Minutes

Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH)

Department of Health Headquarters

4042 Bald Cypress Way

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Virtual Meeting via Whereby

Thursday, May 7, 2020 | Meeting called to order by Karen Goldberg

# Call to Order – Thursday, May 7, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

Karen Goldberg, Council Chair, called the meeting to order, and asked each person to introduce themselves

*Council Members Present*: Karen Goldberg, Chris Littlewood, Eugenia Halliburton, Mary Hodges, Glenna Ashton, Debbe Hagner, Cindy Simon, Cecil Bradley, John Jackson, Darlene Laibl-Crowe.

*Council Members Absent:* Debra Knox (Contacted Coordinator prior to meeting)

*Council Members on the Chat:* Mary Hodges

*DOH Staff Present*: Anna Simmons, Department of Health and Tiffany Baylor, FCCDHH Coordinator

**Introduction of Service Providers**:

Karen Goldberg introduced the providers for the day: Lisa Johnston -CART Provider, Interpreters-Absolute Quality Interpreting Services

# Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Karen Goldberg requested that all Council Members take time to review the minutes and note any needed corrections or additions.

Gina Halliburton motioned to the accept the minutes as read. Cindy Simon seconded the motion.

The minutes were read from the May 7, 2020 Meeting and approved with no corrections.

DOH Update – 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Tiffany Baylor, FCCDHH Coordinator, gave the DOH Update and Action Items Report. The points reported were as follows:

* Request permission to allocate funds for the Council to attend the Governors Hurricane Conference on May 17 – 22, 2020 in West Palm Beach
* Provide the Council with the PowerPoint presentation from the Budget Coordinator, Latheria Charleston, along with the two links to information resources included in the presentation.
* Secure clarification regarding the budget from the Budget Coordinator. Specifically, his question regarding “line five, the fifth line down, the encumbrance on the left is $8040. It’s $4020 for August and November. These amounts have already been spent. Is there no money available for the interpreters for the next meeting?”
* Speak with Shay Chapman regarding the changes made to Senate Bill 596. Specifically, what was the ‘obsolete language” that was removed from the bill.
* Request clarification regarding permissions for posting of photos with public figures, (i.e. Senators, Legislators). The Council would like to post photos of Councilmembers speaking to the Legislators during the legislative visits to the FCCDHH Facebook page.

Presenter – Brendaly Rodriguez, & Dr. David Lee, Project Co-Leads
University of Miami Project: Building Research Capacity on Hearing Loss Interventions in Hispanic/Latino Communities. 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Brendaly Rodriguez, & Dr. David Lee presented on

The main points included information regarding:

* Present brief overview of hearing health care disparities in the Hispanic/Latino communities.
* Describe engagement award project planning to inform the research agenda on hearing health care interventions to address decisional dilemmas that patients 50 and over face in coping with hearing loss, to be maximally supportive of Latino patients, families, caregivers and communities.
* Hearing Impairment among Hispanics/Latino
* Their Goal: To collaboratively define areas of concern, local issues, research priorities, education

needs and resources relevant to how to manage age-related hearing loss in Hispanic/Latino communities.

* + 2-yr project until Sept 2021 funded by PCORI (working on 6-month ext).
	+ Utilize a community-engaged framework to guide activities to leverage strengths from

multiple stakeholders and experts (patients, audiology, public health, translation studies,

and community health centers)

* + Sustainability: Proposals for more engagement, comparative effectiveness research and

others.

* Activities to Date
	+ Peer reviewed and invited presentations and posters – APHA, FLCCDHH, Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Adelante
	+ Promotores/CHW conference
* Activities: Enhancements
	+ COVID-19 social distancing guidelines restrictions: transitioning formats for different

audiences

* + Radio programs
	+ Leveraging the expertise and enhancing the role of community health workers (CHWs)

with Hispanic/Latino hard of hearing patients and families/care givers

Following the presentation, Brendaly Rodriguez, & Dr. David Lee, addressed questions from the Council Members.

# Break 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Karen Goldberg called break until 11:00 a.m.

Meeting was called back to order at 11:00 a.m.

Presenter – Chris Wagner, NAD Representative and Chris Littlewood, Council Member
A general overview from national perspective and policy on how Deaf/HH needs are being considered for the communication of Emergency Preparedness Updates. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Chris Wagner, NAD Representative, addressed the FCCDHH Council on the following points:

* NAD’s work on communication access for deaf and hard of hearing people during the COVID19.
* Ensuring that entities such as school, hospital and employment have the resources that they need to provide the access that the deaf and hard of hearing community need.
* The need to inform not only the government entities, but the media who are providing the services as well.
* Outreach to the Florida Broadcasters Association, FBA
* The need to remind entities that the deaf and hard of hearing community includes 3 million taxpayers and voters. Emphasize the economic power.
* Florida is one of the top five most populated states in the U.S., however Florida is the lowest in terms of access for deaf and hard of hearing.
* NAD emphasizes the importance of partnership and collaboration with both public and private sectors.
* The need to start thinking of ways to disseminate information to the entities who are responsible for communication access.
* For students who are deaf or hard of hearing in the schools, reach out to the Florida School Board Organizations and Florida Special Education Association.
* The benefits of clear facemasks for access to communication

Chris Littlewood provided a discussion on the following points:

* The need to educate to the media, producers, and camera men to film “Medium Two Shot,” which is two people at once; the speaker and interpreter at the same time.
* Information regarding the Florida Association of Broadcasters, FAB
* The need for the deaf community to participate in a bit more self-advocating
* The Disability Rights Florida contact information (850-488-9071)
* The requirements of the Video Communications Accessibility Act, VCAA Law
* Obstacles to access to communication, such as glare, glass, lighting, and distance

Break – Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

The Chair, Karen Goldberg, dismissed everyone for lunch at 12:00 p. m.

The FCCDHH Council was reconvened at 1:00 p.m. by the Chair, Karen Goldberg.

Public Comments - 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Public Comments protocol listed below was reviewed to the community by the Chair, Karen Goldberg:

“For your convenience, the meeting agenda has been posted on the FCCDHH.org website in advance of the meeting to allow ample time for the public to review and prepare questions/concerns to be addressed during Public Comments portion of the meeting.

Robert’s Rules of Order suggests that those offering Public Comments wait until called upon by the Chair before speaking. Please provide your name, and Florida County prior to speaking, or typing comment, question, or concern into the Chat.”

Audience member Barb Page discussed Disability Rights Florida’s efforts to advocate for the provision of interpreters at Governor press conferences, and encouraged members of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community to file a complaint if they feel like they’ve missed important information from the briefings due to the lack of interpreters.

Debbe Hagner posted the Disability Rights Florida contact information on the FCCDHH Facebook following the comment.

Audience member Diana Tift asked, “I was wondering if it is possible to create a letter targeting to interpreters on the news and explain why it is important, and send it all news channels in your county and mayor and city hall so they are aware that there are a lot of deaf people and deaf community?”

The FCCDHH Council discussed her concern, and agreed to work on preparing a draft letter.

Election of Officers for 2020 – 2021 1::30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Chair, Karen Goldberg requested that the Coordinator, Tiffany Baylor discuss the resource provided to council members on the Bylaws and guidelines for election of council officers. The information was reviewed with the council and nominations were provided.

Debbe Hagner was nominated for Chair, and Glenna Ashton was nominated as Vice Chair. Voting was completed by each council member sending the coordinator an email of their nomination by 3:00 p.m. The ballot of nominated members was then emailed back to the council members by 3:10 p.m. The council members cast their vote via email back to coordinator by 4:00 p.m. The votes were added and compiled. They were reported to the Chair at 4:50 p.m. for her to announce to the council.

Break – 2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Karen Goldberg dismissed the council for a break per council member’s request.

The meeting was called back to order at 2:15 p.m.

Committee Updates – 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Karen Goldberg requested that the committees provide an oral report to the Council and community. The committee’s reports are summarized as follows:

* Web Committee: Debbe Hagner reported that the FCCDHH Facebook page has 844 followers. With 118 posts this week alone. The Facebook page is getting approximately a 40% response rate.
	+ Discussion regarding Facebook visitors accessing the DOH FCCDHH Website page from the Facebook page.
	+ Suggestion for council members to request their representative agencies and organizations to visit, and ‘Like’ the FCCDHH Facebook page to bring our numbers up.
* Education, Medical Outreach, Technology Committee: Eugenia Halliburton, EMOT Co-Chair, reported that the committee participated in a teleconference in September. The focus of the meeting was:
	+ Letter to be shared on communication in the age of COVID19.
	+ The information will Include a summary of meetings/presenters, resources, emergency preparedness, parents' rights; medical providers guidelines for providing accommodations, etc.
	+ Contacting Agencies/Liaisons to introduce FCCDHH via an updated brochure or letter. Build relationships with agencies and become a resource for them to share.
	+ Request to council members to Make a list of contact information for the TV broadcasters in Florida and the various organizations and agencies. Have it ready to provide as resources to create letter template at the upcoming August Quarterly Council Meeting
* Legislative Committee: Glenna Ashton, Legislative Committee Chair, reported that due to the COVID19, the legislators haven’t really dealt with the hearing aid law that failed, therefore they will begin contacting the different organizations and counties/cities.

* Budget Committee: Cecil Bradley, Budget Committee Chair, was provided with a copy of the budget to approve prior to the meeting. Cecil agreed to have the DOH Budget Coordinator provide detailed clarification regarding the budget. The Budget Coordinator detailed each line item, and the source for the amount displayed, and terminology. A question and answer session was offered.

 Discussion/Report of challenges faced by Council Member represented Agencies – 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

HLAA - Debbe Hagner reported that the Annual meeting has been cancelled due to COVID19. There will be virtual meetings and webinars during the convention time.

FAD Representative – Debbe Hagner reported that she has been reaching out to the president of FAD. There is a big focus on staying home and staying safe.

ALDA Representative – Chris Littlewood reported that the monthly meeting is offered via Zoom. He will provide the Zoom meeting information via email to everyone with a link. A community member need not be a a member of ALDA to attend the meetings.

Individual who is Deaf-Blind – Darlene Laibl-Crow was experiencing technical difficulties, and will not be available to report.

AG Bell Florida Representative – Debra Knox is not present to report.

Audiologist Representative – Cindy Simon reported that Audiologists are having difficulty providing services to hearing aid patients through telehealth. The future possibly will requiring connecting patients to the web so that they can reprogram hearing aids through the telephone.

Department of Children & Families – No report available.

Department of Education - Cecil Bradley reported that the DOE is concerned with the school system in the state of Florida. Children who are deaf are of concern because the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Resources Program which is funded by the DOE, and the Bureau of Special Education Student Services, are having to create different ways to ensure that the students with deafness are receiving services appropriately. Vocational Rehabilitation is still open and accepting applications for service.

Department of Elder Affairs – Mary Hodges reported that Department of Elder Affairs has been providing meals and other services to homebound elders during the pandemic.

FRID Representative – No report available.

Presenter: Kathleen Vergara & Lynn Miskiel, The Debbie School University of Miami, Mailman Center for Child Development Debbie Institute 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Division of the Mailman Center for Child Development § Mailman Center was opened in 1971 as a University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), funded by United States Public Health Service.

Discussion Points:

* Research Projects
	+ Infant Health and Development Project (IHDP)
	+ Legacy for Children
	+ Tactual Speech Project
* Educational Programs
	+ Auditory Oral Education Program
	+ Inclusion Program
	+ B-2 Early Education Program

Questions and comments were asked by Council Members following the presentation.

Public Comments - 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Public Comments agenda item was opened to the members of the public, either on the phone, or joining us on the internet chat at 5.00 p.m. by Karen Goldberg.

Public Comments protocol listed below was reviewed to the community by the Chair, Karen Goldberg:

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Audience member June McMahon, from Boynton Beach, FL, stated her concerns regarding the lack of interpreters at all of the different mayors, and cities. June reported that she plans to reach out to the mayor’s office in Palm Beach County, and has already signed up with Disability Rights Florida for assistance.

Glenna Ashton responded with a suggesting that it cannot be just one or two people addressing the issue with the Governor’s Office. They need to hear from as many people as possible for it to be impactful.

Audience member James Scott, Vice President of the Florida Association of the Deaf discussed the communication access difficulty with people wearing face masks for COVID19. James also discussed that due to some people who are Deaf having limited English fluency not being able to benefit from captions. This population requires interpreters instead. James suggested filing a grievance with the Federal Communications Commission. James also recommended that FCCDHH Council members involve their representative organizations as well. James Scott informed the FCCDHH Council that he has applied for a Gubernatorial appointment to the FCCDHH Council.

Cecil Bradley responded to James’s statement.

No further audience member comments were offered.

Karen Goldberg allowed for discussion of upcoming August Quarterly Council Meeting.

# Review of Upcoming Meeting Dates and Locations - 5:40 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The FCCDHH Council members agreed that due to the uncertainty of future COVID19 restrictions, the August 2020 meeting will be held virtually. The August meeting will be held for one-day on August 6, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Karen Goldberg announced the result of the vote for Council Chair, and Council Vice-Chair.

* Debbe Hagner , FCCDHH Chair
* Glenna Ashton, FCCDHH Vice-Chair

Adjournment

Karen Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

May 7, 2020