don't know... something -- somewhere along the line.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right. And this is... um... this third paragraph is what it's titled. Is this what the ideas were, Gina, to add to letters? Is that what you were trying to come up? An idea of the different things that could be done to improve access to communication?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: That part -- excuse me, this is Gina -- the interpreting part was a different letter. That was a different subject. I had the prisoners and the police. And it was simply a matter of pointing out what they're doing good and how we could add value to what they're doing. It was really simple.

And we were trying to limit it to one page. And that's why I didn't add a lot, because the first thing we said was to limit it to one page. Because people don't read a lot.

I'm sorry, people.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I think the reality is that it's not going to be limited to one page, because I'm recommending that we put everybody's name. So I think it's okay if on the second page we just say thank you for everything you're doing and then sign it Glenna and -- or if you want more information, you reach out to the Council and here's how you do that, and then Glenna and then everybody's name.

And I think that they'll see a shortened second page and it will be fine. But I think it's going to be a two pager, so I don't want it to be so condensed that their eyes are, like, ugh, paragraph, paragraph, paragraph, and their brain stops.

People do very well if you bullet, okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. We did discuss at the committee meeting about having a second page so we can have move at the bottom to add links and resources for them to go to, for example, a particular program, for, like, the first half of the second page, finish with the letter, and the second half would be to provide a list of links and resources for them to do more research on -- because if they contact the Council, well, we're not experienced on everything, especially with prisons or police.

We can provide them a few links and resources and get them started, you know, where to look. Okay.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I like that idea.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It is 11:56. We have four minutes. And we do have the afternoon to continue to work on the letter. I want to take the four minutes to give you a little bit of things to think about. You can't discuss, you can't discuss. You can think about it. You can think about the letter, think about the handbook for council members, think about the bylaws, which we will discuss tomorrow, and think about the biennial report.

The letter and biennial report we will discuss this afternoon. And the handbook and the bylaws we will discuss tomorrow morning.

So take some time to think about it during lunch, those two letters and the report for today and the other two, the handbook and the bylaws for tomorrow, okay?

And maybe we can actually get something pushed done during the meeting. Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Mary asked, would you please e-mail this letter template to her? Go ahead, Sean.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I sure can.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Anything you wanted to wrap up about the letter, Karen?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: [Shakes head].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So, we are good.

All right. Okay. Lunch. The hotel is here, if you go out to the front and to the right, you will see there's, like, a shopping center that you can actually walk to. The first one you will see is Gator Bites. They actually serve gator bites. And they have other food and you can sit outside.

But remember, you only have an hour, we have to be back at 1:00 o'clock. You can go to Publix, Publix is famous for a lot of things, they have food to go, they have subs and salads and so forth.

And then you have pass Courtney Continental Cuisine, it's more like a dinner place. And you will see a Chinese restaurant, you can get something to go or eat in there. Those are three places that are quick.

>> VOICE: Mary Hodges has left the conference.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay? So I will see you back here at 11:59 (sic) ready to listen to the presenter who is from the Ft. Myers Deaf Service Center. I'm not sure if they're in person or on Zoom. I think they will be on Zoom.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Excuse me. Rick had a public comment and I wanted to tell him, fill out the form, there is a form you fill out for comments. He put in a public comment and there is a form to fill out and you turn in and then we will address you. Okay. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Okay. So the meeting is stopped for lunch, okay, be back here at 11:59 (sic), please. Thank you.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: 11:59 (sic)?

[Break].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. Good afternoon, this is Sean Isaac with the Florida Department of Health.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: [No audio].

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): I cannot hear Debbe.

>> INTERPRETER: Debbe said I cannot see the Council and Nexis (sp) who is still hosting the Zoom on this end. I believe you need to unmute.

[Echo].

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Sean, can you go on mute?

>> LASHAY LEWIS: That's probably my computer.

[Echo].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: It says Sean. You're getting blamed or it, Sean.

[Echo].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: It says you!

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: I'm not even joined with audio.

>> Testing, one, test.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: While we're waiting....

[Echo].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I do have watermelon.

[Echo].

[Pause].

>> LASHAY LEWIS: For some reason, I can't get this --

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: So, when you put that share, it doesn't share the document?  
Where you are now, it says share screen.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Yeah, all it brings up is that screen, the desktop.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: You all need to send it to me; I mastered it!

[Pause].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: [No audio].

[Note from CART Captioner]: Captioner cannot hear Debbe.

[Pause].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: [No audio].

[Note from CART Captioner]: Captioner cannot hear Debbe.

[Pause].

[Technical difficulties. Please standby].

>> INTERPRETER: Do you think maybe the problem is the flash drive?

>> AMY TURNER: It's not the flash drive. It's gmail, we e-mailed the presentation to a gmail account, it opened the presentation, the PowerPoint, but it's not finding that stream on this.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Did you download it from gmail? Did you download it?

>> VOICE: Debbe Hagner has joined the conference.

>> INTERPRETER: Debbe, we can hear you now, have you joined the conference.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: [Indiscernible].

>> INTERPRETER: Are the interpreters dialed in to the audio? Because if you can hear us, they should be able to hear us.

[Pause].

[Please standby. Technical difficulties].

>> AMY TURNER: Always ask women for directions!

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: We're going to give them to you whether you ask or not!

[Laughter].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Can you close that out altogether?

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Yeah, that's what I'm trying to do.

>> INTERPRETER: Do you have another Apple laptop?

[Pause].

>> LISA MYHAND: I always have problems with Apple! Ugh...

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. If you want to share the screen, you have to click -- select the other person to be the co-host.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Mmm-hmm.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Make them a co-host and then they can do the share screen.

>> AMY TURNER: I have it on my phone. Can I log in as one of the screens and then you just make that --

>> SEAN ISAAC: You can try that.

>> AMY TURNER: I just need the link to join.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: So Nexis (sp) needs to make the other person the co-host.

The interpreters are still having trouble hearing, there's no audio.  
Did you dial in the phone number?

[Pause].

[Room chatter. Please standby].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Maybe the phone is muted? Is the phone muted? Put it on

speaker phone?

[Pause].

[Please standby].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Can you e-mail me the presentation? I'll share it.

[Pause].

>> INTERPRETER: Hello, this is the interpreter Tasha. Are you all able to hear me?

>> INTERPRETER: Yep.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Amy, if you want, you can e-mail it to me and I'll present it.

>> AMY TURNER: Okay.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It's kgdoc --

>> AMY TURNER: I think we just got it. Okay. So let me just get to...

>> INTERPRETER: This is the interpreter. I can -- you guys can hear me.

>> VOICE: Has joined the conference.

>> INTERPRETER: Everything is silent.

>> INTERPRETER: Tasha, can you hear me? This is the interpreter. We're using the conference equipment in the room now. Is it connecting?

[No response].

>> INTERPRETER: I guess that's a no.

>> INTERPRETER: I cannot hear anything.

>> INTERPRETER: So we can hear her on this device, but she cannot hear us.

>> INTERPRETER: I'm reading on CART your responses to me.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: I'm on mute right now.

[Echo].

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Can you hear us now?

>> INTERPRETER: Can't she hear from here?

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Yeah, if they call in.

>> INTERPRETER: She did call in.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Yeah, she should be able to hear us.

[Echo].

>> INTERPRETER: It's really echoey.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Somebody -- hello? Hello?

[Echo].

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Your audio is on. Hello? Hello?

[Echo].

>> LASHAY LEWIS: It's coming through somebody.

>> INTERPRETER: Tasha, can you hear us now?

[Echo].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: She's like the echo hunter.

>> INTERPRETER: Hyper vigilant, I mean, that's just my job!

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Echo hunter.

>> INTERPRETER: I'm trying to help. I'll stop helping.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm trying to download it.

[Pause].

[Please standby, technical difficulties].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Can you see mine? I'm sharing.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Yeah, I'm trying to get rid of this here.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Make that larger.  
How do I change slides? How do you go to the next one? This way?

>> SEAN ISAAC: There you go.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: I'm sorry, everyone!

If you want to be on the video, you'll have to -- unless they just want to see the presentation on the other end, if she wants to be seen --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I don't want to be seen.

>> AMY TURNER: I don't need to be seen, it doesn't matter to me.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I think the people on Zoom, we should ask.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: You can turn around, you will be on that screen right there. I can turn it around.

>> AMY TURNER: But they won't see the Council.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I think that's fine.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Just her?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah.

>> INTERPRETER: Can we move the microphone over so she can be heard as well?

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Well, she should be heard through the Zoom.

[Pause].

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Hello? Can anybody hear us out there? Participants?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yes, I got a thumbs up from Debbe, thumbs up from Tasha.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Perfect!

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Thumbs up from Karen.

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Well, have one to answer. Oh, their Zoom is probably on mute. See if somebody can talk through Zoom.

[No response].

[Pause].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Debbe's on the phone.

[Echo].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. I asked her to respond, she did.

>> SEAN ISAAC: But she talked through the phone.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right, she muted herself on Zoom.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Finally, after some technical problems AGAIN, we are

back after lunch. And we have to do a roll call [clearing throat] -- a roll call of the members.

I'm Glenna Ashton representing Florida Association of the Deaf and the Chair of this meeting.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I'm Gina Halliburton, representing the Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and I'm from Jacksonville.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm Karen Goldberg, I'm representing HLAA Florida.

>> CORY PARKER: My name is Cory, Cory Parker, and I'm representing the Department of Education, as well as the Florida Vocational Rehabilitation.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe Hagner, I represent HLAA Florida State.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Now we get to the part we look forward to seeing. We want to welcome Amy Turner and Lisa Myhand who are from the Sally Pimental Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Center in Ft. Myers.

Welcome. We are ready for your presentation.

>> AMY TURNER: Thank you. Good afternoon. Thank you. My name is Amy Turner, I'm from the Sally J. Pimental Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Center. We're located in Ft. Myers, Florida. We were established in 1983. We're almost 40-years-old. And our mission is to empower southwest Florida's deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens and their families through advocacy and community involvement.

>> VOICE: Has left the conference.

>> AMY TURNER: We offer a variety of services and programs. One of which is ASL classes. We offer ASL classes in Ft. Myers. We've expanded to Lehigh Acres, Bonita Springs, and Cape Coral is coming soon. We offer our classes four nights a week. We also offer a day time class once a week. All of our classes are open to the public. We offers levels one through five. Each level is a five-week course. And all of our courses are free for anyone who is Deaf or hard of hearing.

We also offer a half-price discount for family members of an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing.

We also offer interpreting services. We're the only non-profit in Southwest Florida that provides interpreting services for our Deaf clients. Per ADA law, businesses are required

to provide equal access to language, which means providing skilled ASL interpreter to their customers and clients. And currently we're serving five counties: Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, and Glades. Thank you.

Many of you know Lisa Myhand, our Deaf mentor. Lisa has been working with our agency for over 20 years. She is instrumental in what we do. We are so grateful for her at our agency. She is a leader in the Deaf community. And she is a real role model with children and a true liaison to bridging that gap between the hearing and Deaf worlds for our agency. We could not be more grateful to have her with us. She does everything, from educating Deaf children about Deaf culture, to helping our Deaf clients apply for jobs and pass their driving tests.

I wanted to share a story, just recently we had a Deaf individual come into our agency and this individual was a youth. They were from another country. They didn't speak any English.

And they were having a very difficult time with their family.

The family didn't know who to turn to, so they gave our agency a call and they came in and shared with us their story.

The youth was very, very angry and he was very frustrated, because he did not have any communication. He didn't speak any English, and he didn't know any sign.

In a matter of five minutes, our Deaf mentor, Lisa, was able to work with this youth, using her hands, using this beautiful ASL language, and she was able to, in just five minutes, help him to understand three new words, where he could communicate with his family that was sitting right next to him.

And unbeknownst to him, but what was very apparent to both me and Lisa, as well as his family, was that those three words were the start of his new life that he was going to have.

And it all happened because of our Deaf mentor. So that's something that I am very, very proud to share, the good work that Lisa does at our agency, and the difference that a non-profit can make here in Southwest Florida.

We also offer a family ASL class in addition to our regular ASL classes. This one is a little different. It is completely free. And we offer this class because it's so important to us to provide that communication for families, to help strengthen their relationships.

It meets every Tuesday nights. It meets once a week, 6:30-7:30 p.m. We have snacks provided and we welcome children, we welcome the entire family. Moms, dads, aunts, uncles, grandparents, we encourage the entire family to be on this amazing journey to be able to communicate with their family and children

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Can I ask a question? Interrupt or do you want me to save it for the end?

>> AMY TURNER: You can save it till the end. Is that okay?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Well, just, are they virtual these classes?

>> AMY TURNER: No, we don't offer virtual classes yet.

And I'll tell you why. We're working on it, but we did have a lot of problems with the pandemic, with Zoom freezing up and technical difficulties and we just really want to make sure we have that one-on-one when it's a lot of times the families come in for the very first time, we want to make sure that that -- that nothing goes wrong [laughs].

We want to embrace them and make sure that they have a very, very wonderful experience.

Thank you.

The next slide is community outreach. One of our goals at our agency is to educate the community about Deaf life. That's very, very important to us.

We do everything from classroom presentations, to business lunch and learns, and with our projects, Sign the City, we can bring work business lunch and teach your staff basic ASL for free.

Can you go back to that one? I'm sorry -- oh, no, I'm sorry, next slide, please. Thank you.

I want to elaborate a little bit on that lunch and learn presentation. It's something that we feel is very important to our community. And here's why.

Because what it's doing, it's serving the Deaf community at large. It's really a way that we can go out into the community and educate others, to be able to understand how important communication, equal communication access is for all.

Some of the very satisfied clients that we've had are working with Cape Coral Emergency Operations, fire department, north Ft. Myers fire department, Lee County, home healthcare agencies, doctors' offices, and many, many more.

We go into these businesses and we will provide lunch for them, bring ASL teachers, and provide training for their -- for their staff.

We feel that it's very, very important to get those pertinent words to that particular business. They would be able to learn during those presentations.

Another service that we offer is for the hard of hearing. We offer an amplified telephone program for hard-of-hearing residents. We offer these free phones that are amplified to 50 decibels and what that means is your landline at home or your cell phone at home, typically those are about 25 decibels, so when you come into our agency and test out a phone, it really does make a difference.

We have people coming in that share their stories with us, that they are distraught because they're unable to make phone calls and hear their pharmacist to be able to order their medication.

We have seniors that have age-related hearing impairments, where they're not able to hear their grandchildren or hear their families anymore.

And when we're able to sit down and offer these phones and give them that care and compassionate training one-on-one, we can send them home and just plug it in and it works. We really made a difference in their life.

It even has bluetooth option. Not everything has to be landline. The bluetooth option just connects right with their cell phone.

Again, I spoke about our compassionate and caring staff that help these hard-of-hearing individuals.

And once again, to really drive the point home, the phones are completely free. It's an indefinite loan program that's put out through Florida Telecommunications Relay, and it's a wonderful program.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: So the next one after that, too?

>> AMY TURNER: Yeah, thank you.

The main office of FTRI, Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc., is located in Tallahassee. However, it's not a state agency. It contracts with over 24 non-profit centers like ours across Florida to deliver services. We're called a regional distribution center.

So, for example, we would be one Center for Independent Living would be another one --

>> VOICE: Has left the conference.

>> AMY TURNER: -- and the best thing to do is to reach out. If you know somebody that's hard of hearing, to find a location that's best for you that's close to your home to get that one-on-one service.

As I said, there's 24 located around the state of Florida and it's very helpful.

How much does it cost? Again, the program is completely free. The phones are offered on loan. You do need to qualify. You need to have a definite hearing diagnosis, and the program comes from a landline, where they collect that fund every month on taxes that are going -- that are being pooled from those landlines. They have a surcharge. Sometimes you'll see that if you have a landline and they'll be able to -- that's where they get the funds from.

Again, here is the eligibility. Somebody has to be a Florida resident, they need to be a permanent resident. And they'll need to provide a -- their -- they'll need to have a proven hearing loss or speech disability that's certified by a medical specialist. And there's a list of the different specialists that would qualify. Your local audiologist, maybe a speech pathologist or a physician.

Again, in summary, we want to thank you very much. We want to thank the Florida Commission today for allowing us to be a part of this. We're very grateful to be able to share our programs and services that are offered here in the local Southwest Florida area.

And to summarize, the things that we offer: We offer ASL classes, interpreting service, we offer Deaf mentoring, independent living skills, family education, and big D Deaf culture.

We also offer a visual communication center. So anyone can come in from the general public and we have a center there where they can come in and use our phones to be able to communicate with their families, to use our video phones for free.

They can use them in private and that's something we're very proud of to offer.

We offer employment assistance, one-on-one coaching, job coaching, immigration and driving test classes. We offer a peer-led and peer-support group.

We also provide advocacy, to help with -- whether an ADA law comes into play.

We offer the free amplified phone program. And we also offer adapted equipment, sales and training.

Sometimes hard-of-hearing individuals come in and they would like items to help them with their hearing, more than just a phone.

So we offer, not hearing aids, which can cost upwards of \$5,000, but we're able to offer hearing amplifiers at no cost at all, so they can come in and find some of those adaptive aids that will help them.

What I would like to do is turn this over to Lisa Myhand, our Deaf mentor, to be able to share her stories and to share additional information about our agency.

I don't know if you had any questions for me first? But let me know how you guys want to proceed.

>> SEAN ISAAC: There doesn't seem to be any questions, so...

>> AMY TURNER: Okay. Lisa, do you want to jump in?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you.

>> LISA MYHAND: Where would you like me to stand? Do you want me to come

over here? I'll come here, yeah.

Okay. They can see me now. Okay. Hello, my name is Lisa Myhand and thank you for having me here today.

Can you see me clear? Everyone can see me clear? Okay.

So I just want to thank everyone. As Amy had said, I'll just be very brief. The first thing is -- did I disappear?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: No, you're there.

>> LISA MYHAND: Well, just my experience, I've worked with the Deaf and hard-of-hearing for almost 20 years and now there's been so many changes. There's been so much exposure to the Deaf community and it's just wonderful.

And, you know, for hearing businesses, for the hearing community, our agency is reaching out to them and they're doing wonderful work to support children, to support Deaf and hard-of-hearing access, and also going to these luncheons and doing outreach like that has just been wonderful.

Teaching people about things. And to be honest with you, the reason why my work is, I don't want to forget the children. Because they grow up and there are a lot of people who... oh, a lot of people who think that they'll become hearing. That breaks my heart.

And they have that expectation in them. And that's really what I do.

Because I'm Deaf, I grew up Deaf, and that's my work.

You can't change me to become hearing. And this word "normal" causes confusion.

But as I'm teaching them, teaching some sign language, encouraging the parents to communicate with them, to have access to them, and also going to school, they have interpreters, but when they come home, how do they communicate with their parents?

Everything they're out and just everyday communication with their parents. Like, good morning. So I'm encouraging the parents to learn those types of things so that they can have a relationship with each other and hang out together.

And that is my passion. To continue to work with the Deaf community and the hearing community, to bring them together. And that is my goal.

Because we have to.

That's where I stand! Thank you very much. Thank you very much for having me! And presenting today.

[Applause].

>> LISA MYHAND: Did you have any questions?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Can you share maybe a story that is just an example of how your work has impacted families or communities? Maybe a case study, you don't mind sharing?

>> LISA MYHAND: So recently I talked about what Amy had mentioned about that story, and this person had come over from Haiti and I was thinking he had been here six or seven years, and so his experience was learning ASL. He had very limited language coming here.

So he had a hard time communicating.

So, with me, I had to really impact him and learn the way he communicates. And I noticed that I could give him some of the languages, like where he lived in the county. No, no, not the same as it was in your country, but how it is here. How some of the laws

are. Some of the different things that he didn't even think about because he was here in the United States.

And he kept coming. And I kept teaching him. And he learned.

And just how to get an application for housing. Just simple things that we take for granted.

And he just got a job. He's now employed!

And it was last year -- no, it was two years ago, he works now for FedEx and now he's transferred to Amazon and he loves it!

And he came to me, and I said how's your job doing? And he said oh, it's just wonderful! I'm still learning. And I said oh, be patient with yourself. You're always going to be learning but you're going to be successful. I believe in you! Trust me!

And, of course he's comfortable coming to me for help and things like that. We talk about paying bills and things like that and we also talk about, like, checks coming and I tell him, I'm showing this, but you've got to learn to be independent. You've got -- you can't depend on me all the time. I'm not always going to be there.

So, with that education and those things, he's starting to improve. But it's been a long journey. But he's been a long client of mine. But he's really improving.

It's been six years ago! So that's my story about that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Now, do you also work as a Deaf interpreter or CDI?

>> LISA MYHAND: Well, that's my goal. I'm glad you asked me that. My goal is to become a CDI, my goal is to become certified and I'm still working on it.

And I'm excited that RIT accepted my application to become a Deaf interpreter. So that's my goal is to become a CDI. So -- because they need more diverse representation. Did you have another question?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina, yes. I want to know what suggestion would you make to help parents, hearing parents, understand the importance of learning how to communicate with their Deaf children? I have so many families where the parents just don't do it.

>> AMY TURNER: May I answer that? Do you want to?

>> LISA MYHAND: Yes. I'm glad you asked that question. In my experience growing up, my family did not communicate with me much. It caused a lot of frustration. And then when I became an adult, I can see the same feeling. I remember that experience that I had. So I encourage the parents, come, sit with me, let's have a discussion. Do you see how they're having some emotional issues here? Do you understand why? And I'm able to explain it, they're having no communication, it's a visual language, they're hanging out with people everyday but they're visual, they're being left out, they're feeling isolated.

But because they're visual. But they will say, what about me? And the parents say just wait a minute, just hold on just a second! And then that communication is over. And that becomes a very traumatic experience for these children.

And then when the parents realize that that is what -- we don't want my child to have emotional problems, oh....

And then I tell them that was my experience, and so through my experience, I'm able to encourage them to communicate, to have a relationship with your child. To show them that you love them through communication. And then they'll be, in turn, that relationship

will build because of communication that you have.

And so it's very important that they learn the visual language of sign language.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe, do you have a question, Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: [On mute].

This is Debbe. I was wondering where you got your certification in peer mentoring?

>> INTERPRETER: This is the interpreter. Could you repeat that, please?

[Echo].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I said where did she get your certification in peer mentoring?

>> AMY TURNER: Can you hear me?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, I can hear you.

>> LISA MYHAND: Yes, I am a peer mentor for parents [echo] and that's what I do and I am certified in that.

[Echo].

>> LASHAY LEWIS: She needs to mute her phone when she's not talking.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I just want to let you know that HLAA offers certified peer mentoring from Gallaudet University. Karen Goldberg and me and several of us are certified Deaf peer mentoring. I just wanted to share that with you.

>> LISA MYHAND: Oh, that's wonderful! Thank you very much!

[Echo].

>> LISA MYHAND: Yes, that's what I was going to add to that. I was planning on going to Gallaudet and taking that peer mentorship [echo] the ASLPI.

And hopefully I'll pass it this summer. That's my plan, is to get all of these certifications.

[Echo].

>> LASHAY LEWIS: When she's not talking, she needs to mute.

[Echo].

>> VOICE: Debbe Hagner has left the conference.

>> LISA MYHAND: Oh, Cory has a question.

>> CORY PARKER: Lisa, that is just wonderful. Your story is inspiring. And I really want to say that people all over, when they meet you and you're teaching, it's a gift. And

the gift of ASL is just beautiful.

Really, many of us should have this connection and understanding -- well, we've all grown up in a hearing community, having that -- missing out on jokes, missing out on things, during just Thanksgiving and Christmas and people standing around talking around the table and just not understanding and we realize that there is a connection, it means -- it needs to be a meaningful conversation.

Those words, something could be just a small little communication and it would be something that is meaningful.

And we discount just something, but the communication is very important.

So, I -- your work is important and we appreciate that work, really. And thank you so much for sharing that!

>> LISA MYHAND: Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. This is Gina again. Question, do you have any association or affiliations in the Jacksonville area? Is there anything like you in Jacksonville? Do you have mentors and classes, etc.?

>> LISA MYHAND: That's a good question. I'm not sure. There is one, it's the Center for Independent Living and her name is Marguerite. She's in Jacksonville. And I have teamed with her.

And I'll tell you what, I'll give her a referral to you, okay?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I know her.

>> CORY PARKER: That's Monique Russell.

>> LISA MYHAND: Monique Russell. Do you have anymore questions for me?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Hi, this is Karen. Am I muted?

>> LASHAY LEWIS: I think so.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm so sorry about that. Hi, this is Karen. I keep doing that....

So, thank you both very much for your presentation. I have so many questions! You might want to pull up a chair!

I don't know if we heard the numbers of how many people you serve here in Southwest Florida. I think that would be important to know.

The other is the classes are fantastic. What's the attendance like? I mean, one of the pictures looked really great.

And then I have other questions about voc rehab. Go ahead.

>> AMY TURNER: Well, last year, we --

>> LISA MYHAND: I'm going to let Amy answer that. Go ahead.

>> AMY TURNER: Last year we served 29,455 clients, but that also, that's not

obviously not all 29,000 Deaf people, but we served that many people through community outreach, introducing them to our agency and the like.

So that's the number that I believe you asked, how many did we serve total, in total, 29,000.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: For the Deaf, hard of hearing --

>> AMY TURNER: Deaf, hard of hearing, everybody. Introducing, touching our agency with our agency, and being able to reach out to those people as well.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. And is your agency connected with voc rehab? I saw you do a lot with the... um... with the job work.

>> AMY TURNER: Yes, we do work with vocational rehab.

>> LISA MYHAND: Yes, for interpreting, I think.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, for interpreting. What about for transitional-aged youth? Do you have any programs for transitional age?

>> AMY TURNER: We're working towards that. We're actually right in the process of expanding. We are awaiting word on a very large grant that will more than double our budget and all of those programs are on the way.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. And then the other question. I'm a psychiatrist. And I work with Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. Where do you send the folks here in Southwest Florida? Like, what mental health resources are specific for Deaf and hard of hearing?

>> AMY TURNER: We work very closely with United Way, of which we're a partner agency. And when we have mental health issues, we work very closely with them. So... I couldn't answer that specific question right this moment, but those are the -- that's where we start. We always start with United Way.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I think you guys are doing an amazing service here in Southwest Florida.

One of the questions, um, regarding certified peer mentoring, you had mentioned some of your certifications in peer mentoring was, um, the ASLPI. I don't think that's the same program I went to, maybe Debbe can correct me, but I did a two-year program.

>> LISA MYHAND: No, those are separate.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> LISA MYHAND: Yeah, they're not together. You're speaking of the ASL -- it's the proficiency interview.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> LISA MYHAND: And that is for signing and the -- it's a scale of your proficiency.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, I know what you mean now. Now I understand. But I was just wondering if you were aware of the Gallaudet Peer Mentoring Program? That's a different one where you take a two-year program with Gallaudet University --

>> LISA MYHAND: Oh, yes, I've heard of that.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It's wonderful!

>> LISA MYHAND: And as soon as I do the ASL PI, I will definitely get involved in that program. Thank you.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina again. First of all, you guys did a wonderful job on your presentation! You overcame the technical difficulties and got through it like champs!

My suggestion would be, if -- I don't know when we'll be back in Ft. Myers, but what would be great, if you all had some of your clients come, you know, to see what we do, as well as to share what you guys do, that would just make such a wonderful experience --

>> LISA MYHAND: Yes.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: -- because there's just so limited opportunities for the Deaf and hard of hearing to show that they have, you know, services that improve their lives. I think that would be great.

I mean, I agree with everybody here, you all are -- what you're doing is wonderful!

And I love what Lisa's doing in terms of bringing -- improving people's lives, simply by learning how to communicate. That is so awesome!

So, if we come back, when we come back to Ft. Myers, when we come back to Ft. Myers...

[Laughter].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Perhaps you guys could get on the schedule again and bring some of your clients and let us kind of hear from them as to, you know, how their lives have so greatly improved. Especially the parents.

I'm stuck on parents because I've had so many Deaf friends whose parents never talked to them and that would just, you know...

>> AMY TURNER: We would be very happy to do that. We would be very happy to have you guys come to our agency on your down time as well.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Can we do a tour?

>> AMY TURNER: Absolutely.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: There you go.

>> AMY TURNER: One of the things I want to address and that is very important because you're bringing up with children, you know, we have been working with the school district and we have made leaps and bounds over the last eight months and making a very

strong partnership with the school district, and what we are just about to solidify is a partnership in which we have a seat at the table of IEPs. We're not there yet, but it's the very next step. And I'm not talking about us providing the interpreting services, I'm talking about having a seat at the table, as an advocate for a student.

So, we will be helping those parents.

And the question was how to get parents to make sure to help them understand how important it is for ASL.

So, the school is also on board with that same thought. So when we have -- when we build this partnership between Lisa, our mentor, the parents, the school, the team, the teachers, and the student, it's going to be communication access and success.

So I wanted to make sure you knew that was something that we're building as well.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. That sounds amazing. I can't tell you --

>> VOICE: Mary Hodges has joined the conference.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I can't tell you how many calls we get at the Department of Health asking about IEP plans.

How did you all establish that relationship with the school district? How long has it taken you all to get this relationship going? And what does that look like? Is that an interagency memorandum of understanding or is it --

>> AMY TURNER: I can tell you how it started. It started with a conversation and it started with a closed door. Sitting across the room from someone saying tell me what you need from us. It started out with having a conversation, letting them know that I, we, need to be a good listener. So you start, tell us what you need.

And that was how -- that was what opened the door. That was the moment when our school district was able to just gush. Here's what we need.

And -- and that's how the partnership started.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you.

>> AMY TURNER: It wasn't formal, it wasn't a formal contract. It was a conversation. And that's what I mean. It was just simply talking.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I'm so happy to hear that. Also, I really would like to suggest maybe contacting the F -- the Florida Department of Education -- Florida Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. In addition, that would be researching and training. In their center, they do a lot of training and it's called the RMTC.

>> AMY TURNER: Yes, that was --

>> CORY PARKER: It's teachers Education For the Deaf --

>> AMY TURNER: Yes, that was something that the school district actually did share with us and walked us through how to use their site and to get those resources that we need.

It was a fabulous conversation! But I'm still writing it down anyway. I really appreciate, I really appreciate that.

>> CORY PARKER: Just very helpful resources that will really reinforce what you're already doing in terms of advocacy and other things, but at the same time, if you're able to provide a pool of resources, then through that, it will always lead to other areas where you can be of help or assistance, and so yes, what you're doing already is so great!

Just the part that you're making the effort to be a part of it is so critical! Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I would just add to the praise and hallelujah for your efforts and skills.

One last question that we need to make time for public comments. How are you getting your funding? Because one of the problems that many Deaf Service Centers in the past are struggling with funding.

How are you succeeding with funding?

>> AMY TURNER: That's a great question. Almost, not quite half of our funding comes from interpreter services. We also have funding from sign language classes. We receive our funding from Lee County, Partnering For Results Program, we receive funding from the city of Cape Coral, we receive a grant that funds our program -- that funds our salaries -- portions of our salaries. We receive a grant from the United Way. And we also receive money from private donors, contributions, fundraisers.

We do not receive money from any government contracts that flow down through any type of Department of Education. That's something that we are diligently working on, trying to find out why not?!

I'm being very honest, so, letting you know.

That's how we --

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay, this is Gina, last question, last question!

Lisa, I just wanted to -- I don't know if this is in your wheelhouse, but if you can help the parents to understand, their children are not their interpreters. That they should not put that pressure on their children to explain life's views.

>> LISA MYHAND: Oh, absolutely.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Perfect. That's all I want to hear.

>> LISA MYHAND: I do, do not use your hearing children to interpret for you. Yes, that is another conversation that I have with them, because conversational signing and interpreting are two completely different skillsets. You're welcome.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I think that really speaks to the --

[Talking over one another].

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. And thank you for even mentioning that, Gina. Thank you. Thank you for saying that. I tell all of my adult Deaf friends that pull their children in and say what did that person say? Asking them to interpret. I've told them not to use their children as interpreters! None of that!

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. I just want to make one comment to that. I think we really have to do a good job at educating physicians, medical professionals, therapists -- maybe not so much the therapists are an issue -- but to not use the children

also as interpreters.

Um... I had one of my adult Deaf friends who took her hearing child to the pediatrician, the pediatrician asked her to tell mommy what you have, what your medical condition is [laughs]. It was pretty horrible experience!

And this is somebody who is --

>> LISA MYHAND: That's unacceptable.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Unacceptable. This is somebody who is a mental health counselor, a Deaf woman who is a mental health counselor, and she lost it. It was an urgent appointment and the interpreter cancelled, they didn't have VRI, and then you're going to tell me to have my child -- you're going to have my child tell me what's going on? Yeah... it was just a powerful -- as a physician, I always think about that all the time.

>> LISA MYHAND: That's right.

[Applause].

>> LISA MYHAND: Thank you so much.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sally Pimental, are they still supporting the center?

>> AMY TURNER: Unfortunately Sally Pimental who our center is named after, she passed away a few years ago. And we do still see Al, but as far as names of donors, that would be unethical for us to divulge that financial situation.

But we do still see Mr. Pimental. We saw him a few weeks ago, he came by and said hi and we love him dearly and we're thankful for his support

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Many, many, many, many years ago, I worked with Al at Gallaudet University and now he's done here.

>> LISA MYHAND: Yes!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Anymore questions?

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Thank you, thank you so much. We really appreciate the presentation and the wealth of information.

[Applause].

>> LISA MYHAND: Thank you for having us!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The wealth of information you provided. Very impressive.

>> AMY TURNER: Thank you for having us. Thank you!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Now it's time for public comment. We can use this time, Amy and Lisa, you can use this time to make public -- are we...? We have a break, but we

have a... we don't have a break, no, it's not break time yet -- from the comments, you can use this time to discuss what are the heaviest issues that you're still looking for solutions for.

And Rick, you wanted to make public comments, you're welcome to. Lisa and Amy --

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, I have no comment, someone else can go.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Public comment? Public comment? Do you want to add anything more during public comment if there's an issue that you want us to inform the Governor about and the Legislature about?

Well, you did mention one thing. The need for government support, instead of going around begging from a lot of different sources and trying to earn money. You mentioned that in some way to have government support for your program, so that's one. Okay.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Wait, wait.

>> AMY TURNER: Excuse me.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Wait, excuse me. This is Gina. Rick, you put your comments in the chat earlier but they're gone now. So... oh, you put it on the paper? Okay, I didn't want to miss that.

>> AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's on the paper. Thank you.

>> LISA MYHAND: This is Lisa. I would like to share a concern that I've seen is the lack of licensed and certified sign language interpreters. And another intention or goal, it's really difficult to match the client or the consumers with the interpreter.

They have to have the right skills and it's not a one-size-fits all

>> VOICE: Has joined the conference.

>> LISA MYHAND: I would like to see more certified interpreters.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I'm very aware of the interpreter qualifications and state certifications and state licensing, but there's also a separate issue of putting the right interpreter with the client.

>> LISA MYHAND: Exactly.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Someone could be certified and not the right fit for the client, that's two issues but we're very aware.

>> LISA MYHAND: Thank you.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. FRID is revisiting, they're revisiting the issue of licensure in Florida. Right now, nothing is required, you know, for interpreters.

And there's a struggle, because there's opposition from everybody. So they're trying to revisit it now and get it back on the books.

So, just keep praying.

>> LISA MYHAND: I'll keep my fingers crossed.  
God, if you could pull through... we're working on it! Give us a blessing!

[Laughter].

>> AMY TURNER: I would like to make a comment, but I'm not sure where -- should I just sit down? One of the things that I would like the Council to take back -- oh, sorry, thank you.

One of the things --

>> LASHAY LEWIS: Press the red button.

>> AMY TURNER: The whole time?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: No, just push it.

>> AMY TURNER: One of the things that is a deep concern of our agency that we hear over and over and over again is the provision of an interpreter, whether it's a school, a testing appointment, whether it's at a doctor's office, whether it's at a business, whether it's at any type of activity that is, you know, when you go about your everyday life.

What we'd like to see is funding provided for individuals with additional disabilities.

So, let me give you an example. We have a client who is Deaf and also blind. We referred him to a local center for the blind. They wouldn't cover the interpreter, they would only cover the first appointment.

They were a small non-profit agency. We had it checked out through their Legal and found that due to the size of the agency and the number of employees and the unfeasibility business-wise, they wouldn't be able to provide the interpreter for anything but the first appointment.

And that more than broke our heart, but it left us with a dilemma of what do we do?

So, when there are people that have multiple disabilities, finding funding for that category, finding funding for interpreters for multiple disabilities, as well as low to moderate income would be extremely helpful.

I don't know what agency it would flow down through, but agencies like ours would certainly be more than willing to apply for this funding, provide reports, reporting, monthly reporting of our progress that we're working with these individuals.

But it all keeps coming back to who's going to pay for the interpreter?

And that's something that we sure could use some help on, with those particular categories. Individuals with multiple disabilities and individuals with low and moderate income. And children.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. This is one of the things I'm always bringing up is people understand about being in compliance with ADA and they think of it in terms of build something once and you're done, and they don't think about that. You have to provide the ongoing services, so they don't have a budget item line for interpreters for ongoing services, and that's been one of the things that businesses and agencies and the Government needs to learn to include that as a budget item and not cry poor.

And to me, that's a way to solve that problem, as they're approaching an item, a line item, to plan for that, for providing the services instead of scrambling around looking for money or whatever.

>> AMY TURNER: That's correct. It's a necessity. You cannot train for those programs without an interpreter. It is a necessity. And they must have it. So I agree with you.

Thank you.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you so much!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Great job! Really, great job, thank you!

[Applause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: "We'll be back!"

>> LISA MYHAND: I'm looking forward to it.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. It's not break time yet; sorry. It's on the schedule at 3:00 o'clock.

Okay. This is public comment time. Ricky McClain, who was a visitor this morning, his only comment was related to updating the website information. And Debbe is aware of that.

And we do need to be more aggressive on really fixing the website more and changing things, so... hopefully Debbe will get on it, probably after this summer.

And Lisa Myhand, she mentioned the need for certified interpreters. And that's an ongoing problem.

So those are two from today that were here.

Is anybody on Zoom or conference call that wants to make a public comment? Is there anybody out there?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cecil, Cecil, are you on, Cecil?

Do you have anything you want to share for public comment? Or are you just visiting? Or do you miss us?

[Laughter].

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Last, on April 16, the local Deaf Club in my area, Broward County Association of the Deaf hosted a mini expo. So I took the opportunity to go there and have a table, a free table, to collect public comments from the people visiting, and also from the Club leader too.

So I was able to collect 16 of them and I'm going to read them and put them in the record, so that we have more public comments to share, okay.

This one, this first one is from Carrie Caslo, she lives in Miami. And she is hard of hearing. And her complaint was that hearing aids are so eeeee-expensive!

The specialist that she went to happened to not be a good one, and had difficulty

adjusting her hearing aid to make it work.

And, of course, masks were a terrible time and it completely blocks lip reading.

This one is from Katherine and Barbara Barlick, they're from Coral Gables.

It's a little bit different comment; talking about video relay services and how the different video relay services are very competitive.

They have one person from one company come and he installed a device, an additional device, additional to what they had already, and without their knowledge, transferred their phone number to that new device instead of giving them a new separate phone number.

And apparently, this particular installer had a history of doing things like that and other similar actions.

And several people called FCC and called the VRS company, I guess, and that person was fired.

So that was interesting. It was a different kind of comment we had not heard things like that about VRS companies.

This one is from Susan Frajman, and she lives in Boynton Beach. She, herself, is Deaf and has CP. I think -- I'm not sure how old she is; probably in her 50's, maybe. 40's, 50's? I don't know.

But she lives with her elderly father, who I think is around 95, age 95 or something like that, and she's having a really difficult time dealing with her elderly father.

And, you know, she's trying to take care of herself and having CP and having her own health challenges, and she's having a hard time getting help, for herself and for her father, and communication access, she's trying to, you know, get in contact with different agencies and things like that and she's having a really hard time with that.

This one is from Elizabeth Berger, and she lives in I think Fort Lauderdale. Going to the doctor has been difficult. Sometimes she gets an interpreter, sometimes she writes notes back and forth.

And with the mask wearing, just made everything impossible.

And that thing with the medical doctor, the same thing happens at work too.

Bill Matthews, Matthews, lives in Boynton Beach, and the hearing aids are VERY expensive and objects that the insurance does not cover them. And if the insurance covers them, not the full cost.

Diana Lockhart, Boynton Beach.

When she goes to the medical place and they push VRI, there's a lot using VRI, preferred over a live person, and what makes it difficult for her to use VRI, that she also had low vision problems and it was harder to see the screen than to see a live person.

Michael Lockhart, her husband, from Boynton Beach also.

I'm trying to read his handwriting....

Okay. He said it seemed to be inconsistent among different hospitals, parts of the hospital, between different hospitals and within the hospital, there's different parts, some parts will provide interpreters, other parts won't provide interpreters.

And what really bothered him, that really critical area of getting an interpreter was when somebody was in ICU and you really need that information. They need certified interpreters.

And then they go to another part of the hospital is they don't provide interpreters and it's not consistent to where the hospital was providing an interpreter.

Okay. Darlene Watson, she lives in Miami, I have to read her handwriting again

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. She is a social worker that has worked for, like, 40

years in the Miami School System, so she has seen everything! She just retired, and the one thing that really still bothers her is that she has a lot of Deaf and hard-of-hearing students that graduate either college or a tech program and they need to take a test to become certified, either as a teacher or certified as a plumber or a hairdresser or whatever it is, and they have a very hard time passing the certification or licensing, whatever, some kind of professional test.

And she would like to see something done to make it more flexible or more accessible, so that more Deaf and hard-of-hearing people can pass the tests, that would lead to a good job.

Okay. Lewis Solano, he lives in Doral. He worked for the post office for 35 years. And in all those areas, they rarely provide interpreters, at meetings, trainings, safety. Sometimes they were giving written materials that were not easy to understand, because it was kind of like a government language kind of thing.

And I can add to that, I have many friends who used to work for the post office and several of them would end up being injured because they did not get the safety training and things like that.

A couple last names is Bowman, they live in Oakland Park, near Fort Lauderdale.

Again, doctors, some doctors you go to, they will provide interpreters, other doctors you go to, they refuse to provide interpreters. In some hospitals you go to, they provide interpreters; in other hospitals you go to, they force VRI. And VRI, there are too many technical problems.

Cynthia Jacobs, she lives in Lake Worth. When she was in the hospital, before surgery, VRI happened to work okay, it was fine. After surgery, VRI did not work at all. It was very frustrating.

Again, VRI doesn't always work.

Al okay, yeah, Al Shore. He lives in Plantation. He had problems communicating with a police officer. He wanted to have something to show that he's Deaf, he needs an interpreter, to show officers while driving or at home.

I told him already that there are cards available, that he could go on the internet and look for it and print it out.

And then we had samples of those cards at a previous meeting.

Aurora Solomon, Boynton Beach. The interpreters, the quality of interpreters varies quite a bit. They need to be improved so that they can be more effective and clear and appropriate signing.

And that's it.

I need water!

[Laughter].

>> GLENN ASHTON: So as you can see, with all the public comments, it's pretty much the same thing that we've heard over the years. Except the new one really, the new one is the VRI company competition. And one of their installers are... I can't think of -- kosher, whatever, I can't think of the right word.

Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: Can the interpreter see me clearly? I'll just move this.

This is a newbie question again, a new question, a new-person question. You said you were receiving the public comments. What do you do with that? Now, you're reading them. What do you say? Mr. Fix It Hat, what do you do? You're ready to, like, jump in?!

But, what are you learning?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: With our agenda, what we do, we listen to all the public comments and then Friday morning --

>> VOICE: Has left the conference.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Friday morning we respond to the public comments. If the person was live here, we would respond right away, with suggestions or ideas or awareness of the issues.

And then tomorrow morning, we discuss the public comments, you know, what can we do?

And then we use those public comments for writing out the biennial report and then a new one we're adding for writing the letter too, so that's how we handle it.

>> CORY PARKER: I see. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina, I'm sorry, I'm not sure, I was going to try to call in while I'm on the road tomorrow, but just in case, the public comment that you made about the lady who wanted help on her job, because she couldn't pass the test, you read a comment about it was difficult to pass the test. And she was asking for, like, some kind of adjustments?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. It was a social worker that worked with many people and there's several people who graduated college, test, they have to pass a state test.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah, well, what I wanted to share, years ago the Government would allow the person to have two probationary periods if they couldn't pass the test and they could keep their job. And many, many, many Deaf worked for the post office because of that.

And then a Deaf person sued because why do I have to have two probationary periods? And we tried to explain, because you didn't pass the test. So that's the conflict. That's why so many companies now, they don't adjust for the test. So that's the challenge that that person's going to have.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's for teaching in public schools. You can get hired for a degree and maybe experience, but you have up to three years to pass the state teacher certification test in a certain area and many of them end up leaving at the end of three years and the schools end up looking for teachers.

And most of these Deaf teachers tend to be either Deaf education or teaching ASL.

And every three years, they have to start looking again, because either they give up, they don't want to try to take the test, or they just can't pass the test.

And there was a time, many years ago, FSDB kind of had a leeway in being able to keep the Deaf, teachers of the Deaf without the state teacher certification. They kind of went around it.

And then they stopped that and all of their teachers had to pass the test.

And I was involved with that effort, trying to -- trying to teach them whatever subject they

needed to know to pass and pass the test.

I mean, they did a lot of hands-on things to help the Deaf people pass their tests.

Most of them were able to, because they were already experienced teachers, but some just couldn't.

And, so, it gets harder to have Deaf people working with Deaf people because of the laws of the testing.

And that the testing applies also to schools, high school, when they graduate, they have to pass the test to get a real diploma.

So, they start early with the difficulties in passing the test. Any test.

Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. Along similar lines, you see within VR, you have these CRC, Certified Rehabilitation Certificate, which is a similar situation in which you see some Deaf counselors who struggle with language. Because, you know, the jargon of the CRC has changed over the years.

And so after the most recent conference of SERID, they began -- I began studying for my own edification.

But what we need is college graduate-level programs to train rehabilitation counselors in what's required in order to pass the CRC before they graduate.

And that would help greatly.

Something like a CRC prep program, to be folded into their own existing educational curriculum.

So that would parallel what we're talking about in terms of a Deaf educator's preparation program.

So it goes hand-in-hand with what you're talking about. The linguistic complexity is difficult to overcome. Not just when it comes to certification, but even simple things, like driver's ed. There's such specialized vocabulary and it would be nice to really get a handle on helping people to understand the dynamics that go into a Deaf person or Deaf people for whom English is not their first language and helping them to understand the complexities of that.

So I hear where you're coming from

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Is CRC a federal test or a state test?

>> CORY PARKER: It's neither of those, it's just a professional certification. Similar to an interpreter certification. What do they call it... it's not the CPC... ours is just called Certified Rehabilitation Certificate.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It's national?

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, it is a national certification.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That will make it a little bit easier because you can study for it, no matter where you were, but a teacher of the Deaf or an ASL teacher is a state level, every one is different.

>> CORY PARKER: Oh, yeah, I'm familiar. There are several states that have incredibly complicated tests. And people will go where it's easier, pass it there.

But in some cases, I would say, like, I'm thinking of a specific example in Illinois, if you get your certification there and move to Florida, you may not understand the intricacies of

the difference between those two states.

So, yeah...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary?

>> MARY HODGES: Hi, Glenna.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, do you have anything you would like to share? A comment on what you've heard so far?

>> MARY HODGES: Well, I was looking at all of the comments that you were providing and I was thinking about the discussion we had this morning about letters and templates and everything, and I feel like we're responsive to comments when they come in from the public, but I'm wondering if we need to resume the discussion we had one time before about how we bring these issues more to the public, and especially entities that, you know, that are in a position of regulating and making policies and, um... and things like that.

I think that that could be part of the advocacy work that we do, is being able to share the kinds of concerns that come before the Council.

And I think that when we get a whole list like this, without, um, disclosing, you know, people's names and things like that, but here are some of the issues that are raised. By people who have, um... who have run into various, you know -- these are the various issues.

So, I just wanted to see if we could talk again about how we, um, respond to public comments.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you, Mary.

At 3:30, we're going to go back to working on the letter and the report, so that will be included, what we learned today.

Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I was going to say, does Glenna or Sean, do you all have the list of what the council members picked what letter they wanted to write? Someone picked that, I remember they picked that and I think that would be awesome, to work on that person's letter. If you have the list?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cecil, are you on? Cecil? Is Cecil on the phone or on chat? Okay. You're on Zoom. Hi! Do you have any comments you would like to make?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cecil is signing. Hold on, Cecil.

>> INTERPRETER: We need a microphone.

>> INTERPRETER: It's coming. No, we don't hear you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cecil, Cecil, wait, wait, time out, time out, time out, time out,

you need to start over again.

Okay, okay, are you ready? Okay. Start again. Go ahead.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Okay. Everyone can see me now? Can the interpreters see me?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, yes.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Fantastic! Good afternoon, everyone. Nice to see you all again. As you know, I'm working for the Florida Telecommunications Relay, Incorporated, I've done so since November, and basically I wanted to take an opportunity to speak to Glenna, as well as Sean, about an idea that was presented to the group.

Perhaps for your next meeting, which I believe is in August, you could discuss the Telecommunications Access Act, the TASA, from 1991. This is what enables free equipment to be provided to the Deaf, Deaf and hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind community, those who are eligible.

And what I would like to know is if you had any thoughts about trying to educate legislators, as well as others, about the need to update this law.

We have 30-year-old laws on the books. And in that time, technology has changed greatly, from when back in the day, TTYs were first introduced to the world and that was the height of technology.

Since then, they have all but disappeared.

So, I wanted to pass along the importance of pushing for this type of change. Perhaps not in the next year or two, but some movement needs to be made.

So I wanted to perhaps take the time to present to the Council at your next meeting in August, if that would be acceptable.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Thank you, Cecil. Yes, we are very aware of that issue. We need to change the council statute, the council bylaws, and we need to change the TASA and it's on our list of things to do, to write letters and to include that discussion when we visit the Legislature in February, yes.

Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina, from Mary. Mary made a comment that she can make a referral to AAA for the caregiver of the 95-year-old father.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay, okay. Can she e-mail me the information?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Who?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Mary.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mary says that she can make a referral, she had information for the elderly father. I think that's the area agency -- the Air Agency on Aging.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: To find the local information, is she allowed to e-mail me information or does she have to send it to you and you send it to me?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. She probably needs to send it to me, if it's some type of business you're conducting.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Excuse me, this is Gina, from Mary. Mary said can you please send her the information on that comment? Can you send it to her and she'll take it.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay. I can send it to Sean and then Sean will share it with Mary.

Okay. Okay, thank you, Mary. Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. In my previous job, I remember doing some investigation on the Council on Aging. And when you look county-by-county, you have people who live in specific areas. And if you look at the Department of Aging website, you can find your local jurisdiction.

And so perhaps this is information that can be passed along, because sometimes there is a lack of information.

I do remember when I worked for the Helen Keller National Center, I was promoting a program that provided free equipment to be distributed to people with low vision, who are also hard of hearing.

So, while looking through this Agency on Aging, it was very difficult to find any way of actually truly connecting with anyone. And it's frustrating.

I hate to send someone resources. And when this person really needs help, knowing that they're just going to run into a brick wall.

So, I think we can take a moment to check into these resources first before passing them along. I think that would become a good standard of practice.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think that woman, she's the one that lived in my area; I'll try to find the information and speak with her.

Okay. Speaking about aging, I took the initiative and -- to do this -- the Florida Conference on Aging is August 22-24, and me and Debbe applied to provide a workshop to explain about including serving the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community within the aging group.

And so I sent the workshop proposal and described, you know, that we have a lot of services for senior citizens and elderly population, but part of that, we have a lot of Deaf signers who move to Florida too, and the point was all of those services that the agency should provide equal communication access.

So that's basically what the workshop was about.

Well, they turned us down for the workshop. And they said because their conference is a very large conference and they have, like, eight workshops that happens at the same time, and they felt this was a very important issue, and they asked, he said that we provide a webinar focused only on the Deaf and hard-of-hearing so that people can really focus on learning about serving.

So, we said okay. What about after August? So hopefully that will happen in the fall, that we will actually provide a webinar and it will be focused on that just one topic.

>> CORY PARKER: That sounds absolutely wonderful!

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It is now 2:51. We have a break at 3:00 o'clock. I would suggest we go ahead and take a break, mainly because I did so much talking! Ahhh!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And at 3:15-3:30, we are going to have elections of Chair and Vice Chair. I want you to know that I will not serve as Chair. I am getting involved in other organizations and I don't want to do the term for a third time!

[Laughter].

>> CORY PARKER: Okay, enough said!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hopefully someone else is interested!

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. Does it work the same way as the appointments? That you continue in that role until such time...

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, let's... we have 15 minutes to think about it.

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: See if anybody else is interested in Chair or Vice Chair. Okay. Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Sorry to delay our break, but that was a joke, correct?

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yes and no.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I mean...

>> SEAN ISAAC: I think we need to provide clarity, since we're on the record here. The Vice Chair and Chair are selected by the Council.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And if there is no selection, does the standing Chair and Vice Chair stay? What do the bylaws say about that?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Let's check the bylaws!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Okay. Break time now, please.

[Break].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We're finished with the break, it's now time for election of the Chair and Vice Chair.

First I want to verify, Debbe, are you interested in continuing as Vice Chair? Or would you not want to? Debbe?

[No response].

>> LISA (CART CAPTIONER): Debbe on chat says she had to leave for another meeting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay. I happen to know that Debbe was not interested in continuing as Vice Chair. I don't know if that's okay for me to share that.

So... does anybody have a nomination for Chair?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Is she interested in being Chair? Maybe she doesn't want Vice Chair, but she wants to be Chair?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: No? Okay [laughs].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Do I have a nomination for Vice Chair or Chair?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I... hmm... fine! I will continue as Chair, provided that Cory is elected as Vice Chair.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Oh, wow!

>> CORY PARKER: I second, yes, I'll do it, and I am willing to do it.

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. We need -- okay, I self-nominate myself as the Chair and I nominate Cory as Vice Chair.

We need to have a vote.

>> CORY PARKER: Do we need to wait for Karen?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, she went to the bathroom.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: She's supposed to do that on break! Oh, sorry.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We need to have the quorum, because I don't think we have anybody on the phone.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: No one's in chat.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That means we only have four voting then? We need five to vote.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: So, this is Sean, thank you. Perhaps until we get Karen back, perhaps you could discuss a little bit about the duties of the Chair and Vice Chair and what those positions are doing?

>> CORY PARKER: What did I walk into?!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Like I said before, I did the biennial report twice and I really don't want to do it the third time.

Cory has graciously said he would work on the report and he actually had things -- he had more experience in doing that report than me, so it's great!

So....

The Chair basically responsibilities is working with the -- I know you have a formal title, whatever the title is, that office person -- in setting up the meeting, putting together the agenda, reaching out to presenters based on ideas of the Council.

And then that person does the same thing... and the office person is responsible for responding to anything from the public, requesting information or in whatever way they contact, and then he makes referrals, using resources unless they have responded to that and anything he doesn't know, whichever council member has expertise in that area and he refers, he gets that information to share.

And the office person is responsible for --

>> VOICE: Mary Hodges has joined the conference.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, Mary's here, yay! We have a quorum. Hello, Mary, you're here for the vote, a quorum!

And the Vice Chair would help the Chair and the office person. The Chair and the Vice Chair and the office person are considered the Executive Committee, the three of us.

And they work on the logistics of things, not the council business, but just the logistics of things, except for the report, that's the one thing that we have to work together on.

What else...?

>> CORY PARKER: That's great.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I was just telling Mary --

>> CORY PARKER: If --

[Talking over one another].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: -- on the suggestions and nominations.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. On this Council, does anybody have anything more in describing the Chair and the Vice Chair's responsibilities? Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah, this is Gina. One thing, Cory, you'll find is the Chair and the Vice Chair, they have to control and run the meeting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, yeah.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: They're supposed to -- people are supposed to wait until they're acknowledged before they speak up. That doesn't often happen, and so the Vice Chair supports the Chair in making sure that the meeting is orderly.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And the Vice Chair has the laptop so that you see the chat and the... um... who sees the phone call?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: The phones?

>> CORY PARKER: Nothing Greek.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, the phone call is all, okay. And then the new thing is we continue with the Zoom.

[Pause].

>> CORY PARKER: I think Zoom is working good, comparison to the many mistakes that we had at the last meeting.

This seems to be much smoother. It seems to be good technology.

Yes, there's a few hiccups, a few problems with sharing the screen, but that's with anything. Any new type of platform. So those are minor mistakes -- or minor issues.

And once you stop the freezing and being able to hear other people through the Zoom, I think it's wonderful technology to use in comparison.

I'm thinking that this day, this day in age for this Council is to use technology. I think it's great.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you. Sean, that reminds me. Are you still going to continue to try to -- I'm giving up on my voice....

Are you going to continue to try using Microsoft Teams?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. The Department is still in the process of completing the contracts for next fiscal year starting July 1st, but I can tell you that we have chosen a vendor who has committed to using Zoom per the request of the Council.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, that's great. 'Cause really Zoom works better for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing. Zoom provides the interpreter and also the captioning, so that's great. Thank you.

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Sean, go ahead, Sean.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sometimes nature calls, we have to be understanding.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Perhaps we can spend some time reading through the Article 5 in the bylaws that talk about the two different positions? They're really brief, okay.

This is on page seven, which should be in your packet. Yes, the bylaws are in your packet.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: And this is Gina. Also, I brought Mary up to date, and she didn't realize she missed that first part, so I asked her if she had any nominations and let her know that Glenna will continue, as long as Cory's Vice.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Yes, the bylaws are in your meeting packet. It's on the back of the member list. I was double printing -- or double sided in printing, trying to save a little money here. But it should be in I think Section 2.

And once you find the bylaws on page, what is it, seven? It's Section 2 on page seven, powers and duties, and it says the officers shall have the following responsibilities and duties, the Chair, it says shall serve as the presiding officer at all Council functions and activities, unless otherwise delegated to another council member.

The Chair is responsible for the content of the council meeting agenda. The Chair may serve as ex officio member on all standing committees and ad hoc committees. The Chair shall call and preside at all meetings of the Council and call and preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Chair shall make -- it says the Chair may appoint a member to attend meetings, functions that she or he is unable to attend and which are deemed important to the Council.

And that concludes the information for the Chair.

And then it says the Vice Chair shall, in absence of the Chair, take the Chair's place and perform the Chair's duties. The Vice Chair shall also undertake any and all duties assigned or delegated by the Chair. Which is pretty comprehensive there.

There are terms listed as well regarding the frequency and the length of the appointment. It says the Council shall meet at least four times during the fiscal year, with one meeting occurring in each quarter in the fiscal year.

The length -- the Chair will determine how much time is needed to accomplish the business of the meeting.

I thought this was the length of the appointment. I thought it said four years somewhere in this, in the bylaws here, for each appointment.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I saw it somewhere.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Mmm-hmm.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. That would be something that we could amend into the Bylaws Committee. If we looked at that and into deeply, of course it's open for discussion.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I'm paying attention, I'm going to say it anyway. Cory, the one thing, I don't know what your experience has been in the legislative arena, okay, but Glenna is --

>> CORY PARKER: None.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: -- Glenna is awesome in preparing the legislative visits and I would say you should get in her pocket, tie yourself to her hip, so when we plan for February, the legislative -- I'm sorry -- the legislative visits, that she can train you on how to do that, because it was REALLY a great experience when I went with her. It was very well organized, it was very functionally productive. So I would say if you don't have experience, I would say get with Glenna and just tie yourself to her hip come February.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I wanted to say that -- let me just move my laptop here -- with my job as a state employee, I'm very limited as to with the State Legislature. I have -- so that's not something I can do as Department of Education and VR, as a representative.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Oh.

>> CORY PARKER: So, I'm out of that picture.

And that is to say, I'm approved to serve on the Board. My leadership approves of that. But as far as the State Legislature, it's frowned upon. So I would have to stay out of that. I would be dressed in black and in the back!

[Laughter].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. This is Gina. Mary says she has no nominations and she agrees with you, with what's been done.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I wanted to -- Sean, since you're reading the bylaws, Cory, being a State representative, he can be an officer?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Hmm...

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: That's true.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I have not seen anything that states he cannot be an executive member. Have you all seen anything against that?

I don't know if the bylaws speak to that issue. Um... that might be something that we ask --

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: John may know that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Maybe Cindy would know.

>> CORY PARKER: Who is John?

>> SEAN ISAAC: John is the Secretary of the Department of -- I'm sorry, he is the appointee from the Department of Children and Families Services. But isn't he an attorney as well?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: He's an attorney.

>> SEAN ISAAC: And so he has some experience with this.

>> CORY PARKER: I did read his comments in the minutes.

>> SEAN ISAAC: And if he doesn't have any information or opinion on that, then perhaps we can reach out to the Department of Health attorney, Linda.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Sean, while you were looking for the four years, on page six, the terms of office, the Governor can remove any member without cause, but it says council members will be appointed by the Governor for a term of four years. That's where you saw that.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you. I thought I saw it somewhere [chuckles].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Karen texted and said that she has an emergency call with a patient. So we will hold the election and move on to the next topic. I don't want to discuss the letter without Karen, so let's skip ahead to discussing the biennial report.

Okay. For many years -- oh, Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I just wanted to mention that at the last section of your packets, I did include, for the folks here, the 2018 and 2021 biennial reports as sections that you can refer to. So hopefully that's helpful.

That's all.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you.

The 2018 and 2019, there was a typo they did.

2017, 2019, and 2021 have all been pretty similar, just tweaked a little bit here, change the pictures, things like that.

You know, what we want to discuss is based on 2021, if we want to continue being similar or if we want to do a different approach, which would take a lot more time if we try a different approach.

What's your feeling about the reports we've had so far?

>> CORY PARKER: Let me pull up the report.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Can you tell us how they're similar, the biennial reports?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The topics and the wording has been pretty similar. We just tweaked it a little bit. We changed pictures.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. One of the hardest things we've had is being able to gather statistics, because there's very little solid statistics related to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, the whole spectrum, so...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. And as you've seen from the public comments, the issues remain pretty much the same. We've got a new way to say the same things.

Same ol' song, new dance... whatever...

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. What about if we had in the biennial -- biennial -- that report [chuckles], what if we had, like, legislators or people of prominence that support, you know, our mission? And kind of put that in as a highlight, a spotlight, you know, where that person can address involvement of their support in our council?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I think that would be very easy to get an endorsement from certain legislators who like to see their name in there and want to see some kind of action to back up that.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Do we have think legislators that have backed up what we've asked?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Steven Wise, from the Jacksonville area, he's very active in helping to pass bills, but he retired since then. And I think he's passed away also.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Oh...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: There really hasn't been anybody since then that's been a champion for us.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Because like you said, they like to see their name in print. And so my thoughts were, if there's a person that we could spotlight, that might get others involved and get their names in there too, but if we don't have anybody...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. When I've seen that they post thousands and thousands of bills and I've seen a pattern where one or two people would be the sponsors of the bills and then everybody else signs up and there's a long line of names that supports the bill, and it means nothing, because the main sponsor is doing all the work.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: Question, this is a new-person question. Content. Who raised the content?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Like I said before, we would carry -- I did the last two reports. Karen did the one before. 2021, 2019, Karen did 2017, I think, and 2015 I think Chris Littlewood did that.

2013? I think Cindy did that.

And we've just kind of carried it over. Sometimes changed the topics --

>> CORY PARKER: So do you have copies of those previous reports? I'll let you think about that when you get home. Maybe you can --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hopefully the office has them.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Sean.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Each of those reports is listed online on the FCCDHH website.

>> CORY PARKER: Great.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Under reports and publications. And I can send that out to the Council today.

>> CORY PARKER: And who decides on the sections? Is that something that healthcare or a new article -- was that, like, a new focus or something like that? Public safety? Emergencies? Um... type of information, like, that you have here?

It's not difficult to put together. It's really -- if you really focus on finding the information.

I also want to say I like it. The Council doesn't include -- even though the name of the Council doesn't include Deaf and Blind, it's good that we have a -- we're including -- it would be good to include Deaf and Blind on the Council.

One thing that's new with the term "Deaf and Blind" is the hyphen is taken out.

And the recognition that we would have this year or maybe we would have it in 2023, what's new about -- with deaf-blind?

And we have a rep from the Helen Keller National Center that could assist us.

But, again, I like seeing hard of hearing spotlighted there and Deaf and an equal balance.

Many commissions have such a heavy focus on one or the other. And it's not such a nice balance.

So we can quickly glance, and I like seeing the more of the balance, the recognition, that Deaf, hard of hearing, and there's a balance.

Sometimes people don't think about that, you know. I think that, for a new person's perspective, when we sit and talk about, throughout the years have come through the Helen Keller Center, I've worked with Cecil, I've come and watched some of the meetings, but I never really got into it.

But now, in my new position, it's really part of my job.

So, that makes it even better, to see the focus and to see the community represented well. And maybe we can get some content from those communities, like the Hearing Loss Association, they have a conference.

What was their focus on? What did you -- what is the Florida chapter focusing on, for people to go back home? What did you get from that conference?

It's the same with NAD. So, maybe just one or two things that they got from the conference to put into the content and that they can focus on different areas.

I'm just jumping around. But, again, I'm sharing thoughts. They're really good to focus on.

This one right here is 2018 and this is 2021.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you! That's new eyes!

[Laughter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I don't know if it's in the bylaws or the statute, but the biennial report specifically is to...

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen, I'm back. I want to apologize. I had an emergency call, not my intention... a patient.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We were talking about the biennial report and we were discussing the biennial report. And we're going to do the elections while we have some people. Hopefully Mary is still here. Mary, are you still here?

>> MARY HODGES: Yes, I'm here.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Um...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I'm going to jump back to elections while we have five people to meet the quorum for voting.

The nominations are me as Chair, again, and Cory as Vice Chair, okay.

So now we can have the vote in favor of Glenna Ashton as Chair and Cory as Vice Chair. How do you vote?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Are you asking me?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I'm asking all of us.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I was going to say...

>> CORY PARKER: Second somebody, somebody needs to second.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'll second.

>> CORY PARKER: I'm imagining we have a motion on the floor, right?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, the motion is the Chair and Vice Chair and there's a second.

Okay, now vote.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I vote yea.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes? Yes? Yes. Mary?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: She said yes, that was her saying Mary.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Mary voted yes. It passed. I'm stuck again!

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: We are honored again, we are honored again to have you as Chair! And Cory as Vice Chair.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Okay. That's finished, fine!

Now we're back to discussing the biennial report. And Cory has some suggestions.

The biennial report, I don't know where it is, that we're required to do a biennial report with a main point of the report is to report what the issue is based on public comment and things that we see. Again, making suggestions on how things can be improved. And that's it, really.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. I'm raising my hand.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: So, in the back here, we have, um... the 2021 biennial report, is that correct?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. And the '18, I see.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: '19, actually.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Oh, that's right, that was the --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The typo.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: -- the typo, that's right.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So the question is, what we were discussing, do we want to continue with the same format we've been using for the last two reports, or do we want to try a new approach?

If we try a new approach, that will require a LOT more work.

And Cory has said that he's going to work on the report.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. I really think that the format we've had looks good. I mean, it's readable.

>> CORY PARKER: Agreed.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The interpreter is interpreting in a unique way to what Cory said.

[Laughter].

>> CORY PARKER: Say that again, making sure it's on public record. What did you say, Glenna? [Laughs]

Cory's willing to work on the report, yes, yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Now, let's just go over what the requirement is for the biennial report.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's what I was looking for.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: It may actually be in the actual statute rather than in our bylaws. I mean, our bylaws should reflect the statute.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. If you're looking in the bylaws for where it states something about the report that's on page nine, Section 2, under function, number two, incorporating the biennial report, the Council should be presented to the Governor for the Legislature... and the Florida Supreme Court.

The Council's activities concerns, projects, so... um....

Looking at that, maybe we should look at our report to make sure all of those things that we hit, the activities, concerns, projects, and a summary of public comment in our report, in the different areas, summing up in four pages.

I guess maybe we need to ask ourselves: Does that match what the bylaws have? Or is that something that we need to propose to change for the Bylaw Committee to add some flexibility into it?

I don't know... that's up to you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. So I'm reading the statute, just so that we're all on the same page, and maybe it will help with the question that Cory just posed.

It is the role of the Council to serve as an advisory and coordinating body in the state which recommends policies that address the needs of Deaf, hard of hearing, and late-deafened persons, and which recommends methods that include coordination of services.

So I think -- I don't know if I'm answering your question -- but it does certainly address what it is that the Legislature is looking for from the Council to report back to the State.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: But -- thanks, Karen. This is Glenna. But then, like, what Sean mentioned, the next to the last Article 7, Section 2, furnishing... subsection 2, it says the biennial report is presented to the Governor, Florida Legislature, Florida Supreme Court. It's very specific what to include.

The Council activities, concerns, process, and summary of public comment.

So the activities, that would be quarterly meetings, committee meetings, um... concerns, I don't know concerns related to the Council itself or concerns in general.

Projects would be the report itself. The letter writing and visiting the legislators.

And then in summary, the public comments, which would be included in the report.

So that's basically what we've covered in the report. We try to look good, showing that we've been doing something, and then we try to, um... um... choose issues that's based on public comment. And public comments have tended to be the same for many years

related to interpreters, VRI, hearing aids, emergency preparedness.

You know, we change it sometimes based on what happened the past year.

Like, there was one year where we emphasized emergency preparedness, pertaining to the hurricanes that were coming, and then the recent 2021 report, we had mentioned about the masks.

Now, 2023, what's the hottest issue?

>> CORY PARKER: Did I miss 2022 somewhere?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Here.

>> CORY PARKER: Gotcha, gotcha.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So what is considered a hot issue for 2023?

[Pause].

>> CORY PARKER: Ah, gotcha, gotcha.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That's a typo, a typo.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. One of the things that would be life after COVID, you know, we went through the masks --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, life after COVID, and that would definitely include the economy, the economy, yes, mental health becomes more of an issue for everyone. The economy, the impact on housing. I mean, I can't imagine that a lot of the Deaf people are dealing with a rent increase.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. My question is, is there any way to address the need for more council members through the biennial report? So many are vacant.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We probably could put that under council activities. That we're trying to recruit more people --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And appoint.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- on the Council, but facing blocks in doing so.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, go ahead.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: One of the things I really liked with the 2019 one, which is in our packets as the 2018, that was a typo, is the way it was sectioned off. It's a little more readable than the way it was for the 2021.

And so I think maybe we can go back to that. I just like the way that that looked. Maybe we can add a few more sections.

>> CORY PARKER: I think the type is bigger. When you look at it first glance, the type is bigger.

The 2021 is bigger than 2018.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: True.

This is Karen. I think we just waste a lot of space with that whole half a page of almost dedicated, um....

I like the table of contents in 2019.

>> CORY PARKER: Introduction, healthcare, public, so... 2018 was focused on control of care, public safety, and emergencies, special considerations, so we have four sections.

Whereas 2021, we have intro, healthcare focus, and public safety, three.

So, maybe if we could add another one or two.

And now, again, if we compare it to the law and the bylaws, to make sure that all of the content is there. And if we do 2023 to have maybe an additional space for NAD -- no, FAD focus and Hearing Loss Association focus.

And possibly something from... um... from deaf-blind included.

Because we want to include them in that, in our Council as well.

Um... but, of course, again, that's just an idea, so....

But when we put everything together, we can think about that, you know.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. This is Gina. I think it's important also, and Glenna mentioned about her -- I think she said she and Debbe were involved in the area of aging, to include the elder population in what we are offering, our services we're offering.

Because Florida has so many people that are late-deafened, hard of hearing, that are elderly.

And I think it would be a really good idea if a section in our biennial would say that we recognize you as well.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean -- this is Glenna -- Sean, I have a question. We don't have a formal committee for the bylaw -- in the -- we don't have a formal committee in the bylaw for a biennial report. Can we set up an Ad Hoc Biennial Report Committee so that they can use that committee meeting to work on the report?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Absolutely.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Because it seems we have a few people interested. We have Cory and Karen and me being Chair.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: [Laughs].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, so first we need a motion to set up an Ad Hoc 2023 Biennial Report Committee. We need to make a motion.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory. I would like to move that we set up a 2023 Bylaws

Committee Ad Hoc for early preparation, ideas, and brainstorming.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Is that Mary?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Mary. In the chat she says she would like to work on the committee.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Great!

>> CORY PARKER: Welcome, Mary.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We need a second. I need a second.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: [Raises hands].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen seconds. Okay. So do we have a vote on the motion for the 2023 ad hoc biennial committee? All in favor?

>> ALL: Ayes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Passed. Okay. So I appoint the committee members to be: Cory, Karen, and Mary, and me as Chair, I would sit in on, but just sit in on it.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. Cindy usually likes to be a part of this. I guess she's not here right now. But I wonder if we might extend an invitation to her, because she's been working on these reports too for some years and has lots of ideas, usually.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, we can ask her. Sean, you can ask her if she's interested in joining, okay.

So, um... it's 4:05 now. Okay. Now, we have 25 minutes until we close at 4:30. Do you want to continue working -- or discussing the biennial report? Or do you want to go back to the template letter?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Karen?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Keep in mind that Gina will not be here tomorrow morning and the letter is under her committee.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And we do have...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Karen?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So -- this is Karen -- um... it will come back to me... one... second... oh.

Do we have a deadline when the biennial report needs to be done? Are we going to be

proofing it at the November meeting and sending it to the printer then?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Nods head].

>> CORY PARKER: Whoa, I thought it was due by February and it's printed -- yeah, you're probably right.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: The reason why I was saying November's meeting is because it does take some time to print it out, get it ready to go, and proof it, and we want to be able to give it out when we go to Tallahassee to meet with Legislature.

So, we're looking at a hard deadline of November to, I think, have the final draft, if that's fair enough to say, and tweaking the final drafts then and getting it ready for printer.

>> CORY PARKER: And --

[Talking over one another].

>> CORY PARKER: I have an attack.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Do you need a psychiatrist?

>> CORY PARKER: I have an attack here. That conference is happening in the middle of October and I'm going to be going crazy. Just schedule me in, pencil me in, I mean, okay, yeah, I'll be there.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Remember, now that we set up the Ad Hoc Committee, you can request a committee meeting when it's a good time for you, like during the summer or whatever, to really get a good draft, a first draft, and present it at the August meeting for more feedback, then finish it in September before it gets crazy in October and present a final one in November.

And hopefully we finish -- remember, you can have more than one committee meeting, because we're allowed to have up to 12. Not all the committees are going to be pigs about frequent committee meetings. So I'm sure you can have two committee meetings, and that's really a priority with a deadline.

>> CORY PARKER: Okay. I feel better about that. November, a hard deadline.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I don't know if this is a motion or not, but Chris had brought this up before. We have Karen, Mary, and Cory as Ad Hoc Committee. And with you overseeing it.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Right.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Some of the best writers in our group are in that committee. So rather than go back and forth, back and forth, with draft, draft, draft, draft, and bringing it to the Council, can we just have the Ad Hoc Committee meet on their own, prepare the document, bring it to us as the final, and then the Council can look at it for approval and then it's done. Can we do that instead of --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, what I said was basically they start with a very rough first draft and ideas and present it at the August meeting for feedback.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And then finish working on a final and bring it at the November meeting and get it final and okay and get it printed before we meet in February.

So we have a committee meeting before August and another committee meeting before November. Cory?

>> CORY PARKER: Blinking, blinking, blinking... meaning that we need to have content for each area this summer. Really, basically.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes.

>> CORY PARKER: Have good content -- so we need to make sure we're working on the summer content -- that we're tweaking and tweaking. Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah.

>> CORY PARKER: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And we have 20 minutes. I don't know if we can decide right now the issues we want to discuss or think about it and have a few minutes to discuss that tomorrow morning.

Um... I don't know if we really have time, because the other big thing we have to work on tomorrow morning is the bylaw changes. And that's a different committee. We should not have the same people for the report and we should have different people for the Bylaw Committee, so actually each group can be done and not be overwhelmed

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Glenna, I have a question. Do you remember we talked -- I'm jumping back to the letters. Do you remember we had the list of who picked what letter they wanted? Do you have that?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, I do.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Oh, good. Okay. See, Sean?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You can go ahead and discuss the issues to be included on the biennial report while I look for what Gina wants.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Can we set up the ad hoc meeting now?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Absolutely.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Um... okay.

[Laughter].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm thinking maybe second or third week of June, to have the first meeting. That will be prior to the HLAA convention, so I think that's a good time to do that.

And do we have just a moment to talk about the headers, at least, of what we want to address?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. The second and third week of June, I usually need a date so I can notice it publicly.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right, you have to do the -- what is it, six plus one, seven plus one?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Right, eight days.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah. But they cull call it seven plus one for some reason. I'm not quite sure I know why. But eight days.

>> SEAN ISAAC: You have to notice it prior to seven days.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Ah. Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: So you said the second and third week of June?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Second or third week of June.

>> CORY PARKER: For June?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is our ad hoc biennial report meeting.

>> CORY PARKER: We can have Ad Hoc Committees too? Oh, wow.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Any business that's before the Council, including committee meetings, has to be publicly noticed.

>> CORY PARKER: Thank you, Sean, you're reminding me of after lot! And say Cory, you can't do that! Yes, you can do that. Please! [Laughs] yes, okay.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Can I, um, propose that we do June 9th at 4:00? Thursday, June 9th at 4:00? Zoom meeting?

>> CORY PARKER: For which committee? For which committee?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Ad hoc for the biennial report.

>> CORY PARKER: Let me check my schedule.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And if we could also ask Cindy Simon if she is interested? Obviously I can't send her an e-mail to ask that. But, Sean, if you can?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I can.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Do you want me to send that to the entire Council, that invite?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I would, because I don't think you have to be on the ad hoc to come in and give ideas. I mean, I think we -- you know, I want to be mindful that it does fall on three or four of us that we will be overwhelmed with the amount of work to do for this, so, yeah, I would put it out to everyone.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Thank you, will do.

>> CORY PARKER: June 9th is good for me.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. In putting it out to everyone, there should be a deadline. They have to give their feedback or their ideas before your meeting, because otherwise you're going to have your meeting and then people will be adding and that will just delay things.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I think that's an excellent idea. Thank you, Gina. People should come prepared.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: And ready to, um... to make this a working meeting for the hour, so that we can do a... what's the word... not a draft, but almost a...

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Outline?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: No, not even just an outline, just kind of a mock up. I'm ready to rock on this.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina for Mary. She said week three is best for her in June. Week three.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Say again.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Mary said week three is best for her in June.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: So June 16th instead of June 9th?

>> CORY PARKER: Then the next week is HLAA conference.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Right, then the next Thursday is HLAA, which is the 23rd. But so the 16th is better for her?

>> CORY PARKER: I'm good with that.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina for Mary. June 16th is fine for me.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: What about other members of the entire Council? Because we're gonna need help on this.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I can do June 16th.

>> CORY PARKER: Good for me.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: 16th?

>> CORY PARKER: Either one, 16th is good, it's good, yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: 16th is good for me as well. And just like that! I'm sorry, I have one more question about this. In years past, we've had a template. Does that template still exist?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. The 2021 template does still exist.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, good.

>> SEAN ISAAC: It's in a Word format.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: If you could send me that. Does it exist in this kind of a format, that it's...

>> SEAN ISAAC: I believe it's in Word. We sent this off to the printers professionally to print out, but I believe that format is in Word and I think it's in that format. I'll check and see.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. What about the 2019? Do we still have that one?

>> SEAN ISAAC: I just don't know; this is Sean, I don't know.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina from Mary. She's asking: Should we -- Mary, I believe you're referring to the Ad Hoc Committee for the biennial report, have assigned sections for the report? Should each person have a specific section that they work on?

>> CORY PARKER: Mary, I was just about to ask the same question.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. I'm not even sure what our areas are, other than what we've already done up to this point.

>> CORY PARKER: Okay. While you were -- I was identifying both. We have an introduction -- we have an introduction, we have a section on public safety and emergencies and healthcare, and we have -- we had a special consideration.

So, this year, 2021, last year, we did the same thing, introduction, healthcare, public safety, and emergencies.

So, I think, for right now, we should focus, remain, on the same sections.

But come to the meeting with ideas of what the content should be and making sure that we make a decision then and commitment to bringing it to our next meeting, or communicating that through Sean. If that's the appropriate way to do that.

And to follow-up.

So when we come to our August meeting, we have something substantial.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina.

>> CORY PARKER: Did that make sense?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina for Mary. She would like to take a section on older adults, when we talked about the aging community, Mary said she would like to have that section.

Now I'm speaking Gina for Gina [laughs], I want to nominate Karen to do a section on post-COVID in the community, how it affected them, you know? I think that would be so impactful

>> CORY PARKER: Yes.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: To be able to talk about what happened in these two years that people were totally isolated.

That's just me.

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: And Cory, this is Gina again, Cory, why can't you do one on how it impacted the job market? I mean, can you do something on how the economy --

[Laughter].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Don't make that face!

[Laughter].

>> CORY PARKER: Just a slight impact!

[Laughter].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah, the impact is great. I mean, that's the kind of stuff we can say and then we can talk about what the committee is doing about it.

>> CORY PARKER: Cory job market. What specifically about the job market? Where is it at for our people who are Deaf and hard of hearing? Yeah.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay. So -- this is Karen -- so if we're going to do a post-COVID, are you asking it's a component -- Cory will do something post-COVID underneath, um... underneath what section?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Economy? You know, the economy?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Is it going to be a whole post-COVID thing? Are we gonna

do the biennial report of post-COVID and have different sections related to post-COVID? Because we are trying to emerge out of it. Um....

And so healthcare obviously would be underneath that. Economy would be underneath that.

So are we talking about a different type of biennial report, where we're really -- I mean, the most thing in the past two years as been the COVID pandemic and how it affected everything, including the Council. And getting to meetings and stuff like that.

>> CORY PARKER: And that could go into our introduction.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> CORY PARKER: That could spring into our introduction. Post-COVID, we are adapting, we have adapted from this. And then in areas of -- I'm thinking research people and structure

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, I'm thinking that also.

>> CORY PARKER: I'm thinking the same thing, research people, introduction, and we have one person, we have Mary talking about aging and then connecting to Karen post-COVID mental health area, and then or myself talking about how the job market is opening up and how it's impacting our communities and that part of Karen's and how they're adapting in how they're going back to work.

Or learning remote and then going back into working. Something like that, along that.

And -- but that won't leave -- yeah, I think that's good, that's a good structure right there. That's a wonderful structure

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I like that.

>> CORY PARKER: I like it. Or I likey Mikey is more appropriate.

[Laughter].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I think it shows we're current. I think it shows that we are involved in our communities.

>> CORY PARKER: Right.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: We are involved. We see, we hear you, we know you, and we're here for you. That's kind of what I'm thinking.

I'm sorry, this is Gina for Mary. Mary said: COVID impact on social isolation and mental health is an important section. So that's important.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, really good.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yes.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: And it's certainly impacted the elderly as well.

>> CORY PARKER: Somewhere along the line how social media has saved us.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Oh, yeah.

>> CORY PARKER: Zoom meetings, Zoom celebrations, that kind of a thing. How everybody came together and, you know -- and it's also -- it would be good to include a section from deaf-blind, especially from our, um... our community, people who have low vision and hearing loss, hard of hearing, Deaf people are more isolated, but people who have both impacts even more.

And how they adapted. How did they adapt from that? What's the remaining -- what's come out of that? What's changed?

So that's my thought.

And I think that we have a really nice structure. And so when we go back home, we can gather information and even start typing it.

And then by the time we meet on June 16th, we have something that we can work on and edit the rest of the report and have it by 2023. And when we say edit, information can change from now until then.

I think, Sean, I talk too much! [Laughs].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We have five minutes. Can we wrap this up? It seems like we have an Ad Hoc Biennial Report Committee already. As Karen said, rock and rolling to get going on it!

And I really appreciate that enthusiasm to really get started on the report. And I appreciate that the committee meeting is already set up for June 16th. So that is a good start! And I hope you keep it up! And keep the energy running all the way through!

So, we need to wrap up things.

And tomorrow morning, we have public comment, responses from the comments that were done today.

And we will be working on the bylaws, ideas and what things we really need to change.

So your homework tonight is to review the bylaws to see what really needs to be changed, both the statute and the bylaws itself.

And then you have a place -- and then we have new business, the idea has been mentioned before, several times before about having a FCCDHH Expo. We've mentioned that a few times.

This time I've kind of worked up some more specific ideas. So we will discuss that tomorrow and see if that's a project we want to take on or not.

And then we wrap up with a planning for the August meeting will be in Hollywood, and some other concerns that we need to address at that August meeting.

Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Glenna, could you or Sean send out a reminder to the people who signed up to write those letters --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: -- to get them in? Because they're delaying our process. I am going to try to be on the phone tomorrow while I'm in travel, but with data like it is, there's no telling.

But it's very important that we get these letters out.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I have -- this is Glenna -- I have my list of the issues that we made and very few people signed up.

John was supposed to do one on interpreters in government and agency settings.

I already did one on captioning, on television specifically.

Debbe is supposed to do one on 911 testing.

Gina already did one on police officers. And Gina already did one with prisons.

And Debbe is supposed to do one with the loop system in public audience places.

And I don't see Karen or Mary or Cindy or some other people that signed up for doing a letter.

So, um... I know Sean has the list and can send that out again and have people sign up for it, for letters, so we can actually see some results with this effort of letter writing.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I just wanted to say, I sent out earlier the last e-mail that we sent regarding the letter writing campaign. And so everybody should have that in their e-mail.

You wanted to send a deadline? And what did you want me to say about that?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, there's two things I wanted to add. The names of people who volunteered to write certain letters. And the blank ones and ask for people to please sign up for doing a letter, specifically two letters, with a small group of only nine people.

So we need... we have a lot of issues. Just sign up for a letter. Must pick two topics and a deadline.

When do you want the deadline to be, Gina?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: June 30th. They should have the letters to Sean by June 30th and he can distribute --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. By the June 30th committee meeting.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: The committee meeting is July 31st. This is Gina, I'm sorry. The committee meeting is July 31st. They should have the letters in by June 30th.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: So we have a chance to look at them and review them.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: You know.

This is Gina. Karen, thank you for the tweaks. I think that's gonna -- the tweaks that she made on the letters I think are going to be very effective. And if we follow that thought process, I think the letters will be very good.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Mmm-hmm.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: But we've got to get people to do them.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Right.

Are there any last comments or... before closing?

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It is now 4:30. The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is adjourned.

[Concludes at 4:30 p.m.]

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