

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
Virtual Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, February 3, 2022
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

Members Present: Glenna Ashton, Debbe Hagner, Gina Halliburton (FRID), Cindy Simon (Audiologists), John Jackson (DCF), Karen Goldberg (HLA), Cory Parker and Sean Isaac.

Service providers: Lisa Schafermeyer (AQI), Chris Costa, Donna Flanders, George Costa, Carrie Moore (ASL Interpreters), Lisa Johnston (CART).

Minutes from November 3, 2021 and November 4, 2021: Debbe Hagner made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Karen Goldberg. The minutes were accepted. Debbe Hagner made a motion to accept today's agenda, and Cindy Simon made a motion to second. The agenda was accepted.

Cory Parker introduced himself as a new member to the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH). Cory represents the Florida DOE (Florida VR).

Visitor: James Scott, new president of the Florida Association of the Deaf (FAD).

SEAN ISAAC: the Florida Department of Health (DOH)/FCCDHH Liaison position is still in the hiring phase. The position was advertised, and interviews were conducted. The DOH will conduct interviews and identify two finalists. The Governor's Office is making appointments now. Make sure to send in applications. The DOH Appointments Office representative was not able to be present, but asked if they could be present at the May meeting. The handbook for the new DOH/FCCDHH liaison has not been initiated yet. The 2021 Biennial Report was mailed to the ADA representatives as requested. Sean also emailed council members changes to the travel process. Items to include for travel include the meeting agenda, the Google Map of the distance traveled, signed and dated receipts.

During the Question and Answer session for Sean council members were informed: 1.) the council will travel to South Florida for the May 2022 meeting, 2.) Council members were reminded to fill out the financial disclosure form this year to avoid any fines, 3.) Linda McMullen would present on Government in the Sunshine later during the meeting, 4.) the electronic submission of applications for the FCCDHH is now operational, 5.) Sean will check to see which members of the council have an application on file by the DOH Appointments Office, 6.) At the beginning of the year, on the February agenda, we will be reminded to submit the financial disclosure form. 7.) Dr. Karen Goldberg will reapply to represent HLAA.

Organization Updates:

- 1.) Florida Association of the Deaf, or FAD, held an election recently and James Scott is the new president of FAD. He attended today's meeting and is officially welcomed as a guest.

2.) HLAA - HLAA will have their convention in Tampa in June 23-25. So we're looking for volunteers. So if you're interested in volunteering for the convention, please let me know, I can give you the website to volunteer. Um... the attendance will be low, because HLAA is making it mandatory that you must show proof of vaccination, and there are already some protests about that issue, and also several people are refusing to come because of that

3.)

They will be providing clear masks for everyone who attends the conference.

Saturday on the 25th, we will have the Walk4Hearing, so please, we would appreciate you joining us for that Walk4Hearing and donate.

Um... also, we're thinking of having a -- working with another organization called LarryWay (sp) where we will go to the baseball games and they will have an area for those of us who are deaf or hard of hearing, deaf-blind, late-deafened, and they will have a Deaf Awareness Day that moment at the baseball game and they will have a table promoting cochlear implants and hearing aids and assistive listening device, so please be on the lookout for that.

We will be having our state association meeting soon; I have to work on that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Thank you, Debbe, for reminding me as well that the NAD, the National Association of the Deaf, conference will be taking place this summer, the last week of June 2022, in Orlando, and they will be looking for volunteers to work at that conference as well.

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And, you know, Debbe, speaking of the baseball games, basketball games, I'm sorry, what kind of game was it? February 26th (sic), the basketball game, I want to say March something?

>> [Open mic].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: There is two things going on. One is the basketball game and the other is the baseball, which will take place on Wednesday, the day before the convention for HLAA. And that's LarryWay (sp) baseball game ethics propaganda stadium.

>> [Open mic].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I just got the information a few days ago and we're in the works promoting it.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Now, in terms of ALDA, we don't have been the representative here, but Cindy, do you have anything that you or Gina, would you like to add anything or share anything?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I can speak for Chris Littlewood. The ALDA convention will be in San Diego in October. So if you're interested in going to San Diego, let me know and I can give you the information about that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And Gina said something in the chat about FRID, having already established a licensure task force, so will be revisiting that licensure for interpreters in the state of Florida.

And they would like for FAD members to join the task force. And please make any recommendations for contacts, if anyone has any. So that was her suggestion for that.

I also notice that Cory says he has an announcement? Cory, please go ahead.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, hello, everyone. The Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness, SERID, will be hosting their conference in Florida on October 13-16, that's this year.

So, I'm not sure if you're familiar with SERID. Is anybody here familiar with them? VR does have a strong focus on this organization. This conference helps with training.

And I personally am hosting this as part of my new job. So I'm doing the current job I'm doing, as well as working with SERID. It's a pretty crazy right now hosting both responsibilities! But I'm excited to do so and I'm happy that Florida is hosting this year's conference.

We're getting ready to sign contracts with the hotel. It's going to take place in Altamonte Springs. The Altamonte Springs Hilton. And so that's the location.

So, more information to come as we draw closer and closer to the actual conference and I'll be sure to share that with you. Thank you very much.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cory? I wonder, what's happening with the deaf-blind program? Is there anything to share on that count?

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, the deaf-blind program within VR, are you asking for? Or just in general throughout the state?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Both.

>> CORY PARKER: Well, I was the former representative for the Helen Keller National Center. I was in that position for about five years, working several different states. And we had someone step into my position. This person is David Voplier (sp) and I believe the last time you saw me presenting, he was with me. So you may be familiar with David.

But David has now been promoted to the Helen Keller National Center representatives.

Now, within vocational rehabilitation and my program here, there's the Deaf and hard of hearing and deaf-blind services position for voc rehab and we are continuing to serve

all of those communities; people who are deaf, people who are hard of hearing, and those who are deaf-blind.

So our goal is to ensure access with VR with all of these people. And we recently hired a new person and they are going to focus on quality assurance. So making sure that our unit is up to snuff in terms of quality.

And we'll be working as an intern for us with our interpreter staff.

This person plans to become an interpreter in the future. So we're focusing on developing those skills as well.

This person was recently hired; this just took place this month. And that person's name is Daniel Leahy (sp) and so we've just recently added to our team in headquarters.

And this is all, of course, in connection to the 16 staff interpreters who work throughout the state of Florida for VR. So we'll be coordinating as a staff.

And this is, again, communication access.

So, you know that as a state, we are sort of special. We don't have counselors who are set aside specifically to be vocational counselors for the Deaf, so what we try to do is try to add in an additional layer of filtering to provide additional support through our unit.

And to be honest, I've been here since June in this position. So I would say that I'm continuing to learn as I go along. And, truly, this job is a lot!

So, I'm certainly currently involved in several different committees and boards. Honestly, I should have joined in November, your meetings here with the Coordinating Council, I should have been there for that one. But I'm here now!

And I'm also the new director of Vocational Rehabilitation. Formerly I was the director of the Allison Flanagan -- sorry, the former director was Allison Flanagan, she vacated the position unexpectedly, and so an effort was made to fill that position.

Initially it was -- now we have an interim director by the name of Antwain -- Antoinette, excuse me, she was the interim director. She was the former bureau chief of VR.

Of course, things are sort of in flux right now but working under the Department of Education has been a wonderful experience. And I'm hoping that once the paperwork is all taken care of, we've gotten through all of the proper applications and all of the I's have been dotted and T's have been crossed -- Sean, I believe I'm doing the sign correctly, which, by the way, is a cool sign, by the way! Oh, one hand? Okay.

I have been working with Sean and he has been keeping me aware of what I need to do, how to follow-up and get through just all of the, you know, steps in this process, in this new position.

And I have to say, I love it! I'm so thrilled to be here! And I'm thrilled to be in this position and to continue to advocate for people who come to us in VR looking for these services.

Anyone who has hearing loss or combined vision and hearing loss, we are here to support you and make sure you have access. Our partners work with consumers in this endeavor, and if any of you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

And I do see a hand up, it looks like?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I would like to ask you. You mentioned working side-by-side with CIL, or do you? I wonder? They have a Deaf and hard-of-hearing program as well.

>> CORY PARKER: No, we don't currently. I don't work very often with other outside agencies; I'm mostly focused on internal issues with our organizations within the state of Florida.

If they were to approach me, of course I would be happy to partner with them, by all means, and try to coordinate our efforts.

Bear in mind, our goal is to continue to provide quality services for communication access related to VR services. So I am happy to work with anyone who can support that goal.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I know that CIL had several people who coordinate Deaf and hard-of-hearing programs. So, it seems like they're pretty active as a group. So it might be a good person -- or a good organization to keep in touch with.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, I have been in touch with them in the past, especially in my previous position. I know exactly who you're talking about, I'm very familiar with those groups in this area. And I certainly can continue to work with them, as they work with Deaf and deaf-blind people and Deaf and hard of hearing, so absolutely.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you so much. Debbe, I saw your hand up?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I just want to let you know, I posted the website for the registration for HLAA convention and how you can volunteer for HLAA, just to let you know.

Gina said FRID has established a licensure task force to revisit the need for licensed interpreters in Florida. They would like a FAD member on the task force. Please make a recommendation with the contact information if you have any input.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, I mentioned that before.

Are there any other organizations or representatives who would like to share any updates?

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: I'll just say that --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Once... going twice....

All right. It looks like it's time for us to take a break, so let's come back and restart again at 10:30. So, everyone enjoy your break.

[Break].

>> Is anyone online?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I am online.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I was just checking my phone because you guys could not hear me.

>> CINDY SIMON: I hear you now.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I hear you.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Great! I had to switch browsers, apparently Firefox was blocking something, I don't know... but I'm good now.

>> CINDY SIMON: They always tell me --

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Sometimes browsers will do that.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah.

>> SEAN ISAAC: And Gina, I just sent out all the letters for the EMOT discussions.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay, okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I hope that's the information that you all wanted. Glenna asked me to send out anymore --

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay, I'm checking now. Cindy, I'm glad you're well. I called you and I e-mailed you and I got concerned, I just started praying.

>> CINDY SIMON: So, Gina, I kept trying to get something from you and I received nothing. I did not get any calls from you, I did not get any e-mails from you, I did not get any texts from you. Nothing.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Wow! Wow! Wow!

>> CINDY SIMON: I kept asking when are we going to have a meeting and I sent out an e-mail and said when? And I got nothing.

What number were you calling?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Wow. I have to go back and look it up. At the next break, I'll go look on my phone.

>> CINDY SIMON: The office, the private line at the office, there's no answering machine on there and nobody would answer it at an off time.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. Hold on, I'm looking right now... hold on... I can tell you in a minute... wow....

I called... hold on... oh my goodness... it looks like the... well, no, that's not right, because it looks like the e-mail, something about -- oh, that's not right.
SimonAudiologySouthFlorida.com

>> CINDY SIMON: No, it's SoMiaAudio@aol.com.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. 954-270-0856?

>> CINDY SIMON: That's my cell, but I received nothing from you.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Wow... okay. All right.

>> CINDY SIMON: Do you want to try to do something now?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I'm going to send you a text right now to see if it's going through. I think it might have to do with Google or...

>> VOICE: Has joined the conference.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: All right. We'd be hush right now [laughs].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. Hi! Hello! So it's now 10:30, it's time to reconvene. I hope everyone is back.

Um... I'm sorry, Cindy, it seems like you wanted to say something previously about audiology or audiologists? Would you like to?

>> CINDY SIMON: Oh, no, you had asked me and then you switched out of it, what everyone was doing, and I was just going to say that everyone's busy writing letters, to make sure that -- in both areas of the government, they should pay for hearing aids for kids, and that's what they're really pushing right now. That's all.

Am I on?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Well, thanks for that. And we'll make sure to mention that during the committee reports, okay?

All right. So... now it happens to be time for committee reports. So, Debbe, would you like to begin by talking about Website Committee?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Thank you, Glenna. I wanted to inform you that the last meeting in November's meeting was not posted on the website, so, Sean, you need to give the minutes and the agenda of the last meeting posted on the website.

Also, you need to post this meeting agenda. It was never posted. So we need to follow the rules, two weeks in advance of something, to post the agenda on the website so the public would know.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Can I respond to that right quick?

[No response].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. So to answer your second comment first, the meeting -- each one of these council meetings are posted for the public to see in two weeks -- I think it's actually seven days, but I try to go for two weeks.

They're posted in the Florida Administrative Register.

The FCCDHH website for the Department of Health is also adding that information. However, that's not the "official posting" location, it's on the Florida Administrative Register, and I can send that out so that you all have that information.

This particular meeting was posted January 24th --

>> VOICE: Karen Goldberg has joined the conference.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I will double-check on the minutes from the December meeting, to make sure that's also added, okay?

And as of this morning, the website is -- should be up-to-date. I'll need to double-check on the December meeting. But the meeting minutes from November have been added to the website.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Sean, apparently there are a couple of places that they are -- that it's necessary to post them. First, for public viewing and for registration -- or for signature, and then also the minutes and the agenda needs to be on our website. So it's actually two places that those things need to go out regularly. Um... some people will go to our website and they won't go to the register.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Understood. And we'll make sure to make that information available on our website and keep it a little bit more current.

I will say that the website has been viewed and modified and we're trying to do that every six months now.

So we'll make sure to add those notes. And I'll send out an e-mail once they're added for the Council, so you'll see that. And we'll do that -- we'll try to do it a little bit closer to the end of the last meeting.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I just checked now. They're all on there. Thank you. When I checked it last week, it wasn't. So it's all there. Okay. We're good.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna, oh, that's good. I'm glad we had that discussion and clarification.

Um... next, the EMOT Committee, Education (sic). Cindy, would you like to report? EMOT, I apologize, EMTO (sic), that's Gina and Cindy. You have the floor.

>> CINDY SIMON: I can speak. But if no one heard earlier, Gina thought I was horribly ill because she had no responses from me. I received nothing from her and I had no response from her.

So... we haven't had a meeting or anything else. So, unless Gina has something else to discuss, we didn't know if each other was alive, 'cause nothing was coming through.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: [Laughs]. Can you guys hear me now? This is Gina.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, we here you, Gina.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay, good! Cindy, you're hilarious!

[Laughter].

>> CINDY SIMON: That's true!

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Yeah, I was very concerned. But for whatever reason, the communication did not go through.

And also, I had put in the chat a correction for the minutes, because we did schedule an EMOT meeting during our last meeting. It was December 9th. And so we did meet. We did not have enough people, and that is probably because the communications was somehow not received. But we did go through and briefly discuss the letter-writing, which Glenna and Debbe, we talked about at the last meeting, about every member sending a letter drafting it based on what Glenna's template was.

And also, they submitted a lot of really great information about the mask communication issues, video remote interpreting, interpreters, a lot of great information! But we were not able to complete it, because we did not have enough people.

So my suggestion would be that we would reschedule. We did say we would reschedule the meeting, during this meeting, so that everybody has the information and can plan accordingly.

>> CINDY SIMON: So, Gina, this is Cindy, I've never missed a meeting for this. And obviously I did not receive any notification on that meeting or I would have been there. You know I always respond.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I know. That's why I thought something had happened to you! Because the last I heard, you were going home for your family member and that's why I was concerned, because you always respond!

>> CINDY SIMON: Right, I --

[Talking over one another].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: There was a notification -- go ahead.

>> CINDY SIMON: No, I did not get any notification. I got nothing!

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Sean, Sean, I thought -- this is Gina, I'm sorry -- Sean, I thought an e-mail went out regarding the meeting a couple of times. But if Cindy isn't getting it, then we're really having an issue with her e-mail and we have to check and see what's going on with that.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Yeah, I did send an e-mail out on December 9th and it -- I did include you, Cindy, um... so please check. It was sent December 9th -- I'm trying to check the time here... it looks like 12:05 p.m.

>> CINDY SIMON: Sean, I'm looking at my e-mail here and I received nothing in December.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I just forwarded that information out to the group -- this is Sean, I'm sorry -- I just forwarded that information out to the group, that same e-mail that I sent. Did you perhaps get that one? Or did anybody else get that one?

>> CINDY SIMON: I got the one you just sent with all the letters. But since I... that's a lot to download one-by-one and print, so I won't be able to look at it till after.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Cindy, that's really in preparation for our next meeting, because we did not have a chance to complete it during the December meeting.

So what you'll see there are the samples and the input that Glenna and Debbe provided, so that we can get together and have the letter-writing approved.

Now, on the one thing you need to look at, the list of issues, everybody picked an issue. I think the only ones at the time that I recall were Glenna and Debbe, Sean and I, had highlighted different groups that we would contact. So we have to kind of complete that, and then go forward

>> CINDY SIMON: All right. I'm not even sure what all that means... but maybe we can communicate through Sean so that we're in compliance with Sunshine so that I can get up to speed.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. You might want to go ahead and discuss it now. I'm not sure if I can do that outside of official meetings.

[Talking over one another].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Another question --

>> CINDY SIMON: As long as we're going through you and you're there and we're not discussing council business and you're just bringing me up to speed, I think we can do it. There have been other times when communication was made as long as we did it through a person in your position.

>> SEAN ISAAC: And I understand there's some history here, so forgive me if I don't know it. I just want to clarify...

>> CINDY SIMON: That's okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I said forgive me if I don't know the history and the background of what's been done in the past. I just want to clarify what we can and can't do. Because I've heard other points of view and I want to make sure we're all on the same page.

>> CINDY SIMON: Well, I guess this afternoon would be the person to check with on how we are allowed to communicate. My understanding is I just can't communicate directly with Gina, other than maybe saying yes to a date. Um... without going through you, unless it's something that has nothing to do with the Council.

>> SEAN ISAAC: And this is Sean. And not to belabor the point, I was informed that I can't --

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: -- be a conduit for business or any discussion that has to come before the Council. So that's why I was suggesting you might want to discuss it now.

But like you said, and like I said, we'll probably be able to get some clarification this afternoon.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay, well... I mean... I don't know what I can discuss now, because I haven't even seen those things.

So, other than making a meeting up, that's it.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. If everybody could check their calendars for March 31st at 4:30, that's a Thursday, we can schedule the EMOT and we'll have time between now and then for Glenna or whoever to get Cindy up to speed and we can finish this particular project.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna, it looks like we've lost CART? I'd like to interrupt. We have lost CART.

>> CINDY SIMON: I have CART here.

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I have CART.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I have CART too.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I have CART.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna, oh, okay, I see it now. I don't know how it froze. My CART froze.

Okay. Um... I see it now. Okay, thank you.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. So if that date, March 31st, is sufficient, I will certainly send out the meeting invite and post it.

>> CINDY SIMON: I'm good with it.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: That works for me; this is Karen.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. This is Glenna... um... yeah, this is Glenna... so, the discussion is March 31st. I think that's a good date. I think that that's time enough for everyone to get their homework done as far as the letter writing and get those in to Sean and he can share everything out.

So, let's do that, um, on whatever topic it is that you have decided to choose. And our hope is that once we get those written, once you get started writing the letter, that it's a fairly simple process. It's pretty smooth.

We want this Council to be a letter-writing machine this year! And get those letters in

to the correct hands.

So, really, take it from me, once you get started, it's not bad.

And you have freedom to choose whatever topic that you want; just follow the form letter to do the rest of it.

And, again, that discussion will be finalized March 31st and hopefully we'll have some success there.

Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. Can we, for Cory, and the new people, tell them what the EMOT stands for, just so they know?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. EMOT stands for Education, Medical, Outreach, and Technology Committee, EMOT.

>> [Open mic].

>> CINDY SIMON: This is Cindy. It used to be two separate committees. The EMO and the Technology Committee and we joined together.

>> [Open mic].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Does that help you, Cory?

>> [Open mic].

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory, yes, thanks, thanks very much for explaining that, I appreciate that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Basically what we're trying to do here is share information with the people --

>> CORY PARKER: I'm sorry, Glenna, what did you say?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- you know, for finding different ways of sharing information to the public, through letters, through PSAs, through projects that we have conducted in past years and, um... just a variety of ways of information dissemination.

Our goal is to share that information so that it reaches the people who need it.

>> CORY PARKER: Okay. Thank you.

>> [Typing sound].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. I'm referring to our agenda.

Before we continue, I did see this morning that there was a bit of confusion about who is present through Zoom, who is present through the conference call, and where folks should be.

So, to clarify. Speaking people, people who are speaking, should be on the audio conference call so that the CART Provider can catch those comments.

While the Zoom is for people who are using sign language, visual language to communicate.

I am trying to work together with all of these devices and all of this technology, to make sure that we avoid talking over one another and are taking turns and having time to make sure everyone gets their comments in.

Please keep in mind that I am tracking three different devices and I am trying my very hardest to make sure that everyone has a fair chance to speak up. And also that we don't wind up interrupting each other inadvertently.

So, hopefully we'll get the kinks out of this system as the day goes.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Next is the Legislative Committee. That bill is with Cindy it is SB498, that is the hearing aid bill, the hearing aid coverage, I should say, hearing aid coverage for children, I believe is the working title. That is the third time -- this is the third time that the bill has come up.

It is looking good this year. It's gained some strength this year

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The banking and industry committee is backing it, and we have support for that bill and that is really fantastic, and that means that there is someone out there to pay for it.

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So things are looking very promising. We are hoping to see that passed through legislation this year. So we hope to see success.

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Through the normal bill process. You know, sometimes it does take several years of submission before it finally reaches success.

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise]

>> CINDY SIMON: And Audiology is writing constant letters, we're getting emergencies, you need to send the letters out today.

[Talking over one another].

>> CINDY SIMON: -- so we're really working on it.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes -- we are looking for some --

>> INTERPRETER: Sorry, go ahead.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Banking and industry has been making real headway this year, so thank you so much for your working group, okay?

Insurance we were referring to. The insurance, not industry.
Moving forward now, the SB236, HB15 titled children with developmentally -- developmental delays.

The broad purpose of this is the intention of specific students that are deaf and hard of hearing are already included, but also wanting to, in addition, those who are in the process of being identified, children conditioning of ages five through nine for the end of grade two.

It's good, because often children who require hearing get overlooked until they're much older. So...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: SB144, there is no other number for that that corresponds.

ID cards, that's the one where driver's license and other ID cards, if a Deaf person wishes to identify, that, you know, the infamous ear with a slash through it, it's still there.

But in addition, people over age 80 get a free ID card.

One of the things that we like about the bill is that if you've got your voter card, it can show -- provide some financial disabilities on that card -- it says that the voting card at the same time, trying to restrict voting... I'm wondering about that, what that's about.

HB4487, requesting funding for improvement, the Kramer Hall (sp) at FSDB, some of us took a tour of the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind last November and you'll recall, the president said some of the things they needed improvements there on the aging building, they're hoping to get that.

And the last is SB292, with HB1073, newborn screenings, focused on screening for hearing loss and hearing, and conditions, if it fails, there will be a second -- if they fail, there's a second test to recognize any sort of illnesses or any sort of congenital issues.

Psychomegalovirus (sic), I didn't have enough time to really research that, but... um... well... anyway....

That's the four bills that I found related to issues regarding hearing and hearing loss.

So... I'll open it up for questions, I guess, or... Cindy, maybe you want to add a comment about that regarding -- educate us, maybe, on this child/children psycho blah, blah, blah, whatever that was?

>> CINDY SIMON: That's cytomegalovirus, and that's where the mother has -- that's a C -- well, maybe it's not -- CMV, and it's whether a person or a mother has a cold and can get extremely ill but it can get passed onto an infant that's being born, and it can lay dormant and then show up later on and cause severe or profound loss.

And I think you were saying the testing at different times, and it sounds like that goes to the one-three-six theory of by one, if you fail your newborn hearing screening, you should have another by one month. And diagnostic by three months, and then have whatever you're going to use for amplification and be early in by six months.

And that really goes for any child bound to have hearing loss and so on.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hmm... so the SB202 specifically recalls checking for illnesses... um... the thing that we have... this year, there's almost 3,600 bills being proposed. I'm sorry, but... there's so many bills to look through, it's... bad bills or... just... there are some that just have no purpose. There's a lot of "fluff" and things that don't really address issues and problems.

So, ick... I'm hopeful we'll survive this year.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. So, is there another question? Okay.

We have the Budget Committee, which we have no Budget Committee. Maybe Sean, if you have any or are aware of anything about the budget or how we're doing with our budget?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. We have a lot of unspent funds. Mainly because we have not traveled as much as in previous years.

In addition to services not being used because we haven't traveled.

I can send out the actual budget categories and amounts via the chat, via e-mail this morning.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: I did want to also ask if [echo] -- yes, yes, okay, someone is going to pick up that committee in the future?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I -- I thought... was -- did Mary say something, that she was doing... I don't know. Let me just ask everyone on the Council, who -- if anyone is interested? Cory, perhaps? John? Someone who is here already? We can do it through e-mail, to pick up that budget. Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Gina has her hand up. Go ahead, Gina.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Hi, can you hear me, Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay, great. Considering, like Sean was saying, we have a little excess because we have not traveled much, is it possible that the subcommittees could meet in person instead of on Zoom? Is that acceptable?

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Certainly depending on where you go and how long you are, there's a budget for that, absolutely.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Thank you. We'll talk about that later.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Sean, I... um... one second. Sean, Debbe and I have... um... plans to go to DeafNation, rooms planned for that and so forth. Can we send you reimbursement for that?

We have a box for the DeafNation, if we can send that box to you, the leftover materials?

The box of things, the materials from DeafNation, do you want all of that?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Please send it to me. I did receive a couple calls from Debbe trying to arrange a time to pick up some information that was, I guess, left over from that event.

And I'm sorry, Debbe, I just haven't had a chance to schedule that yet. But please send that information to me.

And Glenna and then Debbe, I'll reach out to you to find a time to meet and pick that up.

And then to answer the question regarding future travel, please send me that information. Or previous travel. Please send me whatever you need.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I just thought if we do have committee meetings, EMOTs, for that March 31st meeting, perhaps we could use that opportunity to maybe bring the box there and transfer it?

We'll talk about that, that's fine, no worries. We'll figure it out and work out the details, about shipping it or meeting in person somehow to transfer that, maybe at one of our subcommittee meetings.

Now, Cory, I saw you had your hand up? Sorry.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, this is Cory. I saw that my name was mentioned in regards to budget. The last time I talked with Sean, it was mentioned that your -- my predecessor was responsible. Because they're really great at that.

I am not that kind of person when it comes to budgeting and finance.

I can certainly learn whatever I'm needed to do. But it's going to take a little bit from Sean to show me the ropes.

So, for now, I would prefer not to do that, because I am new. Sean is still green. And we don't want to make a mess of anything.

So, um... you know... but I'm happy to do what I can to help. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sure, I appreciate that. Thank you. We can ask Mary or John. But I think Mary said maybe it was something she might have interest in. We'll see as we go further with that. But thank you.

Okay. So, with regard to our subcommittees, any other comments regarding our subcommittees? Any committee updates?

>> CINDY SIMON: Hand up. I just have one question. Can I...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Whose hand is that?

>> CINDY SIMON: It's Cindy. I can't fit on mine because my whole chat box disappeared.

When we're -- so the DeafNation meeting, was that something that the Council voted to agree to pay for? Or is that after the fact?

Because I think if we pay for meetings, what we've typically done is it was brought up and then everyone voted to say yes, that's the wise investment with the monies that we have.

So I just want to make sure we're doing it correctly.

Because obviously we want to cover events for everything.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes -- this is Glenna -- we voted on that, we did have a vote, for Debbe and myself, we had volunteered to go to represent... um... back in -- I guess in the past minutes, November. Before that, it would have been the May meeting? I think it was the May meeting?

Debbe is shaking her head yes.

It would have been a good opportunity for the council members -- November 4-5, because it was coming so shortly thereafter. Um....

It was part of that report for the DeafNation Expo, before COVID, I think there was about 3,000 people there present. Back in November, we had no idea what to expect.

But there was still about 2,000 present at that event, from that, some knots (sp), whatever.

But we had a good number of people that approached us and some of the comments we collected... I'm looking here...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Some asked about -- most every person that came up to us was asking, um... if we had candy [chuckles]. People always want candy!

But for the most part, few people had mentioned VRI issues. Several mentioned the topic of interpreting, getting interpreters for -- and the quality of interpreting they were getting.

A few mentioned the uncooperative doctors with regard to communication. There was a mention for hearing aids, having funding for hearing aids.

And another mentioned about cochlear implants. Few mentioned trying to find -- looking for work, going to find work.

Several mentioned the difficulties of communicating with the masks and the requirements and pulling masks down to be understood, the difficulty with clarity.

One -- another mentioned about hospital issues.

A person had disclosed was hard of hearing and felt it was important -- Debbe had talked a little bit with her about maybe mentoring. Remember, Debbe?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We had a mention of... someone from The Villages was having some difficulty over about 200 or so population of deaf in The Villages and one of the things they mentioned was concern, a great number of senior citizens, older people, getting more and more concerned about being able to find assistive living facilities, ALF.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: One teacher came up in the area of Deaf education and IEPs. Saw some difficulties, increase difficulties and follow-throughs on this.

So, one new topic, and same issues.

Maybe one more... I did notice, maybe Sean mentioned, about the budget and the funding that we have available. So perhaps we can update our business card, some information, you know, about our names and such.

There's that heavy box of stuff that we have. I noticed that a lot of people nowadays are using something like a little bit of, like, a wagon, you would call it, some kind of a cart or something.

So, I don't know... you know like the old-fashion kids, those little red flyer wagons they used to have? Maybe something a little bit bigger than that.

And when we go to that November conference there, it would be easier to have all those boxes, something to tote them in.

What do they call it... a collapsable, a folding sort of thing. And maybe we should get one of those with that budget.

Oh, Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: James Scott wanted to know, he was trying to get live transcribe on Zoom and I texted him on the chat box, don't use the Zoom live transcribe, he needs to use the CART.

So I sent him the link for that and he asked if we can send him that, and I said that all of the CART transcripts are on the website and I posted that on the chat box.

[Note from CART Captioner]: Debbe, the captions you see in Zoom are the same as the StreamText; it's me.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: James, does that answer your question? Everything?

[No response].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: He said yes, thank you for that information.

>> JAMES SCOTT: Yes, thank you, I appreciate that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Just checking the time.

Looking at...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- the agenda, I know Sean, you recently sent out [echo] lettered templates for us to take a look at. I know several of us on the Council have already chosen a particular issue and topic that we want to write letters on behalf of the Council.

So, these templates just provide a general idea.

They're already boiler-plated with our header FCCDHH. You might have to change the text in the body.

But I was wondering if you all are ready to start letter writing, try to keep it all one page. That is a part of our responsibility, which is information sharing.

But when you are sending a letter, there might be instances, depending on the recipients, that you want to involve and add a little bit more detail. And it might end up

being a 1½ or 2 page later.

So, anyone want to speak to the writing project?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Well, stay tuned. We will be receiving more information from Sean in regards to the EMOT committee meeting that we have planned, where we will discuss the writing of these letters.

We have been talking about doing this for the last few years. And 2022 is the year for us to take action and really get behind this project.

And I hope that we can make it work.

Okay. Moving on in the agenda. Let's talk about statutes and bylaws. Oh, Cindy, is that you?

>> SEAN ISAAC: And Glenda -- Glenna, I need to speak as well. This is Sean.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, Sean. Okay. We'll start with Cindy and then Sean. Go ahead.

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: It was not me, I didn't say anything.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: No, this is Gina. Can you hear me?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean then.

Oh, Gina? Okay, go ahead, Gina.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. I'm wondering, is this the time, is it appropriate to revisit the members of the EMOT Committee? Because if everyone's lives have changed and they are not really able to participate, should we revisit and maybe get new members? And that's just a question. Go ahead.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sure, we can do that.

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. This is Gina. Is it a volunteer situation or is it a volun-told situation?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think it depends who is currently on EMOT. I know that Gina, Cindy, myself, and Debbe. I don't know if there are any others?

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. The only one I knew was Mary, she was wanting to be involved. She had had a lot of input at our previous meetings. So Mary Hodges is the other person that I'm aware of.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, I thought so. So we have five currently.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. That's a great group.

[Talking over one another].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. The hand raise feature is not working on the chat.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So maybe some of our newcomers new to the Council can be recruited.
Go ahead, Gina.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I was going to say, that's a great group. What is the committee size normally limited to? Because we don't want it to be so big that we can't get anything done. But we do want people that are interested and able and available.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Let's look at statute and bylaw changes. How do we want to handle that? Do we need to schedule another committee meeting to work on scheduling the bylaw recommendations?

>> CINDY SIMON: This is Cindy.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The council needs to --

>> CINDY SIMON: We need to do that in an in-person meeting, I don't think we can do it remotely.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So that means then we'll have to plan an agenda. I mean, that -- it will take two or three hours to go through each one line-by-line.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, but what you can do is send it out in advance as planned, bring your changes, and that way you can hit that up first and that may be all you have to do.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Debbe, you wanted to say something?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, this is Debbe. I remember that we tried to do that... um... when Karen Goldberg was the chairperson, we went through line-by-line-by-line-by-line. Chris Littlewood said no... I don't know if we still have a record of all those suggestions when Karen Goldberg was the leader.

So, we can go back and check the minutes to see and...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Also we tried to do a little bit of that like we did in November, at our meeting. I know Gina was trying to type in those changes.

It just felt a little awkward trying to do it that way.

For those of you that are motivated and like that kind of work, maybe you're an expert bylaws person, I'm happy to share copies with you, of both recommendations, for you to look over, and then make recommendations that can be then submitted to Sean.

I think it might be good to have two or three people working on that, doing the pre-work prior to our committee meeting.

>> CINDY SIMON: Um... I would be willing to work with it, but I've been at least one, if not two, bylaw updates, so a lot of the time it was updating timelines, like, when you switch Chairs, so they have an extra quarter to observe, without jumping in at the last second, um... so, I don't mind being part of a group going through it, but I would still suggest that if everybody would look at it and send in what they think, so that that committee could then look at it and get it all together.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes. Sean, if you would please share the statutes and bylaws changes to everyone, so that we can review those recommendations prior to our meeting?

I also think our committee, Cindy, myself, and Chris Littlewood, I'm recommending the three of us do that preparation work

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Can you repeat that? Send the bylaws? And what else do you want to send?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sure. Sean, if you can send a copy of the statutes for our established committee and bylaws, even though we might already have physical copies of those, if you could send those again to the three I mentioned on the EMOT Committee, so that we can review those, update, or even clarify any changes, and then submit those recommendations to you, Sean, that would then be presented at our subcommittee meeting.

We could establish a Bylaws Committee meeting and meet through Zoom and look at these recommendations, and then bring it back to the full Council at our next meeting.

I'm hoping that will work.

[Pause].

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. Can I add something?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Go ahead, Karen.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Yeah, I think the idea of having a Bylaws Committee makes sense.

When I was serving as Chair of the Council and I was trying to work with the group during the meeting, I guess a lot of people didn't want to do it that way.

So I think having a Bylaws Committee makes sense, for those of us who like to go through things word-by-word-by-word.

So, yeah, I'm happy to serve on that committee.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So we have four people on the committee.

Well, again, we can always check in with Chris Littlewood and see if he's willing to work with us as well. So we may have three or four members on the Bylaws Committee.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean, I have a question.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We call that Bylaws Committee -- what is it called? I'll have to check the current bylaws. What is the word... I remember! Ad hoc. So this would be an Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee, because we currently don't have one in our bylaws. So this would be an Ad Hoc Committee on statutes and bylaws changes.

Just trying to follow Robert's Rules of Order here.

>> CINDY SIMON: This is Cindy, I'm sorry I can't type "hands up" here.

A, can we even change the statute?

And then the Ad Hoc Committees are allowed in and out based on our bylaws. So that's provided for in there.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes. Cory, do you want to ask a question? Go ahead.

>> CORY PARKER: Yeah, this is Cory speaking. I have some experience with bylaws from my involvement in community organizations in the past.

A number of years, National Deaf Advocates --

[Talking over one another].

>> VOICE: John has left the conference.

[Talking over one another].

>> CORY PARKER: [Signing; no interpreting in order to caption].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sure, we can do that. Let me write a note real quick.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy, your question about can we change any statutes currently? No, we cannot. But we can always make recommendations or what we would like to see amended in current laws.

And that would mean working with representatives that support our recommendations.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: For example, I know a few of the representatives and senators who have been a positive support to us and whom I previously visited last year during General Session in February, I mean, that's nice. That doesn't cost a thing to make recommendations to them.

But just updates. Since 2004, I think it's reasonable to request a meeting with them.
[Pause].

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I hear some background noise.

Oh, Debbe, you had a hand up?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I posted the statutes in the chat box and on the CART and also the bylaws. Last time the bylaws was modified was 2013.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: 2013. Still a little outdated.

When we're looking at state law, was it 2003 or 2004? That's what I was referring to earlier. It's the bylaws that have not been updated since 2013.
[Pause].

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise]

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Both need to be reviewed, those older statutes that I mentioned and our current council bylaws.

And with new technology, new terminology, I think reviewing the bylaws for any updates is the recommendation.

I want to move on.

Sean, I remember at our last meeting you had mentioned that we should have entrance and exit policies. And what that means, previous council members that are planning to exit the Council, any documents that they have, including all fiscal information, needs to be handed over upon exit.

And so having a policy would include those details, to finalize any financial transactions and to provide a formal termination or exit from the Council.

We need to make sure to CYA -- cover your ass -- so we don't get in trouble where anybody Monday exiting.

It's almost like we're writing a handbook!

Would anyone be interested working on that?

[Pause].

[No response].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Glenna, I can't help, but I would suggest that maybe that could be part of what the Bylaw Committee could take up as some business, perhaps? Just a suggestion.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, I think the bylaws is a separate issue from an entry and exit policy. Bylaws are very different than policies and procedures. So I don't know that that would really fall under the Bylaws Subcommittee.

No, I don't think so. It looks like Cory wanted to say something?

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, this is Cory speaking. I don't want it to appear that I'm eager to join any and all committees, but, Sean, if there is something that the two of us need to work on together, I'd be happy to schedule an appointment late in the afternoon and offer my assistance.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's great!

I think maybe that would be a great fit for you, Cory. It would be easy for you to just meet one-on-one with Sean, the two of you. And --

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- Sean is relatively new -- or you being relatively new to the position, and helping you go over the things and what you need to know.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, Sean and I both live in Tallahassee as well.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you, Cory.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. We discussed letters. We also discussed statutes and bylaws. We have our committee discussion. And also we have Cindy, Karen, and either Chris or Cory working together. And we have discussed entry and exit policies, moving forward.

So it looks like Sean and Cory will be getting together on that count.

So, it's great that we have people working on different projects.

Is there anything else that the Council feels that we should be working on?

For example, I know that Cindy, I wonder if there was any hope of finally getting that PSA done that we've talked about?

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: I would love to. I mean... we have everything that was written and then changed and written again.

The question is, each time we've done it a different way,

Last time, the State gave us someone to work with. Prior to that, we entertained, um, submissions to select the right price, then the State stopped us and said we're not going to be doing this. Even though we had the money for it.

So... I have every iteration of the PSA. We can go over it at any time.

Um... but, who -- do we have what was made last time? There was only a couple that needed to be added.

Or do we -- are we starting from scratch? And if we don't have connections within the Department for getting it done, are we back to asking people to submit estimates?

And by the way, if we do that, Chris knows more about that than anyone else I know. He was really helpful last time when we did that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes. For the newer people, the PSA was a public service announcement, tends to be sort of a free advertisement that you see on television.

Um... some way of helping the public to be aware, getting the public's attention through this type of PSA about testing for hearing loss and going to the right people for your hearing loss issues.

There were several topics that we tried to bring up and address in that public service announcement that we worked on.

The initial effort was to encourage people to go ahead and get their hearing tested.

We know there are many people who have hearing loss, but never actually go to get tested and receive hearing aids when they should.

And we've tried to bring up other topics, like interpreting.

And Sean mentioned that we have unused funds in the budget. And since we are restricted for traveling, this may be a perfect time to use some of that, available funds, to finish up the PSA.

And that way, you know, of course, it's one more thing for Sean to do, to see if there's someone in DOH who is currently responsible for video production and to get in touch with that person and see if they would be willing to work with Cindy.

>> CINDY SIMON: This is Cindy. Just a quick comment. Some of that, since COVID, may be outdated, the other thing that may outdate it, so while we would like to say yes, you should see the appropriate-licensed hearing healthcare professional, the Government is fighting us on that, by making things available without testing over-the-counter.

And so I don't know that you can really do -- push that anymore, with the other thing that's coming, that's being pushed.

It's kind of an interesting conundrum and with masks, it's more important than ever, to do what you can to have effective communication.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, it does seem like, yes, some of the content of the PSA, you know, it's a very general public service announcement, but it's only 30 seconds long, as a TV spot.

So, yeah, there may need to be some adjustments made.

You know, let's say, we can say to people if you're having trouble hearing the television or hearing on the telephone and your hearing is just getting spotty, we can encourage them to take action, encourage people to get their hearing tested, without saying specifically who or where.

In terms of masks, though, that is [chuckles]... that's the big fight right now, isn't it, whether they can be required or not.

And so I'm not really sure that there's much that we can do on that front.

But, it does seem like it's becoming a more and more tricky issue than it ever has before.

Even just going to the store and other public places, you see some people who are pulling down their masks, to try and make their lips readable, and other people won't do that.

So, there's just a variety of responses. It's... ugh...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: In any regard... oh, Debbe, I see your hand is up.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: We can provide them with different tools, um, while people are wearing the masks, that they don't -- if they don't want to put -- we need to -- we need to teach the Deaf and hard of hearing and everyone and hearing people how to use and be aware of Ava, Otter, all the other tools that are out there and available to help in understanding.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy, I wonder if you can be in touch with Sean at a later date and see if he can -- just search within DOH, if there's someone responsible on their staff for making videos currently?

And then use that as a starting point to revisit this issue, whether DOH would be willing to support this effort at all and see what happens.

And, of course, there may be certain requirements and what have you.

>> CINDY SIMON: I would be really happy to do that.

Sean, with your permission, we could figure out a time when we can talk, because I do much better, um, speaking to you directly, than doing e-mails and waiting for all the back and forth.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. That's fine. I will certainly reach out to the Communications Office to see what the capabilities are currently. No problem with doing that.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay. And I can share everything I have with you.

But somewhere there, there is something that's mostly done; it just needed two more people to be seen.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Do you recall what the issue was regarding why the Department or the State or whomever stated that they could not move forward?

>> CINDY SIMON: We just didn't finish and then they were going to come out and visit different places and finish the last two individuals for it, because we were using real people.

And then things got moved around again, people moved positions, and there we went again.

So I've gone through trying to make this about three times.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean --

>> CINDY SIMON: And I've been here a long time!

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I look forward to learning from your experience, number one.

And number two, I can tell you that as we end the state fiscal year, it is a lot more challenging to work with the State deadlines; they have cutoff dates for some of those things that might be challenging as we approach the end of the fiscal year.

But I just want to keep that in mind, so that we are realistic about what we can do.

I will certainly find out what those are and how those, you know, add or contribute to the situation too.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay. I can even speak to you early on Friday -- tomorrow morning, if you want, so that you have a better idea.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Okay, thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You know, one thing I wanted to mention, when you're talking about the budget and keeping track of the money, in the chat box, I saw we were talking about that and how much money we actually have in the budget, it's actually printed there, current available funds, so if you're interested, by all means, take a look and see what we have.

Debbe, I noticed you wanted to say something?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes. James asked, what about ASL interpreters at the PIP on PSA?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You know, initially when we first did our iteration of the PSA, we were using people with hearing loss and we did plan, in the second iteration, to provide interpreters and to discuss interpreting.

But we actually never got the first edition finished; that went sort of -- languished.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Does that answer your question, Debbe?

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. I see that it is now 11:44 a.m. We are going to have Linda McMullen as our guest speaker to tell us about the Sunshine Laws and information sharing. We will be discussing transparency of communication, what we are allowed to do and what we are not allowed to do.

And, of course, at 2:00 o'clock, we have time for public comment. Hopefully someone will show up. You never know.

The last thing is to, and our agenda, is to discuss the May meeting.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I don't know if we're allowed to just go ahead and take our lunch break early? Or do we need to stay convened until 12:00?

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: There are many times we've taken our lunch break early.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right then. I just wanted to make sure, you know, with legal, so to speak, that we can do that.

Let's take this time to read the e-mails that Sean has been sending.

And if we have no one show up for public comment, we can be ready to go ahead

and discuss projects at that time again.

All right then, I will see everyone -- please do come back at 12:55, so that we can get all of our technology in order and set for our guest speaker.

All right then. See everyone at 12:55.

See you later.

[Break].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: [Signing; no interpreting in order to caption].

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hi, there, if you can indicate that you are here on the conference call or in the chat, I would appreciate it. This is Glenna.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Hi, Glenna. This is Sean.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina.

[Pause].

[Background noise]

>> GLENNA ASHTON: What about Karen? John? Can you guys say hello, please?

[No response].

>> VOICE: Debbe has joined the conference.

[Pause].

>> VOICE: Linda McMullen has joined the conference.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. This is the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We're going to do roll call. But I don't believe that everybody's back yet, so we might need to hold off.

[Pause].

>> VOICE: This conference will now be recorded.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So, Cory, are you here? Karen? John? Are you back? Can you guys indicate, please? Oh, Cindy? I haven't heard from you. Hello hello. Is anybody out there?

[No response].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I suggest you turn on your video real quick so we know that you're here. And then shut off the video.

>> VOICE: Lisa Schaefermeyer has joined the conference.

[Note from CART Captioner]: Cindy is in chat.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It looks like Cindy has indicated she's here.

Okay. I see three, four... we just need one more here for a quorum so that we can get started.

[Pause].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: John? Karen Goldberg? Cory? Glenna -- or Gina?

Please let us know you're here.

[No response].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I already checked in, on time.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So, Gina, we were already actually counting you as here. Thank you, though.

[Pause].

>> VOICE: Has joined the conference.

>> CINDY SIMON: Hi, everyone, this is Cindy and I'm here.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, Cindy, Cindy's here, okay, okay. I think we're still needing one more person; I think we're still at four.

[Telephone ringing in background].

[Pause].

>> VOICE: Has joined the conference.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I wonder who that was who just joined us, can somebody tell us who that was? Your name didn't come through on the conference call.

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, it looks like it was one of our interpreters who was booted out accidentally; she was reentering the conference call.

This is Glenna. So, um... we need to go ahead because I want to respect Linda's time.

So, Linda McMullen is here this afternoon and she will be doing a brief presentation about Sunshine Laws and government rules.

So, welcome, Linda!

We're going to turn it over to you at this time. You can take it away.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Thank you very much. Good afternoon. My name is Linda McMullen, I'm an assistant general counsel for the Department of Health. I'm in the Office of General Counsel.

One of my clients is the Division of Medical Quality Assurance and the Division of Community Health Promotion, so I advise these two divisions on laws and rules and other items that need legal attention.

And I was asked today to give the Council, um... a little bit of an overview on the government and sunshine, what we call the government Sunshine Laws and public records and Sunshine Laws.

You, as an advisory council, are covered under the Government and the Sunshine Laws, so you have to abide by the provisions of the statute which are included in Section 286.011 of the Florida Statutes and also included in the Constitution, there's a constitutional amendment that was passed and adopted in the early '70s.

So Florida was one of the pioneer states to put forward open government and meetings and public records laws.

Today's presentation is really going to touch on the open meetings portion of the Government and the Sunshine Law, not so much the public records. Because as an advisory council, you're not concerned with the public records. But the open meetings provisions do apply to you.

You're a government council and these laws apply to you.

You should have in your meeting materials a little short outline that will give you the actual specific statutory references and the constitutional reference. So if you do want to read these laws, you can.

But I'm just going to hit the highlights. And then what I like to do with advisory councils is open it up to questions, because that seems to be where council members' concerns are really -- are really, um, centered. And that way we can have a discussion about any questions that you might have.

Generally speaking, the notice requirements for an open -- for open meetings will be handled by the staff, um, that takes care of your administrative needs as a council.

So, you don't have to worry about publishing the notice or taking the minutes, um, or, you know, doing any of the notice requirements that the Open Meeting Law requires.

So, what you do have to worry about and the part of the Open Meetings Law that you do have to be concerned with is that which says, that if one -- or more than two members, um, of the Council discuss business that has come before the Council, that will come before the Council, or that may come before the Council, that that's considered a public meeting.

And once you enter into that realm of "public meeting," then you have to comply with the notice requirements, which means you have to publish the notice at least seven days before you meet to discuss these issues and that you have to have an agenda and that you take minutes and that all of those things be made available to a member of the public.

So, um, that's the thing to keep in mind, is each one of you is a member of the Council.

If you talk to another member of the Council anyplace other than in a council meeting, then that's a public meeting and it should be noticed.

So, now that's not to say that you can't associate with other members of the Council, because you certainly can.

Um... but anything that you would discuss with another council member that has to do with council business really has to be conducted pursuant to the law.

You can talk about anything else. And I know that probably members of this Council know each other socially, certainly professionally. You see each other at different meetings, different receptions, conventions, and that sort of thing. And that's all fine. As long as you don't discuss council business.

Um, so, and that means that you can't pick up the telephone and call another council member to talk about an item that may be on the agenda or an item that you think the Council should be discussing.

Um... you have to do that within the confines of a meeting that has been properly noticed.

Um... so, the practical aspects of this are that, um, you just keep that in mind, when you're talking with another member of the Council.

Now, you can always talk to staff, that is not considered a public meeting. You can call staff any time you want, discuss anything you want, um, and that does not have to be noticed and you don't have to worry about compliance with the law in that regard.

However, you cannot ask staff to pass a message onto another council member. Um, that's a way of kind of avoiding the principle of the Open Meetings Law and that is, um, that's not allowed by the law either.

Um... you also can't write to each other about things, um, that may come before the Council or that will come before the Council. So no texting, no e-mails about issues that are going to come before the meeting, because that, again, is considered a meeting between two or more members of the Council.

And if you're going to do that, it has to be noticed and the public has to be aware of it and they have to have an opportunity to participate.

Um... so that's generally, uh, the, you know, the rule of thumb when it comes to open

meetings for advisory councils.

The penalties are in the outline that I gave you. Um... sometimes they can be severe if it is a willful, um, violation of the law and a willful avoidance of the law; it's actually penalized as a criminal offense. It's a misdemeanor but it's still a criminal offense.

I haven't seen a criminal prosecution in some years, but there have been some in the past.

More typically it's just a fine and the fine has to be paid.

So, there are penalties for violating the law.

As I said, it's a long-time law. We were the first state really to adopt it. So there is a lot of information out there available on this law.

And I gave you two, um, two sources of information if you want to read up some more and look at some of the other things regarding this Open Meeting Law, there's the Government and the Sunshine Manual which you should look at as an advisory council anyway because there are things about ethics and different things that would concern you as a member of the advisory council.

And there's the Florida Attorney General site where there's frequently asked questions and different questions and opinions that the Attorney General has issued on the Open Meetings Law.

So those are both very good sources of information, if a question should come up during your course of your service on the advisory council.

And if you can't reach your administrative staff member, um, or anybody in the General Counsel's Office.

So that's the general overview of it.

Two or more council members getting together anywhere, any time, to talk about Council business that will come before or that may come before is considered a public meeting.

And then you've got to comply with all the requirements of that Open Meeting Law.

So, that being said, I'm happy to open the floor to questions and we can proceed from there.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Can I start off by saying my apologies to the Council. Linda, thank you for sending that information to me. I did not get it out to the Council. I just sent it via e-mail to everyone, so please, if you would, reference your e-mail for that information that Linda's referencing now, okay?

Thanks again, Linda, for coming and talking to us about this, 'cause there has been a lot of questions. And I have kind of -- I guess I put a little bit of a pause on our communication in-between meetings just because I didn't know the full aspect of what governs our communication. And so I think you have cleared up some of that for us.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Certainly for me. I really appreciate that.

I guess one of my questions, if I can start out, and then I'll get the Council go forward, is what do you consider "business"? Because everything sort of comes before the Council. Are those things that we decide on? Is that just information that we talk about

or recommendations we consider?
What is considered a "business"?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: What would be considered business of the Council is going to be anything that would -- that could conceivably appear on an agenda for a properly-noticed meeting. And that could be old business, new business; it could be, um, you know, um... proposed legislation, um... there might have been a bill filed regarding to Deaf and hard of hearing that the Council would want to discuss, not necessarily take any action on, but just discuss.

Um... there may be an annual report that's due. There may be, um... new technologies that are available. All of those things could be considered "business" that would come before the Council.

If it's something that you think the Council is going to be interested in or should provide advice on to the Department and its role as an advisory council, then that's going to be "business."

Um... um... and it could be, like I said, something as simple as just an idea or a discussion of new technology.

If it's going to come before the Council, then that's going to be considered "business."

If it's something, um, about a movie, you know, recently there was a new -- there's a movie out in the last year, um, that related to Deaf and hard of hearing and there was, uh... then that's not something that's going to come -- that subject matter is the same as which the Council is interested in, but it's not going to be something that's going to appear on an agenda for a council meeting.

So members of the Council are free to talk about that whenever they want and however they want.

Um... but it's going to be anything that you could envision being on an agenda.

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: This is Cindy. I have a question for you.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: What if you have Co-Chairs of a committee and you just want to talk to decide on a date to offer a meeting to everybody? That's it.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Well, you should let staff do that. Um... let staff, because staff can contact all the members of the Council, um, and, you know, and ask what dates are available.

Because that's... that's not quite business that will come before the Council, but it's really close. So you should let staff coordinate the dates for the meeting, because that is something that the Council is concerned with and that could be construed as council business

>> CINDY SIMON: What I was thinking was to give the staff dates to give to everybody.

>> VOICE: John has joined the conference.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: That would be okay.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: What you can't do with staff, though, is let's say there's an item on the agenda, let's say it's a proposed piece of legislation that's been filed in the Legislature and the Council is interested in and they want to take a position on.

And what you can't do is you can't call staff and say, um, "I -- here's my comments on this bill and I want you, staff, to give them to, um, three of the -- these three other members of the Council." That's what you can't do. Staff can't pass messages between council members in order to avoid having to call a public meeting.

But you can certainly give, you know, staff information about available dates for meetings. We've got, you know, the Chair can call the meeting. You can say I'm available any time during the month of May, um, but not in June, you know, those kinds of things. You can communicate directly with staff on that any time you want and that's not an issue.

And then the staff can turn around and communicate with every member of the Council.

>> CINDY SIMON: So my question on that was can the two Co-Chairs communicate on what dates to give staff to offer?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: I would recommend that you do not.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: I recommend that you just give the dates that are amenable to both of you to the staff.

Someone could construe that if you're speaking to the Co-Chair about available dates, someone could -- it could possibly be construed that that could be a discussion of advisory council business that should have been properly noticed.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay. Thank you.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina, I have a question.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Okay.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. If -- let's just say that the Chair sends the information through Sean to the Council, like a template or just some general information and I receive it and let's say I have a question about it, just something in the document I may not understand, am I allowed to contact the Chair and say what did this mean?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: No. You have to go -- that kind of conversation would have to be held within the context of a meeting. So questions you have, that's a very good example of business that's going to come before the Council.

So, what you have to do, if Sean can't answer your question, then you have to raise that question at the next meeting of the Council that's been properly noticed.

You can't discuss that issue with the other council member any time outside of a public meeting.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. So if I needed to -- let's say that it's preparatory materials that have been sent out for our next meeting --

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Right.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: -- in other words, we're supposed to go over stuff and blah, blah, blah, and there's something in there that I don't understand, if I'm understanding you correctly, I would contact Sean and say would you please ask Glenna what does this mean, so that we can be properly prepared?

Because if we wait until the next meeting, you know, it's just going to junk up the meeting.

Does that make sense?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Well, you can't -- you can't -- you can't ask Sean to communicate to the other member on your behalf.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: So any questions you have like that have to be reserved for the meeting. Um... that's the kind of thing that has to take place in an open meeting that the public is aware of, that the public can participate in, if they want to.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. Thank you.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: And those kinds of questions need to be raised in a public meeting. Because to discuss it prior to the meeting is discussing council business outside of a properly-noticed, um, arrangement.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Thank you.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Mmm-hmm.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe, I have a question.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Okay.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: We have some vacancies and positions that are open. I mean, do I have to get Sean's permission or to post it on Facebook, we have our own Florida Coordinating Council Facebook page. You mean, I can't talk to and, say, promote and encourage someone to join our Council, that we have a position open?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: No, that's perfectly -- that would be perfectly fine. That's not going -- that's not council business. You're trying to encourage participation in the Council and have someone apply to be a member of the Council.

Um... and then if that person -- if you're talking to a person, trying to recruit them, they're not a council member yet, so they're not covered by the Government and the Sunshine Law.

Once they get appointed, then both of you become council members and then you have to restrict your communication about council business to within the confines of a properly-noticed meeting.

But you could certainly recruit, you could certainly talk about in general to the general public about all the good work that the Council does, all the things that you're considering, all the things that you do, that's perfectly okay.

It's just that, um, once it -- once that person becomes a member of the Council, then you can't discuss things with that person outside of a properly-noticed meeting, that is part of the Council's business.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I have another question. All of us, from what I understand, none of us have been reappointed. So, technically... uh... we're not covered under the Sunshine Law, we're only covered by the Sunshine Law only when we're appointed. Correct?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: No, that's not correct. Actually, you're appointed and there is a statute that says once you're appointed, you'll serve until you're replaced.

>> VOICE: Karen Goldberg has joined the conference.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: You serve until you're replaced. So until you resign or you're removed, you're still a member of the Council, even though your appointment term has ended, you're still there, you're still under that original appointment, so you're still covered by Government and the Sunshine. There is a statute that covers that contingency, so that the work of appointed boards and councils and commissions can continue should the Governor and the Surgeon General get behind on the appointment process.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I have a question about travel arrangements, plans, um, the meeting -- meeting at a restaurant or arrangements before the meetings, part of the things that are happening. It's not the business, but just the logistics, perhaps, getting to or where we're staying, things that have to do with working out those logistics pertaining to an upcoming meeting.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: That would be something that Sean would help you with. Um... and, um... there's restrictions on the places where you can have a public meeting, um, that the law imposes. You have to meet in places that are accessible, um, and there has to be proper notice and the public has to be able to get there, they have to be able to park, they have to be able to enter the building.

So, that kind of restricts the places where you can actually have a meeting.

Now, once you're in a physical location that's been determined, notice has been provided, and the members of the Council are there at this location, there's no reason why you all shouldn't have dinner together, lunch together, cocktails together. You can certainly do all of that at that location, just as long as you don't discuss council business while you're together in those -- in that kind of environment.

But in terms of the travel arrangements and things like that --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Right.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: -- your administrative staff will help you with that. Okay?

>> SEAN ISAAC: Linda, this is Sean. I have a question.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Also, we get questions from the public that are related to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing population and I think part of our process sometimes is we can't answer, we refer it to the council members for assistance on that.

Is that allowable?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Sure, yeah. Um... they can certainly talk to members of the public, if they want to. They don't have to.

But what we have to be careful about is as a member of the Council, that when they get in that circumstance where someone is asking a question or, um... um... looking for additional information, the council member who's speaking with the member of the public has to make clear that they're speaking only on their own behalf as an individual and not in their official capacity as a member of the Council, number one.

And number two, a member of the Council should never give a legal opinion or an interpretation of the statute or rule.

If the public -- if the question requires either one of those, then it should come back to you. And if you need assistance from legal counsel, then you should exact me. And then we would get the appropriate information to the member of the public.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. Thank you.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Mmm-hmm.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: Linda, let me ask one more question; this is Sean.

You've mentioned some of the things that are allowable, like going to the movies, and a nice movie [chuckles]. What are some other things that are allowable that we're not thinking about, maybe, during this discussion that are --

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Anything is allowable --

[Talking over one another].

>> SEAN ISAAC: -- close --

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Anything is allowable as long as you don't discuss things coming before the Council. You know, you're going to be at the same convention, you're going to be at the same local meetings, you're going to be talking to the same experts, you know.

So, I mean, council members can get together any time, anywhere they want; they just can't discuss council business. That's the only restriction.

The only time you can discuss council business and that goes back to the earlier question, you know, that the lady asked if I have a question about the meeting materials, you know, can I talk about it with the person who produced them? No, not unless you're in the meeting.

Um... so, council members can get together anywhere, anytime, anyhow. Just don't discuss council business. So....

And that -- and getting together includes in person, in writing, on the telephone, on a Zoom call, um, electronically, or, um, physically or written. It covers all forms of communication.

[Note from CART Captioner]: Question in the chat.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. Thank you.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Karen Goldberg has her hand up. Go ahead.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Hi. This is Karen. I apologize, I came in a little bit late, so I may have missed this. I saw the tail end of something, so I just wanted to ask again.

So, for instance, earlier today, we were talking about the Commission on Ethics and this financial disclosure form that needs to be completed.

So during the break, I e-mailed the Commission on Ethics to get more information. Once I got that information, I forwarded it to Sean, so that -- 'cause he's our point of reference -- to discuss with council members.

I didn't forward it to other people.

Am I allowed to do that, to send it to Sean?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Yes, absolutely, yes. That's exactly what you should do.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, thank you.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: That's exactly what you should do with information that's going to come, that's going to come before the Council.

You can always communicate with staff. Staff can always communicate with you. The only thing --

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: All right.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: -- you can't do with staff is ask the staff member to pass a message on to another council member, for instance, going back to the earlier question about "I didn't understand something that was in the meeting materials," you can't ask Sean to go ask the person who prepared the meeting materials what, you know, what is really the answer here because I'm confused, and then have Sean come back to you and tell you what the answer is.

That's a way of circumventing the public records -- the public meetings law.

But you can communicate with Sean any time you want about anything and he can communicate with you and he can communicate with any of the other members of the Council, that's not a problem.

[Pause].

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Generally speaking, anything that relates to council business has to be taken care of during your meetings. That's pretty much the rule of thumb.

If you follow that, you'll be okay.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Anything else? Okay, go ahead.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, I understand the issues related to the council business and anything that would fall under the category of what appears on the agenda. You know, obviously we do not discuss outside of a -- anything that's Council work.

Talking with presenters, discussing minutes, any of these things, but discussing topics also, there may be some similar hot-topic discussion that relates to our community, um... where they may overlap. Where's the division between that and... for example, there's a hot issue regarding -- throughout the Deaf community, they're very upset and they're going on, commenting, we're hearing all of this dialogue about an issue.

Can we discuss those issues that we share in common in our community? But just not... um... we are not representing the Council when we have those conversations, we're speaking on our own behalf, as a person.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Right, I -- yeah, I understand, I understand your question. Unfortunately, there's not going to be a bright line answer, um, to your question.

Generally speaking, you know, issues of concern to you, and that's what I say, as members of this Council, you all have a commonality of interests that's evidenced by your serving on this Council.

And you're going to deal with the same bodies of interest, the same issues, you're going to attend the same meetings, you're going to know a lot of the same people, you're going to know a lot of the experts in this field. Collegially and collectively.

And that's not to say that you can't discuss these issues that are of concern to you as a member of this Council and this community.

Where you have to -- and it's always -- if there's ever a question as to whether or not it will come before the Council, then you should refrain talking about it.

If you ever have to ask that question, then you know that there's an issue there.

But if you're just talking about, you know, um, the latest, um... developments in the field, you know, then that's going to be fine. Because that's never going to be a specific agenda item that's going to come before the Council.

Now, if the Council is going to be asked to participate in XYZ and -- then you know that you really shouldn't talk about that until it comes before the Council during a properly-noticed meeting.

So if there's ever a question about an overlap, then you should refrain from discussing it with other members of the Council unless you're in a meeting.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm, okay, all right. I'm just --

[Talking over one another].

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Most of the time --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Outside of the Council meeting --

[Talking over one another].

>> LINDA McMULLEN: I'm sorry?

Go ahead.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, just, again, any issue/discussion that may pertain to the Council, but it would have to be done within the boundaries of a council meeting.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Yes, that's correct, within a -- within the boundaries of a properly-noticed meeting.

And the proper notice is seven days that it gets published, um, in the Florida Administrative Registry, what we call the FAR, seven days prior to the meeting. That's the notice that goes to the public that allows them to know when and where you're going to meet and what you're gonna talk about,

So if it's any subject that members of the public are interested in, they can participate in that. They have sufficient time to prepare and they have sufficient notice that they can make arrangements to attend the meeting. That's what the Open Meetings Law is all about.

[Pinging sounds in background].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. So, Linda, does that mean that the agenda actually has to be in the public notice or just the topics that will come about?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: The agenda --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna, just making a quick announcement. If any of you have your phones unmuted, please go ahead and mute them, because we are getting some background noise on the conference call.

[Pause].

>> LINDA McMULLEN: The agenda has to be published within a reasonable amount of time, um, to allow the public to prepare. They don't have to go -- they don't have to be simultaneous, but they do need to be very close together in terms of the notice.

And those are the three prongs of the open meeting requirement is: Notice, agenda, and minutes. So these are the three things that you're required to do as a Council. And then you have to publish the minutes, so that after the meeting is over, the public can know what happened, with the things that were on the agenda, so....

You don't have to publish the agenda with the notice, but you have to have the agenda available very soon thereafter so that the public can peruse it if they want to prior to the meeting.

You can make changes to the agenda if you want to and you typically post those, um, either right -- as soon as the changes are made. You want to give the public as much notice as possible about what the Council's going to be doing. That's the spirit of the Open Meetings Law.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: There is a --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna.

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Who -- mmm-hmm?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Go ahead.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes. Public notice, regarding public notice, and you mentioned the FAR, Sean is responsible to post to that. And who is responsible to posting agenda and minutes? Staff as well?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: That's going to be the administrative staff.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And so they're responsible for posting the agenda, the minutes after the fact, not I as the chairperson? I'm not in a position to do that?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: No.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Post the agenda --

>> LINDA McMULLEN: No, the administrative staff, your support staff will do that for the Council.

They'll make sure the notice is provided. They'll maintain the web page, where the agenda will be posted and where the minutes of the meeting, after they have been held, will be posted. All that is handled by administrative staff.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Uh-huh, I see... okay. So that means Sean will then be posting minutes, taking minutes, posting minutes... ah.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: That is correct.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: More work for him.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: That is correct. And your minutes will be, once prepared, they will be distributed to the Council for approval and that will be an item of business at your next committee -- at your next council meeting, you'll have as old business, the minutes from the previous meeting and everybody will look at them, make sure they're accurate, and you'll take a vote on them and say yeah, I approve these minutes, and then they get posted.

And then they're available, if a member of the public wants to ask for them.

So, it's before, during, and after are the three parts of those public meetings law. You've got to give notice before; you've got to allow the public to be there during; and then you give the public the information about the meeting after the meeting has occurred.

But your administrative staff will take care of all of that.
Anything else?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So then, for example, our agenda, let's say we're recruiting a presenter and, um, they're not maybe familiar with our community and some of the issues.

We get the presenter, the presentation arrangements individually?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Okay. I'm not sure I understand your question.

You're trying -- you're inviting someone to appear before you meeting? Is that what you mean by "presenter"?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: If it is a presenter, like you, Linda, we'll just use your presentation today, you're on the agenda.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So anyone in our field, I'll just say the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, we want to invite a presenter and I, Glenna, know the individual that I would like to come and present, can I reach out to them? And then pass their information on and then Sean makes those arrangements for them to be on the agenda and attend?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Right. Well, you can reach out to anyone any time --

[Talking over one another].

>> LINDA McMULLEN: -- that's not a member of the Council. Yes, if you have someone that you thought would be -- would make a good presentation to the Council, absolutely, you can talk to them any time you want.

You can gather all the information and then you can give it to Sean.

What you can't do is distribute it to other members of the Council and say, "Hey, do you want this person to present to our Council?"

The only time you can discuss that with other council members is in a meeting.

So, if you did want to discuss a potential presenter with other members of the Council, you would put it on the agenda or you would bring it up in new business at the next council meeting and then you would say, um, hi, I'm Glenna, and I've talked to this fella and he's really good and I think he should come speak to the Council. What do you all...".

And then there would be a discussion in this meeting about this potential presenter.

But you can talk to that person, that potential presenter any time you want, as many times as you want. And then you can pass the information on to Sean.

And then it may or may not get included in the next meeting. And that's how that would work.

You can't discuss potential presenters with other members of the Council unless you're in a meeting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Because --

>> LINDA McMULLEN: And Sean will give you my e-mail --

[Talking over one another].

>> LINDA McMULLEN: If anybody has any questions, you can reach out to Sean or you can reach out to me directly, okay?

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- values our input.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Okay. All right. It's been a pleasure --

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Linda? Linda?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Yes?

>> SEAN ISAAC: I think there is another comment or two from Glenna.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Oh, okay. I'm sorry. Okay, go ahead.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, I think I'm good. I just was wondering when it comes to the agenda, we can provide input on the agenda, I guess is what I meant.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Absolutely --

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- and if there's a presenter that I know, I can reach out to, and that's okay.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Right, absolutely. And you would do that with Sean, right.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I notice that you mentioned about new business, old business. We have never had that in our agenda. So does that mean we have to modify according to the Robert's Rules of Order procedure with adding old business and new business?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: You don't have to, that's entirely up to the Council.

So, you don't have to have that. But there is -- there should always be an opportunity to bring up items that, um, um, that need to be discussed, but you don't want to get too

far away from the agenda, because the agenda is what allows the public to know what the meeting is going to be about. And that's the whole point of the Open Meetings Law, is to make sure that the public is informed and able to participate.

So, if you go too far off the agenda with old business or new business -- and old business and new business is just an agenda, um, item, it's just a way of organizing the agenda -- when you do your agenda and if you have old business and new business on it, which you're not required to have, but if you do, then the subjects of the old business and the subjects of the new business should also be listed on the agenda.

Because you can't go, um, too far afield off on subjects that have not been properly noticed.

So not only can you not discuss things outside of the meeting that's council business, you can't bring up brand new things at a council meeting that have not been noticed, because that doesn't give the public the opportunity to participate if you bring of something completely new that's not on the agenda.

>> CINDY SIMON: Hand up. This is Cindy.

Just to let you know, in the past, we have had old business and new business and it's typically at the end of the second day, at the end of the agenda. And I think it's just been these one-day meetings when we stopped doing that.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Okay. Well, that may be something you want to discuss at the next meeting, as to whether, you know, how you want to organize your agenda going forward.

But that's certainly within your purview, how you want to do that.
[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I think we do pretty well with our agenda and we do list out those individual items.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Under new business or old business.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Right.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Typically they're ongoing issues and that list just carries over to the next agenda. I think we've been doing okay in that area.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Good. I'm sure you have; it sounds like it.

[Pause].

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Anything else?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Anymore questions for Linda?

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Anything at all?

>> LINDA McMULLEN: If anybody has any questions, you can either send them to me directly or they can send them through Sean. And I am in the office everyday 8:00-5:00, so....

It's been a pleasure talking to you! You all have a good day

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I just want to say thank you, Linda.

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Thank you.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I want to say thank you. Good job!

>> LINDA McMULLEN: Thank you very much. It was a pleasure!

All right. I'm signing off now. Bye now.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you. Thank you for coming, Linda.

>> VOICE: Linda McMullen has left the conference.

[Talking over one another].

[Pause] .

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Quickly, the clarification that was just provided, that anything that needs to be on the agenda or could be on the agenda, we cannot discuss individually with each other outside of the council meeting.

And if you do talk about anything outside of the council, then they're probably not going to be on the agenda.

Okay. Well, as far as travel plans, those discussions, remember I asked about logistics? Linda said those conversations are well to be had outside of council, and that applies to both full council members, as well as our committee members.

Sean? I also noted that you are not only responsible for the public notice, which you have been doing. The agenda, which we usually work on together. And with this new information, I'm wondering... I will send you what I have and then you'll type it up.

And then my notes for the minutes, I'll send you after the council meeting and you can do those. Have fun with that!

I was the one always doing the minutes [chuckles]. Full disclosure! But it looks like Sean is the one who's supposed to be compiling the minutes after our meeting, which I know takes a lot of time.

>> SEAN ISAAC: And this is Sean. Yeah, we are all learning [laughs] about our roles here. So I certainly will make sure that that's done by our staff here, mmm-hmm.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So the agenda, I'll send to you, our usual. That's it. The minutes are all on you! Gosh, that was --

[Talking over one another].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. And it was also eye-opening that we have to post the agenda pretty soon after the meeting notice. So we'll have to come up with a timeframe to make sure that all agenda items are on the agenda and ready to go.

It might be helpful if we actually considered the new agenda in this meeting or the previous meetings, so that everybody gets a chance to provide input.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I agree, yes. Yes, you're right.

Our next meeting is in May, but I see that James Scott is here and I know he was planning to make a public comment, even though it's not quite 2:00 o'clock yet.

We could go ahead. James, are you ready? Would you like to go ahead and make your public comment at this time?

[Pause].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. Glenna, are we allowed to start the open public comment early?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe, do you have... I'm sorry?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I said are we allowed to open the public comments early? Early?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: James is already here. And we know that he was planning to make a comment, a public comment. And if anyone else joins us, then they're welcome to do that as well.

But... Debbe, do you have James's phone number? Text him and tell him we're ready, if he can start now.

[Pause].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I'm looking...

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. Cecil said earlier in the chat that he had comments that he wanted to make at 2:00 o'clock. I wasn't sure if everybody caught that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay, okay, if that's what you would like to do. I'm still looking for James's contact number.

Well, hello! Hi, Cecil!

[Pause].

>> JAMES SCOTT: Hello, this is James.

This is James. I'm walking from my car; give me a moment, please.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cecil, would you like to go ahead? Do you have a comment?

>> INTERPRETER: Cecil? Oh, Cecil, he's here, okay.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Can you see me?

>> JAMES SCOTT: Hold on, this is James again.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No, we can't really see you. You're a little far away. Is there any way you can get a little closer to the screen?

This is better, James. Could you turn your phone sideways and maybe make your camera a little bigger? Landscape instead of portrait? You can?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: There you go! Much better! Great.

[Pause].

>> JAMES SCOTT: So, okay, I'm here, this is, yeah, this is James speaking.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Go right ahead with your public comment.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Go ahead, we're ready for you.

>> JAMES SCOTT: Thank you. Thank you, FCCDHH, thank you for inviting me to make an open comment, a public comment.

My name is James Scott, I'm the president of the Florida Association of the Deaf just 2022 through 2024. I've got a number of people concerned about -- throughout the state of Florida with regard to VR and some of the services for the Deaf being provided, to disability communication.

Like, for example, agencies and companies, I don't know if you're aware, more -- more access needs to be provided in the workplace.

The number of things we're seeing are a number of complaints in hospitals, Deaf persons, Deaf and hard of hearing, late-deafened are included as well.

Included in FAD, and in nursing home access, Hospice care. Managers refusing to provide access in nursing homes. No provision of interpreters.

Particularly one nursing home turned out 20 different people -- 20 different places people went to to find accessibility in Florida, the western part of Florida. And the northern part of Florida as well, Jacksonville, east out to Orlando, Clearwater, the west. Just from all corners of the state, we're seeing these problems.

And things like... um... one particular coach, a job coach not being provided, they need to provide certain resources, like interpreting. And the cost, you know, they bristled at the cost. You know, like... it was supposed to be an IRS tax writeoff and, um... up to \$10,000 in a year, things that they were not aware of. They need better training, so that job coaches... and other resources that become available, and they recognize that people with a communication disability in the year 2008, recognizing that... um... that person with a physical disability as well, that they could -- whether it was hearing loss or -- they had all these different categories set aside and, uh... they were having difficulty in communication and providing these services and they could get a benefit, you know, like, VRI, if they were okay with that.

And understand that they see people who had a vision loss, that they were still forced to use VRI, even though they were having difficulty to see it, and sometimes the VRI didn't work or the speed of their hardware, their WiFi connection, whatever it was.

So they had to have other options. And they were just being given -- there were no other options, even though that particular means was failing.

And, uh... they would maybe bring in an interpreter as a last resort.

Also, CDI, if someone who doesn't read English well, didn't have any proficiency... um... but, again, it was not being provided and... and in the Legislature here in Florida, they have a lot of language in the legis -- in a lot of the legislation for people that don't read well... um... they're not making provision for interpreting or captioning.

It's always based on captioning rather than any provision of interpreting. Um...

[Pause].

>> JAMES SCOTT: People being forced to use websites when they actually wanted to call through some relay or interpreting service, but they were just being redirected to the website, and there was a challenge there based on language access.

And they wanted direct contact through sign, but they had to be forced to use these other methods, so Deaf folks were not getting the full benefit of some of these provisions that were being made online, government provisions, because of the limitations.

And, of course, masks, not being able to see through some who are relying on lipreading, made it a challenge because of the presence of these masks.

So, some of these really important topics.

FCCDHH is probably aware of many of these things.

I've seen draft improvements over 20 years for things that you can participate in, to help resolve, I appreciate it.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. This is Glenna speaking. Yes, we have seen those issues come up regarding video remote interpreting, or VRI. Not getting an in-person interpreter. Also, reading levels and having to resort only to having access to captions, that one doesn't come up as much, but we are that we are a very diverse population of Deaf and hard-of-hearing people, regardless of your language use.

James thank you for your comments.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I know this morning, earlier in our --

>> JAMES SCOTT: Thank you --

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- sending letters out to other agencies, just to educate and inform.

A good example would be an agency that we know provides access to hospitals, sending letters to those agencies, maybe even television broadcast stations, to talk about captioning in areas that could be improved.

And interpreters. And we do see some improvement. They're getting better at that. But it seems like every year or so these same issues resurface and, yes, it's time to look at solutions on how to make things better.

We here on the Council also represent many other state and national organizations, we're not only serving the Coordinating Council, but we have other liaisons and can network with other organizations to make things happen.

Many of the organizations we work with have been very good. I know the Civil Rights of Florida organization --

>> INTERPRETER: Disability Rights, excuse me.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- Disability Rights of Florida is one of those organizations. They have funding and they have more direct access to people at the government level. You might want to reach out to them and see if they're willing to work with you as well.

Thank you again, James.

Is there anything more you would like to add?

>> JAMES SCOTT: No, thank you.

[Talking over one another].

>> JAMES SCOTT: Thank you. I look forward to future meetings with FCCDHH. And I appreciate the opportunity and I hope things, you know, that you allowed me to bring up. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We do look forward to your leadership as president. Thank you.

Now, I see that Cecil is here as well. Do you have something for public comments?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: [Signing; no interpreting in order to caption].

Hi, I'm glad to be here. Sorry, there is so much background in my office. Yes, I did retire recently from the State Government but now I'm on the Board of the Florida Telecommunications Relay as their assistant director, I started last November.

And I've been doing a great deal of work and it's really been a wonderful time period. So here I am, back to work once again! Being here with the staff.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, I was wondering how you were doing in retirement! You really don't know how to retire, do you!

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Yeah, I was too bored just sitting at home by myself! My wife is planning to retire next year and I thought I would get back to work while I can.

Now, first thing I wanted to talk about was I believe there was someone named Sean -- oh, hello! -- there was a mention of Sean and an e-mail? And also video phone and Zoom and the limitations thereof.

I know that the State is very strict in terms of allowing access to Zoom.

However, I did have a discussion with Sean about the importance of providing to all of you some thoughts on GoToMeeting, Microsoft Teams, other options to use.

Because many of us who are Deaf and hard of hearing, who use sign language as our primary form of communication do encounter challenges when it comes to, you know, like, just as James Scott was saying, people who use their hands, use sign language to communicate, there is a variety of communication levels and functioning levels and access that needs to be provided.

And there's not one solution that works for the entire community. So having the chat even is not as effective. It's not functionally equivalent if it's only one-way

communication.

So, without something like Zoom, just relying on chat and waiting for the turn-taking, it brings us back to the days of the TTY, those of you who are familiar with TTY and how you had to wait for the other person to finish their comment before you had to sign in. And no one wants to go back to that.

But funding, giving access to the public via video phone is certainly one thing I would bring up.

And, of course, working with FTRI, historically, I'm not sure if you're familiar with what happened when COVID hit, the level of services was significantly reduced and it was mostly a challenge for Deaf Service Centers, also Relay Service Centers, other places serving the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community and of course COVID was hard on many people.

Making sure the Board is aware of the discussions taking place.

The strongest point, I think, to be brought forward is a push for the Telecommunications Access System Act, I think that started in 1991 when we first started seeing those laws. And now we're seeing it's 30-years-old!

And it's about time that Representative Stephen Winn brought forward, I think it was back in 1992 when it first came up and has yet to pass. Unless I'm mistaken. It actually never made it through the process --

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think it was a little later.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: But represented --

[Talking over one another].

>> CECIL BRADLEY: -- who is a strong advocate of the Deaf community who has now retired and the language of the bill is changing.

Now, Chris Wagner was involved at one point in terms of authoring some of that language, but it died in committee.

However, work continues on developments and developing efforts to reach out to legislators, especially for the upcoming fall session -- the summer/fall session, I should say.

Letting the community be aware of what is going on and pushing for the language to change, slight changes, that would allow for WiFi to be provided.

Because currently the law prohibits that. Or I should say it's -- "prohibited" is a strong word, but it certainly does not provide for the provision of WiFi, so it's a huge challenge.

So it's being worked on. The Board is discussing it with the president.

Trying to provide WiFi access to any group that is necessary.

The biggest challenge we're facing is the law doesn't allow it but also TASA cannot access that, which is very strange, the way Florida sets things up, it does not allow access to the provided WiFi.

So I wanted to bring that to your attention. And how much I appreciate the communication that we've had.

I look forward to the information sharing continuing. And that you may be hearing more about our efforts to reach out to legislators and educate them.

Because we are not allowed to lobby directly, but we can educate. And if you look at the wording, it really is some terrifically old and outdated language that needs to be changed.

And so we want these legislators to take a second look and make those adjustments.

And I look forward to sharing with you our plans, my plans, and get back with you again.

And those are my two basic comments.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Yeah, I am aware of TASA and the updates that you had. Yes, some areas of the state is still really bad and we're making the adjustments to the bill or is this the same bill before or is it adjusted?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Yes, it was that old bill, mmm-hmm.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No adjustments? No rewriting of the bill?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: I think Debbe wanted to comment?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I have attended a few of their TASA meetings and I have brought that up, that their language is, the thing is so old, it needs to be modified. But they have to go through the Legislature, and so that's one of the issues, um... so that's what we need to find a good legislator who understands and is willing to work with us, to make these changes.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Exactly, yes. I can give you an example. We used to -- we had developed talking points for TASA and these issues and once they were worked on and revised and gone through the Board for final approvals, we started shopping them around to different legislators.

But the purpose at the time was to encourage legislators to look at it without any outside influences.

So, letting them see where these problems are coming from and allowing these legislators themselves to do whatever research is needed and I would love to see their take on it. And if they want to ask us how we can change the bill and ask for our feedback and educate them.

But I want them to do their part. There are just a few legislators who truly understand these issues and that's really the challenge, because what we have is a very strong House that they're leaning strongly towards Republican, I should say. And then some of the Democrats as well.

But you see the political games being played. And especially in summertime, once you finish talking to them and then you do your follow-up, that's going to all come in time.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I think that it's great for our Council to support that work. We have discussed it before, to be sure. TASA has come up many times and the PSC (sp) as well.

For me, I'm happy to be helpful and speak to my local representatives, senator, and be in touch with those folks. If you have something specific to share, I would be more than happy to do that if that would be helpful.

I don't know if any of our other council members would be willing as well?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: That's great!

I will definitely have a discussion with people on my end and share whatever talking points we can. And then provide that back to the Council. It will be in the upcoming months.

But currently the Legislature doesn't want to be bothered about anything until summertime, so we may have to bide our time until then.

But definitely, I will be in touch with Sean and pass over whatever information I have as it becomes available.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. But for now, until we receive your talking points, um... you could still -- and we could still come in contact with our legislators and then after that's ready, make an appointment again to show them the full talking points.

The FTRI is in place now. That language includes some talking points, but you could take it back for a future meeting with specifics.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Yes, and I would be happy to do that. Definitely getting the entire group here involved in that effort and just being in touch especially on the local side of things. Trying to plant those seeds as we go along and seeing if they can take root among communities.

And talking across the board and later on hopefully having some group meetings as well, especially as we come into the fall season.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. The TASA, I think that's where it would be really great to get the council members, various organizations -- it should be fairly easy to organize getting behind that, because truly it affects each one of us, whether you are hard of hearing, to Deaf, to deaf-blind, whatever category you may represent, we all need telecommunication. And that's -- that's where we are with telecommunication. You have to have WiFi.

And we should be able to certainly get a rally behind that. HLAA, you know, all of our organizations that we represent are vested.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Yes, absolutely, Glenna, I agree 100%.

And one other thing I forgot to mention is unfortunately TTY is the go-to for a lot of people and there are some who still use it, which amazes me to this day!

However, in this day and age, having a landline is becoming much and much less common and so people are experiencing frustration with those requirements.

So, right now, our hands are somewhat tied. We would love to be involved on the other side of telecommunications, which, you know, of course we are, but the biggest challenge and the biggest disappointment, I don't know if you've heard of RTT? Realtime text? And that is what's replacing TTY.

But it's still not the final solution, federally even. The work is still being done to try and deal with the fact that we have relay services in Florida for TTY.

So, they're basically just captioned calls.

But in relation to the VRS, it's not very clear exactly how this transition to RTT is going to take place.

So, hopefully we'll be able to finally fully replace TTY on a large scale.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Do you have to give out caption phones? Like CapTel?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Right, so that falls under T-Mobile who gives the devices.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Maybe I'm confused. We're talking back with the dinosaurs and my TTY died many years ago. I don't know what is provided.

I know CapTel is a national company, but you can replace your device with a CapTel -- there was something that I read once if you had a landline, you could -- but also you could use the internet version. But those things weren't provided. It was very confusing.

So, I'm wondering if that's because -- if that goes back to the law. Is it the way the legislation is written?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: So, the law limits the use of landlines for CapTel. So, currently, with wireless communication, I believe we're in talks with -- originally with Sprint and now it's T-Mobile, Jeffrey Brush I believe is the name of the person at CapTel, and if I'm not mistaken, that's just one of the challenges that they're having in terms of the provision of wireless internet. And CapTel is not doing that.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna, yeah, I actually have an application here for an internet phone, but I didn't even know what that was. I have a few phones, at this point. Now I've got maybe too much communication! I don't know.

But FTRI needs to change.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Yeah, so we want to be more and more involved in disseminating this information. Not being so tied down to what it is we can and can't do. But dual access is the next issue, meaning landline and bluetooth technology, hand-in-hand, rather than just using one or the other.

So, I think that's the wave of the future and that's what we're looking forward to.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Go ahead, Debbe.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: One of the issues is that hearing people, most of the hearing people have one phone number. The Deaf people have to have two or more phone numbers. One is for the VP. The other one is our cell phone for texting and it's confusing to explain to hearing people, especially the doctors or whoever, you give them the VP number for voice and then sometimes you give them the cell phone and they're calling me on the cell phone when I told them no! That's the texting only.

So... there's got to be a way where we can somehow be equivalent to a hearing person; have one phone number instead of two or more numbers, for whatever reason.

Just to make life simple.

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Yes. And no offense. I don't mean any offense, but RTT is, yes, a live communication back and forth, it's a step above TTY, because you can interrupt and communicate both ways at the same time.

But when you're talking about voice and data going at the same time through RTT, that's a step above TTY. And so we're very happy with that capability.

If you have a video phone and you're going through VRS, you have to have a data plan, correct?

So it would be nice to have one mode of access because RTT requires you to pay for both voice and data access whether you need it or not.

I mean, think about that. That we're forcing people to pay for services that they don't technically need just to use that form of communication, and how does that equal access to phone communication?

But that was all I was planning to say. Good to see everyone!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I did have one other question, it's not coming to me right now...

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Senior moment!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I just have so many of them! Um... so, you'll be going out amongst legislators and promoting FTRI particularly summer, you're targeting summer. And you will send that information to us -- or, sorry, you'll be sending that via Sean, those talking points that you'll be adhering to. We would love to hear those. If you would please share that with Sean and Sean will share that to the council members and that will be helpful to our organization and to ourselves, as individuals. That will be definitely very, very helpful.

And I know that be these topics come up at our council meetings from time to time.

You said RTT, RTT, is that correct? How is that different from a CapTel phone, captioned telephones?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sorry, I'm being interrupted; hold on...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. O-L-E-L-O, Olelo, is that a phone? What is that? What's Olelo? Is that RTT?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Well, so...

[Talking over one another].

>> CECIL BRADLEY: InnoCaption, that's another app.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Olelo, what is that? Are those all the same? Is that different than RTT?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: Well, RTT was supposed to be a nationwide... what's to call it...? A nationwide communications system... along the lines -- same concept as TTY, the same way it has taken hold nationally. This is supposed to replace it on a national level, so individuals would have an app on their device.

It doesn't... hmm... I'm trying to figure out how to explain this... there are some limitations in terms of privacy and actually implementing this system.

But the idea is that RTT is supposed to be a standard and it would influence the PSAPs, the P-S-A-P local 911s, and those are the communications, but the challenge they're being, as you look state-by-state and test out the system, for RTT to allow live, interactive communication back and forth between the caller and the call taker.

Now, if you look at the apps, I'm not sure of the apps that you're mentioning, but on a federal level, they're pushing RTT as the underlying framework for that.

Now, I'm trying to think about in terms of... it's part of understanding the challenges of RTT.

The changeover hasn't been entirely smooth. There have been a lot of issues with phone systems, with individual phones.

When you're talking about digital versus analogue, the TTY system relied on analogue phone systems and so there have been issues when it comes to local switches.

They're trying to connect analogue services, and so getting that pass-through has not always happened.

So switching has been an issue.

RTT is supposed to be able to handle both sides, but it hasn't fully demonstrated that it can do that.

[Background noise].

>> CECIL BRADLEY: So that is one of the main goals of that system.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So, I know that the -- that they are competing with RTT? Is that what's happening?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: You know, it's hard to say. On a national level, they're talking about RTT, that's the general focus of conversations. But no one is really addressing the individual apps that you're mentioning.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Interesting....

All right. I'm going to open it up to the Council. Any other questions for Cecil?

>> CECIL BRADLEY: I will be taking off, I have another meeting to attend. But great to see all of you! To meet with you. See you again in the summer!

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you so much, Cecil. Bye-bye now!

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I don't see Debbe, she has stepped away.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I'm sorry.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Is everyone still here? Cory? Karen? Debbe? John?

[Note from CART Captioner]: Karen is here in chat.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: John, we haven't heard from you! There are several things we talked about today.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hey, John! John! Are you out there?

>> JOHN JACKSON: Hey, guys, this is John, I apologize. I'm having to be in and out of my office; it's one of the problems with having meetings via Zoom, is that I'm in my office and when I'm in my office, I really can't say no as easily as I can when I'm, say, in St. Augustine. So just bear with me. I am missing little chunks of the meeting and I'm trying to stay up as much as comment.

But no, you're right, I have not been commenting much.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. Anything that you'd like to say related to Sunshine Laws? Anything? I really expected to hear from you when the Sunshine Law topic came up.

>> JOHN JACKSON: I think that the presenter did a fine job; no reason for me to speak up.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay, okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Glenna, this is Sean. Can I say something at this time?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sure, Sean, go right ahead.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I didn't want to start too early; I know we were doing, what is it, public reaction -- or reaction to public comments.

But as far as Cecil mentioned the State is not necessarily strict when it comes to access to Zoom or Zoom-like platforms, that is, it's just the Florida Department of Health does not own Zoom accounts; it uses Microsoft Teams and GoToWebinar.

And we can participate in Zoom calls; we just can't initiate them.

So I just wanted to make sure the record is clear as to our abilities when it comes to Zoom or platforms like Zoom, okay?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, I know it's difficult when it comes to providing access for people in so, so many different ways, right? We're talking about Zoom, chat boxes on different platforms. And also the phone conference calls.

So we are trying to make it, you know, accessible to everyone, but it is difficult. Cory, did you want to make a comment?

>> CORY PARKER: Mmm-hmm, yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Go ahead.

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, it was related to -- well, I wanted to speak in support of what Sean was just saying. He mentioned that the state that we're in, specifically here with VR, we're under some pretty strict limitations about access to Zoom. Or I shouldn't say access to Zoom, but initiating Zoom.

It all comes down to security concerns. We typically use Microsoft Teams as a platform. And the State is always considering the security of these platforms.

So, for me, I would have to log off of my work computer and then switch over to my personal computer in order to use Zoom, because I'm not allowed to have Zoom on my work computer. It's just something that they won't allow my account to access for that server.

So, just giving a little bit of context. So thank you for bringing that up.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I did not know that. Thank you for that explanation.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: All right. This is Glenna. So you can use MS Teams. Does it work similarly to Zoom, where we would be able to see people in a gallery in the way that we're using Zoom now, with people in frames? Would it work for our purposes? Go ahead, Cory.

>> CORY PARKER: Well, I -- I don't -- I wouldn't call -- I wouldn't call myself an "expert" in that topic, per se, but the switching back and forth, having Zoom and Microsoft Teams... I'm just so much more used to Zoom, but transitioning to Microsoft Teams is similar to... um... one of the things that I'm finding that is, um, like your picture, the little corner picture, you can't change that to enlarge it.

You can close yourself off and open it back up, but you can't adjust and move them around as you can in Zoom, as I can kind of relocate the different boxes.

Some of the things you're allowed to do, as well as the closed captioning. I'm just so used to using Microsoft Teams everyday. But....

We only mention that because of the security issues. Security breaches in the past, of people getting into Zoom meetings and disrupting and so forth.

And so the State of Florida has just -- they're trying to find information with regard to breaches that they have totally discarded the idea of using Zoom and that has been hard and fast, that there's not going to be, I don't think, any change in that.

So we have to find other ways around that, until the State finds that Zoom is safe enough to be used.

That's just a little bit more information, of what we can and can't use.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I think Sean mentioned using Teams. And I didn't -- I don't know enough about it to know how it works for Deaf and hard-of-hearing people/interpreters/captioning and all the things we're using.

Debbe, do you want to make a comment?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, Gina has her hand up.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Thank you. This is Gina. In answering Glenna's question, yes, Teams does show everyone on the screen, just like Zoom does. Free Conference Call also does the same thing. We use both of those in the areas that I serve in, because they don't use Zoom.

So, yes, Teams does and so does freeconferencecall.com.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Interesting. Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: One thing I want to say is with Zoom, you have to make sure that you have the latest updates of the software. And the latest is -- has more security. If you're not keeping up with the updates, then you are open for hackers.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Oh... so, I guess this is just something that we could leave with Sean to investigate. Maybe we could experiment at other times.

I know that you have to -- you have to download the Microsoft Teams app, I believe. Is that true? Does somebody know?

>> CINDY SIMON: Yes --

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina --

>> CINDY SIMON: -- you have to download the app and then you have to make sure your computer is working with it.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. You also can use it from the web, you don't have to use the app if you don't want it. You can use it from the web.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So, I'm just wondering what the implications would be with DOH -- let me just back up.

Sean? Does Department of Health have -- you say you use Microsoft Teams internally? Do you have some other sort of software platform account that you're required to use for these types of interactions?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Yeah, the Department of Health uses Microsoft Teams and GoToWebinar. Both of those platforms are approved to use. And they both work similarly.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So, the reason we're using Zoom is basically because AQL recommended it. Am I understanding that?

[Pause].

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, I see that Lisa Schaefermeyer has joined us. Lisa, go ahead.

>> LISA SCHAEFERMEYER: [On mute].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You are muted. You're muted, Lisa. We do not hear you; no, ma'am.

>> LISA SCHAEFERMEYER: Can you hear me now? Okay. This might be before you, Sean, but back when we originally secured this contract to provide services and then, bam, COVID hit, everything went to remote.

At the time, the State did not have anything available to make it accessible to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing council members.

So what AQI did is we offered to use our Zoom, our business Zoom account, to have all of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing council members use it and have access for the virtual meetings, while everybody else, anybody who was hearing on the Council and anybody from the public, they would call in, like they normally do, on their teleconference number.

So that's where we were at.

If the State will take over providing a VRI platform, that would be wonderful!

Because we don't necessarily open up this room to the public.

So, if the State were to host the video conference, like today, and you're inviting the public in, then that can all be announced in advance and then people can join in visually into that platform.

So that's why we have this Zoom for Deaf presenters and any of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing council members. But it's not necessarily open to the public to come in and join as well.

And as you can tell, it's also being able to make sure we can monitor it and have the interpreters visible and big enough on a screen so everybody's not taking up that space, that valuable space, to be able to see the interpreters clearly.

So that's another challenge we have, you know, having a big meeting with a lot of people, they don't understand that the interpreters need to be, you know, viewed.

And then also sometimes you can't pin two interpreters at the same time, it has to be one or the other.

But Microsoft Teams, we work with all of the platforms, so whatever is used, the interpreters and AQI, we can definitely, as your provider, be able to join in that platform.

But that is why we have been offering our AQI account, is to make sure that the council members had, um, access to being able to be a part of the council meetings when they turned virtual with COVID

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. So, you have more control, in other words, with pinning interpreters, who comes in, who can join Zoom.

So if the State provides their Microsoft Teams account, you wouldn't have control? Is that how that would be?

>> LISA SCHAEFERMEYER: Yeah, that's right. Like, for example, I made all of the interpreters co-hosts, so that they can manage themselves in switching out their cameras and coming on.

But that doesn't matter. I mean... interpreters can come on to another platform. But whoever the host of that platform is, and I'm guessing Sean, that would be you? You would have to manage and make sure that the technology is all set on the platform to be able to bring in the captioning, to be able to have the interpreters switch out, and make sure that whatever platform is being used, that is all set up in advance and managed.

So, yes, today, between me and the interpreters, we're managing to make sure everybody's on screen the way you need to see them.

But, I think the point, mostly, that I wanted to make, I have no problem, AQI is fine to use Zoom, but there are, um, like Cory said, there are security issues with Zoom. And I know with other customers, you know, they have been breached.

And luckily, that's not happened with us yet, but, um... I understand completely, with state agencies, on making sure that they have the most secure platforms, too.

But I think the part that we have to remember is all of the public comments and bringing in the public. A lot of other agencies don't have that part in their meetings.

Whereas the FCCDHH does. We're inviting all of the public to come in and make comments.

Well, when you do that, now you have to open up whatever platform it is for them to join. So, you have less control about who's maybe jumping in and jumping out and, you know, whose camera is on, whose camera is off.

I think one of the advantages of doing it with just the Deaf and hard-of-hearing council members is that we know who's coming in and everybody else in the public has to use the teleconference number.

That could still be the case. You can use Microsoft Teams and still tell the public has to come in through telephone, through the telephone conferencing system. That's fine too.

But I just wanted to share why. When this first started way back, everything turned virtual, that was the solution at the time.

And I think, what I'm hearing, is it sounds like the State has more options now to offer and hopefully now offer to FCCDHH.

[Ping sound].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I appreciate that are explanation, Lisa, because I had not heard the full history of that and what happened there.

Like I said, I came in last year, and so all I recall is having access to different platforms and communication, um, opportunities, and not necessarily knowing what the limitations were. So I appreciate you giving me that full explanation; that was great.

And you're correct, the Department of Health does have more abilities to use these platforms now. We are very versed, well versed in Microsoft Teams. Probably a little bit more well versed than GoToWebinar or GoToMeeting.

I can tell you personally, I have not had a chance to work with it, with the interpreters and how they would have access, how we would need to make them co-presenters, although we can work all of that out, with the counsel --

>> [Open mic] I don't know how you want to mark it, make it half and half.

>> SEAN ISAAC: There's some background noise there.

But I will certainly contact my IT staff if that's what the Council wants to do and explore the use of additional platforms, and then perhaps make that available to the public as well.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I just ask that we make arrangements before the next meeting, if you want to practice and test it out, with me and Glenna and the interpreters.

>> [Open mic].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: To see how that works, and Lisa, as a practice session, before the May meeting?

>> [Open mic].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: If you want to try the Microsoft Teams.

>> [Open mic]. Okay.

[Note from CART Captioner]: There is an open mic and someone is speaking in the background.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I think that's a good idea, to practice it before the next meeting to see how it works. And I would definitely need Lisa and probably Lisa both to help me [chuckles] to test it out. So that would be great.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: One thing that would be nice, at every meeting, that I have asked this before, that all of us show up 15 minutes before the meeting to make sure we have all of the technical issues resolved, so that when the time -- that it be smooth, making sure we have all our phones set up and understand -- and understand the system.

So it would be nice to remind people to come 15 minutes or 10 minutes before the meeting and not on -- not when the meeting starts.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I'm hopeful that -- we meet again in May. We'll have the capability, perhaps even to meet in person at that time -- I'm hoping! -- but, again --

>> [Open mic].

[Background chatter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- March, March... we'll get some more, we'll get some more determination of where our capabilities are, if we have to use Zoom or another number, again, we have to go through this process again... I'm just reading...

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: One moment, please... I'm looking....

Between Sean, Lisa and our Captioner Lisa as well, to kind of figure out if we were to make a transition from Zoom to Microsoft Teams, how we can get all of that figured out, figure out all of the stuff it would take to work out those logistics, testing it out, between both -- the three of you and all of us together, to figure out what to do, so we can transition to Microsoft Teams, perhaps?

Okay. Would that be all right, that we work that out?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I think at some point, we may need to consider hybrid, hybrid, hybrid -- what's the sign for hybrid? -- oh, a hybrid meeting, so that way for people who can't come physically to the meeting, at least we're making ourselves available for the outsiders to come and join us.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hmm... yeah --

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- yeah, that's all -- those are all issues that need to be addressed. And in terms of Lisa making these provisions for accessibility, figuring out how to accomplish all that. I will leave that with Sean and Lisa to work that out.

>> SEAN ISAAC: And this is Sean. I appreciate, I guess Lisa and everybody who's been working their hardest to make sure these meetings are a success and providing whatever communication availabilities that they have to the Council and to the public.

I don't want to overpromise. I think it's a good idea to test and see what the capabilities are for the Department. I am certainly not an expert.

I do have an IT section that this is what they do. I do have some experience using these platforms, but not when it comes into running into challenges.

So we will definitely set something up for Lisa and Lisa and perhaps one other member of the Council to test this out

>> [Open mic].

>> SEAN ISAAC: And hopefully we'll have a new system that's successful for all.

>> [Open mic].

[Background chatter].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Let's try to get that discussion going and work out a test for that March 31st meeting for the EMOT Committee.

>> [Open mic].

>> SEAN ISAAC: That sounds fine with me.

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I have a question; this is Gina.

[Background noise].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Go ahead, Gina.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay. Sean, could you also make sure that, in testing this Teams, that people who already use Teams, like Cory said he uses it, I know I use it for another organization I work for, are we going to be able to have two different Teams organizations on the same PC? I'm not sure about that. Um... so if you could find that out, that would be great.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I will definitely check. I think Teams is tied to your e-mail address or your Outlook, but I'll definitely check on that question. Thank you for that.

[Note from CART Captioner]: Cindy has her hand up.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So I'm not familiar with MS Teams at all -- I'm retired, I don't need it --

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Cindy has her hand up.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: What did you say?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Cindy.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay. Cindy, go ahead, please.

>> CINDY SIMON: Hi. I thought that Gina requested that we do an in-person meeting. So we're gonna go to Microsoft Teams now. I will honestly say that my computer doesn't always work well with it; sometimes it does and sometimes it doesn't.

So, let me understand. We're canning the concept of an in-person meeting?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. What we're doing, first off, is, yes, in-person would be the first choice. But as long as we're in this COVID world, that's going to be our backup and we need to develop how we would do that.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean, I had a quick question.

Didn't we do a hybrid in St. Augustine, where we had -- we used multiple systems at that meeting? Even though we were in person? Or is that not right?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No -- this is Glenna -- no, we had a phone conference tie-in to the room, but we didn't have any video access.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Okay, understood.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah. So, all right, looking at the time, it's almost time for our next break, it's scheduled for 3:00, so it's close enough to that. I'm going to go ahead and take our break now and we'll be back at 3:15, at which point we will be discussing, if you have a discussion, you want to have a discussion, the responses, and then we'll be talking about our May meeting plans, and what we need to put on the agenda, possible locations, from 2014-2021 and then coming up to the next committee (sic) meeting for the next -- goodness... for the next ten times....

It's all here on the list. So by May, we probably should be in the South Florida area. Give some consideration where you think it's the best place for us to meet in the southern region and we'll discuss that when we come back from our break.

And we're on break now until 3:15.

Please come back on time so we can finish on time. All righty?

[Break].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Just checking in to see if everyone is back from our break? Debbe? And the interpreters are present. Cory is here.

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean? John?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: I'm here, this is Karen.

>> CINDY SIMON: This is Cindy, I'm here as well.

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina, I'm here.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. All right. Excellent. The five of us are back.

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Let's look at the agenda.

This next time allotted is response to public comments.

Let's start where Cecil's. I think the main highlight was TASA, the TASA bill, T-A-S-A, and, yes, he's right --

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- TASA is outdated, to say the least. And I know we have made recommendations in the past that have failed to be heard. But we can start again with that bill.

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I told Cecil to meet with legislators, on behalf of FTRI first, and then come back and revisit it again and debrief us on his talking points.

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We know it's going to take more than one visit to get legislative support.

And if you don't mind, please check your audio and make sure your microphones are on mute, we are still getting some background noise. Just check and make sure you're muted.

[Pause].

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So, as I was saying, Cecil will then forward us information from his efforts over the summer, and then we'll revisit that bill and provide a full Council support to those organizations so we can work together.

I know he mentioned WiFi availability for smartphones. That really affects everyone -- well, maybe not deaf-blind individuals

>> [Open mic].

[Motor sound].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I know, for example, Mary would definitely support that one, especially advocating for senior citizens on a fixed income.

HAAA. ALDA.

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And, again, if you can please check your microphones, we have a lot of background noise. If you could please check your devices and mute yourself.

Any additional thoughts?

I was thinking if we look at the bill this summer and then next year, when the legislative -- when General Session begins in January, we'll be better prepared. We'll have committee meetings this year, obviously, prior to that

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: But this summer, we will have talking points ready for us to start lobbying again in the fall.

[Background noise].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And then we'll be ready by January.

[Background noise].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And I think it's critical that we help support the bill, by writing letters, making phone calls. They need to know that FTRI and FCCDHH are behind it. And that might be an excellent lead.

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: For us to then segue to the Interpreter Licensure Bill. Fingers crossed! But it might be that foot in. And that would be our next focus.

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Would anyone else like to make any comments with regards to TASA, FTRI, Cecil's public comments?

[Pause].

[Background noise].

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Lisa? Can you tell us, or somebody tell us, how to mute our phones?

>> CINDY SIMON: I've been doing this all day. It's star two.

>> VOICE: Gina Halliburton has left the conference.

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: Sorry, that's for a landline.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: What about for cell phones?

>> CINDY SIMON: Cell phones usually have a place to hit "mute" when you're on a call.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna speaking. Okay, hopefully it's a bit quieter now.

So, no further comments in regard to TASA and FTRI?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe, you attended the TASA meeting. What was that like?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I did attend the TASA meeting last year and I'm still learning.

Sorry. I'm still learning, understanding the system, how they work, how they work. Um... I had a lot of questions. They were very patient with me, so...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So there wasn't any discussion on Deaf or hard-of-hearing related topics?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes, there was a lot of discussion about, you know, things that were old and outdated and, you know, lots of things. So there was discussions. It was just understanding the language that they were using. I was not familiar with their style of their meeting and their... um... jargon that they were using, the abbreviations --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It was highly technical; mainly technology. Gotcha. Yeah.
You were there meeting with a bunch of nerds. Different jargon.

>> VOICE: Gina has joined the conference.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe, do you feel that the TASA law needs to be updated? Would you be in agreement with that?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Oh, definitely. I mean, definitely I agree. I mean, they were talking about portable phones. Well, no one uses portable phones, because they're not using the landline anymore. So, try to give more cell phones and make it available for all of the Deaf and hard of hearing.

And then, you know, they talked about CapTel was delayed. And I -- to be honest, I stopped using it, because I didn't want -- I had more hearing people hang up on me because of the delay, um, while we're trying to read. So I've always been using DCL through the VP.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I see. So, Debbe, the TASA group, do you think we could gain their support? Well, to help educate others about the bill?

Because if we look at the state level, we have FTRI, FCCDHH, and then TASA. So do you think the three of us could work together in support of a new bill?

Plus, other similar organizations

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I think a lot of people could get behind it. We could collaborate together on this bill.

Okay. James Scott, he mentioned several issues: VRI --

>> VOICE: Interpreter has left the conference.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- that we are all familiar with. And, yes, we do need to find the right stakeholders to send letters to and address this issue, whether it's agencies, contractors, hospitals.

He also mentioned interpreters, another familiar topic.

I believe John was going to write a letter about using interpreters in government settings. And others could write letters about using interpreters in certain settings.

Which brings to mind that there are others that he mentioned, due to their literacy levels, captions is not always accessible.

Even those that may know some sign language or be proficient in ASL, there are many that are left out.

Not everyone has access to captions. And so when we look at information shared over the internet being captioned, still, that's not fully accessible, especially for those that have different language styles

>> VOICE: Interpreter has joined the conference.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: For me specifically, I know another large area of need in our community is our retirees, our senior citizens. I don't really see --

>> INTERPRETER: And the interpreter is asking for clarification.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- I don't see a lot of individuals in my circle, that is, that has issues with having access --

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- to captions as far as literacy, because a lot of us in my community are retirees of the Government, whether it's the post office or other government agencies.

But I know that it is a problem if we were to look further south --

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: -- in communities that reside in Miami, or even Miami-Dade, the predominant language is Spanish, second is English, and then third, we have users that use sign language.

So if we look at the central or western, central/west part of Florida, do you see, in the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities, Debbe, an issue with literacy as well, not understanding the captions?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yes.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: What about --

[Talking over one another].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: -- we have a lot of Spanish people in Tampa and they're trying to set up a Spanish version of HLAA support group.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Based in Orlando, yeah.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sure. I know there are a lot of Hispanics in the Orlando area too. So we have a lot of Spanish users. I mentioned Miami. We know we have a lot of individuals of Cuba descent, as well as from South America.

But from what I understand, I believe Central and Western Florida seems to be more individuals from Puerto Rico and then --

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Puerto Rico.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: The same -- okay, central and west, Puerto Rico.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We should try to get someone to serve on the Council that has an affiliation with the Hispanic community, so we can be better versed and informed of the issues that they are facing.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I'm just checking my list....

Well... does anyone have a comment or question?

We are already familiar with the issues regarding VRI, access to interpreters. The Hispanic community, not so much.

But if you really look as a whole, there are so many Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals who have been miseducated, have lots of education, or even language deprivation.

[Pause].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I don't know if we can try and reach out to Patty, um... what's her last name? Who works for a job coach or Aroda (sp)? I know they're familiar with the Spanish language. Maybe they can provide some suggestions, how we can -- probably we should think about FCCDHH website to be translated in Spanish.

The bylaws, the statute, to be changed and available in Spanish. Everywhere. Because this is Florida, or the United States, it's to be dual language or bilingual language

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

So what would be qualified to do that? Sean, do you know?

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I don't know.

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I wonder if the Department of Health have any programs that focus on Spanish-related needs.

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. That's sort of a broad topic. I'm not aware of any that just focuses on the Spanish-speaking culture as a whole.

I do know that there are services that are aimed at migrated farm workers, who often can be Spanish speaking.

I do know that there are a lot of efforts from the Department of Health to make sure that resources are provided to those communities, to any community, is provided in languages, not just English, but also Spanish and Creole.

But I'm not aware of any programs that are just directed only towards Spanish-speaking people.

Does that make sense?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It sounds like you're saying DOH may have staff members who will translate materials into Spanish and Creole, perhaps? Do you know?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Those services, we may have some staff here and there that are Spanish speaking, but we also do contract out those services to get those materials produced in those different languages; that's correct.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hmm....

Also, I wonder if on Google, there's supposed to be some way that you can just one-touch translate, I think Google Translate is one of the websites? I don't know how

accurate the work is when you use that, but...

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I don't -- I'm not an expert in that. I have had some experience in our programs using Google Translate to translate the information into the language that you would like.

However, it is not a perfect service and so sometimes there will be blatant mistakes there, accidental, of course, but not something that you might want to totally depend on [chuckles], if you know what I mean.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Right, no, understood.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. Cindy says what about French? What about others with other languages who have these issues?

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Can you repeat that, Debbe? Or was that for Glenna?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: She wrote in the chat, in the CART chat box, Cindy says: What about French? What about others with other languages who have these issues?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, yes, that's true. But then it's a numbers game. What is the most-used language? And we know that Creole comes in third.

At the same time, in public school, it's well known that ESOL services mostly focus on Spanish-speaking children, but also those from a Creole background, and they do keep track of languages spoken at home. And you can see that there are over 80 different languages.

So it would be impossible to make all of them accessible.

[Pause].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I do know that Google has a way to translate website, um... I use it a lot to translate from German to English. I tried to do it last night on something related to genealogy and I couldn't do it. So I have to refresh my memory on how to translate the website to other languages.

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: If I find it, I'll let you know.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Yes, of course there are often mistakes with automatic translation; you have to be careful with that.

Now I wonder if we have any further comments related to what either Cecil or James brought and shared with us? Any other comments?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Go ahead, Gina.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: My comment is more towards the conversation about the errors made by Google. Even humans make errors. I mean, so I think... I don't think we'll ever find 100% acceptable solution, because even human translators, interpreters, are subject to error, just like technology is. So just a thought.

[Pause].

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Well, sure. Obviously with technology and AI, you don't have that gut sense for whether something is right, whether it just feels right, when you're talking about language translation.

All right then. Let's move on to the last topic for the day, and that is location of our next meeting. It will take place May 12 and 13.

In reviewing the CART, I realized that part of the agenda actually says counting from the years 2014 to 2021, I looked at where the meetings have taken place, and in Northern Florida, we've met in that area 10 times; Central Florida, we've met 9 times; and in South Florida, we've only met 3 times. Hmm....

So, that means that it's high time for us to get back to South Florida.

The question is, where in South Florida? Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: My suggestion is either Naples or Homestead, that's two areas, that's probably the city that's the largest or furthest south we can get to, besides Key West.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hmm....

Now, isn't there a Deaf Service Center still in operation in Ft. Myers? I wonder if we could meet there.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I don't know.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: In Ft. Myers?

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: You do realize that --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I need to look at a map.

>> CINDY SIMON: You do realize that Ft. Myers is not --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Is this Cindy?

>> CINDY SIMON: -- part of South Florida?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well... ha... sure... the three times that we've met in the South Florida area, it's really been in the southeast. We've really never met in the southwest part of the state.

>> CINDY SIMON: Okay...

[Pause].

>> CINDY SIMON: I would actually suggest somewhere from three counties they can access it, which would probably mean in Broward, gives you Palm Beach, Broward, and Dade.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Karen Goldberg --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sure, I mean --

>> DEBBE HAGNER: -- posted a website for the Ft. Myers Deaf Service Center.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, okay.

So we could perhaps do Ft. Myers. Or even Hollywood? That's in Broward County.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yes, it is. And if you're in the right spot, you might have access to public transportation.

I think when we look, we need to be in an area where people have access to public transportation.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And in terms of hotels, I know that the Hard Rock is in that area as well, the Hard Rock Hotel.

>> CINDY SIMON: Yeah, that's off of 441.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That was going to be my next suggestion, uh-huh, is that the Hard Rock Hotel, it's actually in the shape of a giant guitar. Who knows, it may be out of our price range.

>> CINDY SIMON: It will be. I can see it from my house.

I was going to suggest, there are what they call "airport hotels" that are right on I-95 and Sterling Road, there's two hotels and we've met there in the past. It's considered an airport hotel. So if people are flying in, there's transportation to get there.

It's right next to where the -- in fact, there's a ton of hotels and a new shopping center there called Dania Point and they might qualify in our price range. Let me take a quick look....

And that should have public access.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Karen Goldberg has her hand up.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Hey, this is Karen. Is it okay to share?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, go ahead, Karen.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: Okay, thanks. So, you know, I was thinking about it. Um... you know, we have been very cognizant to try to go to the areas that have Deaf/hard of hearing individuals and some services but, really, are somewhat remote. We went to the far northwest Florida, Pensacola a few years back, or a couple years back.

Have we ever been on the Keys? I mean, that's a six-hour drive, um... and I'm sure there are people who are in need of services and want to have the Council there at some point. Maybe not the next time, but at some point. Um... I'm just wondering, are they being represented?

>> CINDY SIMON: If I may? Being from here, the people from the Keys are accustomed to coming up to the Kendall area. That's very common.

We have never been in the Keys since I've been on the Council. And I believe that goes back to 2008.

The last time we went --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: You know, um... first of all, yeah, we've talked about going to the Keys, but we've never actually worked that out. It's very expensive.

But secondly, I see that Cory has a question. Cory, did you want to come on screen?

>> CORY PARKER: Yes, I had a question about your next meeting. I know there was a discussion about potentially meeting in Miami.

For people from Tallahassee, though, that would require a flight. Is that allowed, that

council members, that the Council would cover the cost for that?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes.

>> CORY PARKER: How far in advance would we have to book that?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Sean?

>> SEAN ISAAC: [Clearing throat] -- excuse me. This is Sean --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: That's a good question. I wonder if we should wait until we have -- oh, go ahead, Sean.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I was just going to say, we have to get approval well in advance. But flight travel is certainly allowable.

The challenge is getting it approved quickly enough so that you can get a decent price flight before they go up.

So, I might encourage us to, um... maybe plan two meetings in advance, so that we at least know where we're going, and that gives us a little bit more time to route approvals.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Thank you. Does that answer your question, Cory, yeah?

>> CORY PARKER: It does. Thank you.

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen again --

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Planning ahead of time, there have been some issues in terms of planning the meeting and the day and time and knowing the exact location, and yet there have been last-minute, you know, hotel changes. It's not exactly a quick process, but hopefully we'll be lucky enough to know far enough ahead of time to get that approval.

In our experience, we don't really get approval ahead of time, it's almost always at the last minute.

>> CORY PARKER: This is Cory signing. So, let's say that I see a great airfare, just a really nice price. I can go ahead and do that?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And get reimbursed?

>> CORY PARKER: And do it early and get reimbursed?

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, let's make sure that we're going to be definitely meeting in person in the first place.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: We have Cindy has her hand up --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy, please go ahead.

>> CINDY SIMON: Cory, I do want to warn you, we have three airports in South Florida, possibly four, if we're looking at the West Coast as well. We need to know if we're meeting in Palm Beach County, Broward County, or Dade County, and I wouldn't buy a flight until we know.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, I agree, we definitely would need to know the location first.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I just wanted to say, the approval has to be completed first before you buy the ticket. At least that's the rules for DOH employees.

My challenge is learning the difference between what's required for DOH employees and the Council, 'cause there are some slight differences.

So I'm only going from my history of being a DOH employee.

But I can certainly find out and let you all know as quickly as possible.

>> CINDY SIMON: So, Sean, typically it's a distance issue. And last time, I think it depended if you could drive it, whether they give you the price of the gas versus if it was cheaper to fly. Um... so you have to be at least a certain distance. But in my experience over the years, once we decided on a place, um, there was never an issue about booking a flight.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I would have to largely agree to that, although I haven't had the experience of the council travel.

I will say for DOH employees, the gauge has usually been about four hours or more you are allowed to fly. That's been a gauge that we've used in the past.

I don't know of any spreadsheet that compares the driving to the flying, but I think that was the measure that we were using internally.

I can ask for that, if there's such a thing that exists.

>> CINDY SIMON: Well, for sure, Tallahassee you can fly here. And we -- every -- we usually met in February in Tallahassee and fly every time without any problem.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. And I've heard the same thing, flying from Miami to Tallahassee, even to Orlando to Tallahassee, or Tampa to Tallahassee, was allowed. That's been my experience.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. Yeah, this is Glenna. And I typically drive most places, except for Tallahassee. I've definitely flown there; it's just too long -- too far to drive.

So, that means that we have to choose between potentially Ft. Myers, Hollywood area, thereabouts.

Are there any other suggestions for South Florida?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Naples.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Well, Ft. Myers is pretty much right next door to Naples; wouldn't you say?

>> KAREN GOLDBERG: This is Karen. I still say that we represent the, um, the Keys in some way.

>> CINDY SIMON: Karen, just so you know, we were trying to go to the Keys for a weekend and the cheapest room was over \$500.

>> VOICE: Karen Goldberg has left the conference.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I think Karen might have gotten cut off, I'm not sure.

But I will say that I've only been able to go to the Keys one time, it was business related, because there's a county health department or there were services that we were managing -- or monitoring, excuse me, for the county health department down there.

And during that trip, we were able to secure a hotel within the government rate. But you had to book well in advance. And there was not that many options.

>> CINDY SIMON: Right.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I will say the government rate has gone up to 175 or lower, and that is less restrictive than it was at 150.

[Pause].

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

>> CINDY SIMON: If you were to decide in South --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So, in terms of the meeting, trying to get people -- oh, it looks like -- just one moment -- trying to get people to show up for public comment is always the issue.

I think if we were in the Ft. Myers/Hollywood area, I think we have a better chance of getting people to show up for public comment, than if we were to be in the Keys.

>> CINDY SIMON: South Dade, the last time we were looking at the Marriott by the mall there, but that has public -- access to public transportation. And there is a large population. One of the largest I've ever seen is when we were on the DCF Committee, we went by the airport in Miami and that had a huge public comment.

And Hollywood, last time I was there, we were a little disappointed we didn't get as many as we wanted.

But people from the Keys will come up if you're in South Dade.

If we're staying -- talking in this area.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. If we did the South Dade, like the REAL South Dade, the Greater Miami area, we might want to consider tri-lingual interpreters who use English/Spanish spoken language so we can have that access as well.

>> [Open mic].

[Background chatter; open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yes, Debbe?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I make a motion that we meet in Ft. Myers for our next meeting.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I don't want to just arbitrarily pick one place, if we don't know what's available. We could check to see what's available in Ft. Myers and then also consider the Hollywood area. Just to provide Sean with a couple of options, of places that he can look at, to see what's available for May.

>> [Open mic; coughing].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I just don't want us to be stuck not having any good choices, if we decide on an area first.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So, in general, how are you feeling possible to meet... um... by May, do you think you would be able to find a place by then?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Do you think we can meet in person? What are your thoughts? Are we going to be meeting by Zoom? Planning for Zoom? Or are we going to still be under these COVID-type restrictions and meeting virtually?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. So, I have pulled up my crystal ball and it's saying cloudy when it comes to COVID.

I can't tell you how it's going to look when it comes to COVID.

But I will say that we are not restricted, from a government point of view, or any kind of orders that the Governor has put out from traveling. So that is available to the Council, if that's what you all would like to do.

When it comes to the area, I would probably need a couple of options, a couple cities to choose, and do some price checks on what's available.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm, yeah. So -- Glenna -- Sean, I would agree with that, checking for possible cities, locations. Even checking with the local Deaf communities, see what they say about their interest in coming, for meeting in the -- oh, excuse me one second.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. So, for sure, South Florida for sure, whether it's southeast or southwestern region of the state, we'll check for a number of places.

Let's see prices, what we can do, what areas. Um... close to an airport, you know, for transportation, whether it's 95 or I-75. Close to other means of transportation, other modes of transportation, so we can get there, with those considerations.

I guess Miami is an issue, because Miami Metro, um... Broward, Broward or Palm Beach for sure, in that southwest area, I know it's going to be... hmm...

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I will do my best.

I did want to ask, um... did you guys want to get together again to talk about the options? Um... do you have an idea as to how I should reach out to the local Deaf

community to find out the interest? Any suggestions on that?

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna.

>> [Open mic].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Generally posting, um, if you send it to me, share it with our organizations, we do tend to do it through our individual organizations, out through Facebook, through CIL and adverts that we have been putting out a few.

Just general notice, what I've seen, we type it up and we can get that information out there.

If you look at the public notices, you'll get an idea of how we can post them and how we can get them posted going forward.

I'll send you some old ones so you can see what they looked like before so you can post them to your FAR.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And we'll get it to our local organizations.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I'm sorry, this is Sean. I wasn't asking how to post it, I was asking how do you reach out to local communities to find out the interest in having the community, first, one, will they show up. Does that make sense?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Right, right, yes, this would be our Council representatives responsibilities to our organizations, to spread the word through our organizations.

For me, with Cindy, living in South Florida, to reach out to networks. That's our responsibilities, through our organizations, to kind of spread that word.

I use Facebook, e-mail people, encouraging them to come.

For St. Augustine, I contacted people that I knew in that area. Andy helped a great deal, he recruited a ton of people to come, so....

I'll probably do the same thing as we did before.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Okay, understood. Thank you.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So... do we have announcements to make? Information that needs to be shared?

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Per Debbe -- oh, I'm sorry. Can I give an update?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mmm-hmm. Go ahead.

>> VOICE: Has left the conference.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Per Debbe's, I guess sharing with me at our last meeting, one of the things I'm supposed to share is how many people have contacted the Florida Department of Health requesting resources and I want to report back to the group, that between our last meeting, which was November, I guess 5th or 4th and today, we've had ten individuals e-mail our ZZZZ account or our inbox, requesting services, that really are buried [chuckles].

Most of the requests are for interpreters. Some of those requests, they know of our websites, but many don't. And so often we're responding and including web links to provide that information, or to help them seek and find that information.

We did have one request in the last couple weeks that I need you all's help on or I need you to provide some guidance as to how we move forward with the request.

And that was for a student who wanted someone to conduct a, I guess a survey or questionnaire, about the services in an area that's close to Tampa. And I don't have it in front of me. I think I can pull it up.

But I sent that to Chris and to Glenna and to Debbe.

Any thoughts about that as to how we can help this individual?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I haven't had a chance -- this is Debbe -- I haven't had a chance to do it. I hope to do it tomorrow, tomorrow's my free day.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Okay. I didn't know that you were going to do it; that's great!

If that's the case, then I can just let our folks know to make it aware -- or make that individual aware, and then -- and then... did he provide -- did he or she provide the actual questionnaire to you?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I don't know. I got your letter, I haven't had a chance to follow-up on it.

>> SEAN ISAAC: But if you're -- this is Sean -- if you're willing to provide the information, then I can respond in kind and let them know to give that individual your contact information, if that's okay, as far as your e-mail address. Or is there a better way to do it?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: I'm okay.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Okay. This is Sean, okay, great. Thank you.

I did not -- this is Sean again -- I didn't put that in a report format, but I can certainly add that to the minutes [chuckles].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah. This is Glenna again. Ten people requested since

November, seems like a pretty low number to me. I remember we had significant numbers e-mailing and calling in the past. Um... I guess maybe because of COVID, people have just kind of gotten less active?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is -- this is Sean. Ten seemed like a significant number to me [chuckles]. Remember, this was over the holidays, and so several days, the office was not even open. And then they still called --

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, true, true, yeah.

>> SEAN ISAAC: -- but we only respond to the e-mails to the ones who sends us e-mails.

And Debbe, you had your hand up?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Yeah, I made a call one time just to test the Department of Health and their inbox was full.

So, how can anyone leave a message if the inbox is full?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. One of the changes I made when we started traveling again was to forward my phones -- well, first of all, there was a brief period of time where the number to the office that houses the liaison, between the Department and the Council, that position and that phone number, while it was still working, was not forwarded correctly.

And so we were made -- I was made aware of that in late October.

During that same time, what I started doing was forwarding those calls to my personal phone, and so it resulted in a LOT of calls going to that inbox.

In addition, what we also found was there was a lot of phone calls we received from the Department of Education or from -- I'm sorry, from folks who were trying to reach the Department of Education regarding their IEP plans.

And what we realized later, after some research, is that the phone numbers between the Council liaison representative with the Department and with the Department of Education was, I think, just one digit off, and so we were getting a lot of those phone calls, that we obviously could not respond to.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I'm hoping that is no longer the case. Debbe, please let me know if you try to call me and you can't get through. I've cleared out all my inbox -- I believe -- but if there's something that I don't know about, if there's an issue that I don't know about, please let me know.

We should not have that issue anymore.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Mmm-hmm.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Thank you.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Sure thing.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Yeah, this is Glenna. Thank you. We're definitely going to give that call number a try and check to make sure.

I've had that in the past, with the inbox being full, and I wondered how that happened. Okay.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So, other reminders... I know it's been a full day and a lot of discussions.

Final comments that need to be made?

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina.

[Pause].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: May I go ahead?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Please, go ahead.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: My only question as far as the update, I need to know, are we looking at the March 31st meeting to be in person or online? And because I have to adjust my work schedule accordingly. So I'd like to know, which one are we headed for?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Hmm...

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean...

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Go ahead, Sean; go ahead, Sean.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Two months for an in-person meeting is a tough thing for the Department to meet, a tough time period. It would take a little bit of stress out of our lives if we could get a little bit more time.

But if that is the desire of the group, then we can rush and make that happen. I'm just gonna let you know, it is tough for us to, to meet those deadlines, because

they have to be approved. And then we have to have a location.

I just need all that information probably today, to get it started, so that we can get it approved in time.

But if that is you all's desire, we will make it happen.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I don't do stress. So, no, we don't have to do that. Don't even worry about it. We'll go down the road another time.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Okay [chuckles]. We can certainly set up another virtual meeting for March 31st.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Correct.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Okay. Thank you.

[Pause].

>> [Open mic].

[Background noise].

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: So this is Glenna. Who on the EMOT subgroup? Cindy, Mary, Gina, myself... who is -- is it the four of us? Is that it? It's just the four of us, right?

[No response].

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: I thought Debbe was on there. I thought -- or was she just visiting last time? I wasn't sure.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Debbe, are you on?

>> DEBBE HAGNER: Technical -- this is Debbe -- technically I'm not on the EMO Committee. But if you need me, I would be happy to be available for that. I only did it just to go along with -- that day with Glenna.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Okay. I think there's four of us. And we need to focus on our letter-writing plan. And if we get more people, I think it's just going to be more chaotic. Better we leave it with just the four of us; we'll leave it at that.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I had a question.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Also... Sean? Yes, go ahead.

>> SEAN ISAAC: I just wanted to ask, so what is a quorum for four of you?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh, you're talking about... oh, it's not a committee -- that only applies to the Council as a whole, a quorum. The committee meetings don't need a quorum to meet.

Those four, we would expect three to show up.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Because I thought, correct me if I'm wrong, Gina, but I thought that was one of the questions that we had at our last EMOT meeting.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. That is exactly right. And to hear that we don't need a quorum for a subcommittee meeting is a little... I don't know, challenging, because that's why we didn't meet on December 9th.

So I need clarity on that. Do we need a quorum or not?

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna --

[Talking over one another].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: For a full meeting, we need a quorum. For a subcommittee, we need a majority. So of four people, you would have to have three.

On December 9th, only two people showed. So we couldn't count that, we couldn't count -- that's half, we couldn't make a majority.

So, that's what happened in December. If you've got a subcommittee of four, you have to have a minimum of three. If you have five people on a subcommittee -- well, I guess you'd still have to have three.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Okay, thank you, Glenna. This is Gina. Thank you. That clarifies it for me.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: And this is Glenna again. For the EMOT meeting, we really need to set the day for the Ad Hoc Committee, subcommittee, as well for the bylaws. Somebody needs to get that going.

I don't want to think about February, 'cause it's just too hectic. And now we've got March already, and that's really soon.

So let's go ahead and talk April for the bylaws ad hoc. So that might be me, Cindy, Karen, and either Chris or Cory.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: I would throw out April 21st. April 21st, anyone?

[No response].

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. I want you all to know that Karen Goldberg said she is involved with the EMOT, Karen Goldberg.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. So I just want to clarify the members of EMOT is: Gina, Mary, Cindy, Glenna, and Karen, is that correct?

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: One, two, three, four, five... this is Glenna, yeah, that's five. And for that we've got March 31st set aside.

If we -- I'm trying to get us to go ahead and start looking at the calendar for the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee. I'm suggesting April 21st, if you could think about that. Can someone answer if you're available?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I'm sorry, is it possible to move it back a week, perhaps, or forward? I only ask that because I know that the program here has a grant that's due that day and sometimes those days can be hectic.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Oh. Okay. April 28th, that's just two weeks. And then it's May.

I don't know if that would be enough time, before May....
April 14th? How about April 14th, guys? I don't know what you prefer, April 14th or April 28th?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean, for me speaking, April 14th works for me. And I'm sorry for the inconvenience.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: It's not a problem, Sean. We're trying to pick a date.

>> DEBBE HAGNER: This is Debbe. That's the day before income tax needs to be filed.

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: No, actually, actually, Debbe, you're wrong, this year we are lucky enough that they are due the 18th, not the 15th. And that is because the 15th is on a Saturday. The 15th is on a Saturday. So you have ALL the way until the 18th!

Okay. So April 14th. And we can discuss an exact time later. We don't have to

decide that, I'm just trying to do this now while we're under Sunshine.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Is there a certain timeframe that we usually do committee meetings? And a certain length of time? Is it a couple hours? Is it 5:00 o'clock?

[Pause].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. I'm really open, it doesn't matter to me, I'm open to whatever time.

Karen? Cindy? Chris? Or Cory? You guys all work. So why don't you speak up about that. I have a much more flexible schedule.

Do we need to decide that while we're together because of Sunshine Laws? Or can we decide the exact time at another time?

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. I think it would be better and easier if we know now, I can go ahead and submit the notice and we won't have to worry about what it's gonna be later.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Do you guys want to look at hours during the workday or post-workday hours?

[No response].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: Cindy? Karen? Can you say what you want?

[No response].

[Humming sound in background].

>> GLENNA ASHTON: This is Glenna. Okay. Then I'm just going to throw out a time. I'm going to say April 14th it is from 3:00-5:00 p.m. There you go.

[Pause].

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you so much! And then I'm going to ask Gina, can you do the same when it comes to the time?

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: This is Gina. I thought that I had, but I can repeat it. It's March 31st, 4:00-5:30.

>> SEAN ISAAC: This is Sean. Thank you, if I missed it, my apologies. But thank you so much.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: No problem. It might have been me. I'm kind of behind; I'm tired right now.

>> GLENNA ASHTON: We only have a couple minutes left before it's time to adjourn.

We'll need help with writing letters on the issues of your choice and then send those to Sean.

The EMOT Committee is set to go, they really need to write the letter. Other people who are not on that committee or who have volunteered in the past, at the November meeting, please get to work on your letter as well.

And then about the Ad Hoc Bylaws subcommittee, start going ahead and working your way through those bylaws, thinking about what suggestions you would like to bring to that meeting in April.

And then of course if you know of any cities or hotels that you want to suggest for the May meeting, forward that information on to Sean for his team to look at.

Thank you, everyone, for your attendance today! Thank you to our team of interpreters and CART writer.

And thanks to Debbe for monitoring the chat for me.

I hope you guys have a fabulous weekend, okay?

Everybody be safe. Take care! Bye-bye.

>> GINA HALLIBURTON: Bye-bye.

>> SEAN ISAAC: Bye.

[Concludes at 4:31 p.m.]

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