

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
Quarterly Meeting in Tallahassee, FL**

Friday, February 10, 2023

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Hodges (FDOEA), Cindy Simon (Audiologists), Glenna Ashton (FAD), Chris Littlewood (ALDA), Cory Parker (DOE/VR), John Jackson (DCF)

Members Present online: Debbe Hagner (HLAA) and Karen Goldberg (HLAA)

Department of Health Staff: Sean Isaac, Angie Green

Service Providers: Donna Flanders, Natasha Moreno, April Perry, and Kelly Gagain (Interpreters), Lisa Johnson (CART), LaShay Lewis (A/V)

Service Providers Online: Janelle Barnes and Carrie Moore (Interpreters on Zoom)

Presentation:

Announcement of Speaker: Octavio Simoes-Ponce, Assistant General Counsel from the Office of the General Council Florida Department of Health, to speak about the sunshine law and provide updates to the Council.

Octavio discussed the Sunshine Law and including how it relates to the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Council).

Octavio answered questions from council members clarifying points of the law.

Sean Isaac asked about the typical practice of bcc'ing members on important info, and if that was necessary going forward. Octavio stated this was probably a good practice.

Public Comments:

Public comments related to FTRI and TASA bill read.

Most common issue as noted by committee was a need for more interpreters and hearing aids.

Drive thru fast food is not accessible to Deaf.

Karen questions what happens after Council receives feedback, Glenna notes the comments are kept on a file for future consideration.

New Business:

Debbe Hagner announced her previous resignation and stated this would serve as her final meeting attendance.

Hands and Voices would like to collaborate with the Council. Glenna Ashton would like to see someone fill out an application for appointment.

Glenna Ashton also states the Council needs to partner with the Center for Independent Living (CILs).

Chris Littlewood received a notice from Anthony Verdeja, Executive Director for the Family Center on Deafness in Pinellas County, asking to collaborate with the Council as well. Anthony Verdeja would like to speak with the Council.

The Florida Deaf Artist Show will occur during the summer. Glenna Ashton would like to get them involved in the Council's Expo.

Hospitals need to become more compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They need to have interpreters there when needed. Maybe training needs to be refreshed every six months to a year.

Glenna Ashton asked about the budget increase. Sean Isaac states the budget may change from year to year based on the contracted service. It will remain around the same, typically. Cory Parker states that the budget now and last year does not reflect the inflation that we are dealing with now. Sean Isaac states working with other sister agencies to help with expenses is allowable.

John Jackson made a motion to adjourn. Cory Parker seconded it. Meeting adjourned 11:59 am.