

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL  
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
Virtual Quarterly Meeting  
Thursday, August 18, 2022  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Cindy Simon (Audiologists), Glenna Ashton (FAD), Chris Littlewood (ALDA), Cory Parker (DOE/VR), Debbe Hagner (HLAA), Mary Hodges (FDOEA)

**Members not Present:** John Jackson (DCF), Gina Halliburton (FRID), Karen Goldberg (HLAA)

**Department of Health Staff:** Sean Isaac, Angie Green

**Service Providers:** Lisa Johnston (CART), Rebecca Mabrey (Audio/Visual), Janelle Barnes, Kelly Gagain, and Natasha (ASL Interpreters)

**Minutes from August 18, 2022 Meeting and Agenda for November 2022 Meeting:**

Glenna Ashton made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Debbe Hagner. The minutes were voted on and accepted. Debbe Hagner made a motion to accept today's agenda, and Cory Parker made a motion to second. The agenda was voted on and accepted.

**Staff Updates:** Sean Isaac provided the following updates:

1. Introduction of new liaison for the Council and the Department of Health, Angie Green.
2. Louiza Saint-Hillien updated the website, providing the agenda and the CART. I have communicated with Louiza Saint-Hillien about making the change to the website so the Meetings tab appears at the top of the site.
3. The DOH attorney has confirmed that if you have been a member of the Council, you are still a member of the Council until or unless you resign or are officially removed.
4. The DOH will consider working on a letter to confirm council member terms.
5. The Governor's Office for Appointments is still making progress but has gone through a change. The office has increased the level of vetting for each applicant for all councils.
6. The council is still waiting on three applications to be processed.
7. Cory Parker and I are still working on the new DOH Liaison Handbook.
8. The DOH will submit travel forms separately and speed up reimbursement.
9. The DOH will send out RSVPs for the November 2022 and February 2023 meetings.
10. The DOH will send out a list of locations to the council members and they can make recommendations to change/add places to go.
11. Certification for signatures is a new requirement for electronic signatures. This may impact the travel process.
12. I will follow up monthly with the Governor's Office on the applicants' progress.
13. I will find out and see what we can do to address that terminology of "expired" on the website.
14. Angie and Debbe will work together to address the website and make sure links are still working properly. Debbe will work with IT to make sure website is up to date.
15. Sean mentioned that we need 16 days to post a meeting in case we need to cancel that meeting.

16. Council Members cannot share business related topics outside of meetings.
17. The DOH attorney, Linda McMullen, shared, I cannot communicate or staff of DOH cannot communicate comments or business items between members outside of meetings.

Angie Green provided the following updates:

1. The November meeting will be November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Kissimmee at the Hilton Garden Inn.
2. Future meeting February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee. We need to know who's going.

### **Organization Updates:**

1. Debbe Hagner – HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) --- Debbe received an award for hosting Zoom meetings during the pandemic. Debbe attended the NAD (National Association of the Deaf) convention in Orlando, FL. One thousand individuals attended. The HLAA convention in Tampa, FL had 450 meeting attendees. Debbe will attend the Deaf Seniors of America next June 2023. Debbe reported that vendors are selling over the counter (OTC) hearing aids.
2. Chris Littlewood – ALDA (Association of Late-Deafened Adults) – ALDA continues to have monthly meetings. ALDA has more members in Pasco County now. ALDA continues to have Zoom meetings and presentations that are of a training or informative nature. ALDA will host the next meeting in the Fall. October 19-23, 2022 are the dates for the national convention and it is in San Diego, CA.
3. Cindy Simon -- (Audiologist) – Both state audiology organizations (the Florida Academy of Audiologists and Florida Speech and Hearing Association) had their meetings during the summer. Everyone is keeping an eye on legislation and the OTC situation. No exam is needed to buy these. No exam is needed for children or adults with mild to moderate loss.
4. Mary Hodges – DOEA (Department of Elder Affairs) – is continuing the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Basically the Secretary of the Department is visiting the Aging Network's various service providers and just acknowledging the good work that individuals are doing. September 18-24, 2022 is National Falls Prevention and Awareness Week. She has an article for the biennial report for DOEA's Communications Office to review before she sends to Council for review.
5. Cory Parker – DOE/VR (Department of Education/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) – Knee deep dealing with SERID (Southeastern Regional Institute of Deafness) conference October 13 – 16, 2022 in Altamonte Springs, FL. The conference will host professionals who work with the deaf and hard of hearing, deaf-blind individuals in VR, and those with mental health challenges, and those working for Centers for Independent Living. Presenters will provide a variety of presentations on the following topics: employment, independent living, mental health, deaf education, and interpreting.
6. John Jackson – Department of Children and Families – nothing to report.
7. Glenna Ashton – Florida Association of the Deaf (FAD) – had the National Association of the Deaf conference. About 2,000 people gather for the conference. Glenna was not able to attend, but heard it was rather successful.

## **Committee Updates:**

1. Budget Committee: Cory Parker has not had an opportunity or chance to discuss anything regarding the budget. Sean Isaac will set up a date to get with Cory about the budget. The Council and the Department has roughly \$17,000 in the expense and supplies budget. The Council has about \$37,000 in the contracted services category and that will cover the costs for the four contracted services: public notice service – the Florida Administrative Register, the interpreter services, the CART services, and the audio video services. The contracting services was slightly reduced but the budget remains similar to previous year spending. It is encouraged to have two face-to-face meetings and then two virtual meetings for the quarterly meetings this year. The adjustment was made since traveling has been reduced in the past two years. If the Council grows, the Department will have to adjust.
2. Legislative Committee: Nothing to report due to summertime. TSA.
3. Website Committee: We have 966 followers on Facebook. Debbe would like to post the five vacant positions on Facebook and encourage people to fill out the applications. People are posting about their different organizations and things happening in their community. There will be a Florida Hands & Voices Deaf Expo October 3, 2022. The Family Center on Deafness did a central survey and Debbe will reach out to get the results. Debbe would like to see the Meeting tab moved from the bottom to the top of the FCCDDH website. She would like to add a group picture on the membership page. Glenna would like to add individual pictures with their names. Sean says to send headshots for the website.

## **Presentation:**

Cecil Bradley: We need to bring Florida Telecommunications Access Systems Act of 1991 (TASA) to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

1. There is new phone equipment that can be sent out to the deaf and hard of hearing. Some unique phones include a picture screen for clarity. Some have microphones that one can put to their neck and voicebox for better sound.
2. Some phones still use landlines.
3. The law is 30 years old and hasn't been revised. It needs new terminology.
4. We serve over 500,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the state of Florida. But we notice that number is decreasing each year. And the reason why is because of the lack of landlines.
5. Again, across the country, people are using more wireless services and that's a common internet IP usage of those mobile services. But Florida does not yet accommodate that. Florida's tried to do a PCS but was denied.
6. Previously had 2 ½ million landlines but now 1.4 million.
7. The phone companies are following the mandate and law and collecting from each phone bill a surcharge, taking 10 cents per landline and that goes to FTRI. With the landlines declining, so is that revenue.
8. TSA is not providing bluetooth and wireless services.

9. The FCC is pushing new technology, using RTT-replacing TTY. That was in 2016 and it's still in testing phase. This would be simultaneous communication.
10. Florida has TRS and CTS...which are through landlines.
11. If Florida accepted federal law money that was passed, it would need to be delegated to the correct cities.
12. Deaf and hard of hearing, no matter the disability, need to be able to have the same opportunities as everyone else and can't afford to be behind.
13. Cecil's goal is to have a new bill ready and amended like in 2012 with Senator Weiss.

**Public Comments:** No public comments

**Bylaws discussion:**

Glenna mentioned Section 5, to host an annual conference expo to bring people together to coordinate organizations, agencies and companies to share information, services, technology, and advocacy.

**New Business:**

1. Glenna mentioned bringing Cecil's presentation up in the February 2023 meeting in Tallahassee, FL.
2. Glenna suggested the DRA (Disability Rights of Florida) would be a great group willing to help and support Cecil.
3. Debbe mentioned by November 2022 or February 2023 Cecil could have a rough draft started for the bill.

Meeting adjourned 4:52pm.