

FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Quarterly Meeting

St. Augustine, Florida

Friday, November 5, 2021

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Members Present: Glenna Ashton, Debbe Hagnar , Chris Littlewood, , Sean Isaac, Gina Halliburton, John Jackson, and Mary Hodges

Service providers: LaShay Lewis (AV), Brandi Kent (CART), Chris Costa, George Costa, Donna Flanders, Carrie Moore (ASL interpreters)

Yesterday at 9:45 AM we stopped the Council meeting to do a tour of the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (FSDB) here in St. Augustine. We were given a personal tour by President Tracie Snow who presented to our Council a few meetings ago, and Nancy Bloch, Director of Public Relations. We rode around the campus on two golf carts while Tracie explained about the many buildings and programs, and we also saw the FSDB museum. We could not go into classrooms due to COVID-19, unfortunately since they have a lot of the latest technology everywhere. Comments from Council members included that it was a beautiful large campus close to the water, that D & B Designs shop should have an online presence, missed not seeing students in the classrooms which would have been the highlight. In the museum, the segregation history was shared with Sean, and concerns about digital perseveration of photos was expressed by Debbe. It was recommended that the Council do this again in the future and that other people should be seeing this too. Hopefully they will also make a virtual tour video to share.

Sean discussed the procedures for travel expenses for the Council members. A handbook will be written for the new person to be hired as DOH-FCCDHH liaison.

VRI – seems to be improving awareness of its use but more education is needed for consumers to know their rights for appropriate access.

Voice technology in places like parking lots – is not only there but also in other places such as drive-throughs, need to be made more accessible and workers need to be trained on appropriate approaches with Deaf customers.

Senior citizen services – There are many programs available as explained by Mary Hodges. Networking is suggested to make the programs aware and more accessible in areas where there is a high number of Deaf senior citizens. There used to be Deaf Service Centers which have dwindled, now Centers for Independent Living are active with DHH coordinators.

It was suggested to have a representative on the Council for interpreting agencies however the organizations' representation is in the state Statute requiring a change. Updating the statute is something to consider.

It was suggested to be more active in networking, letter-writing, and public relations on the issues we hear about.

Materials were shared from Eloise that we could look at for ideas in our work.

Bylaws were last revised in 2013 and needs to be updated. The 2004 Statute itself needs to be updated. We need to provide information on suggested changes to the Department of Health. Organization memberships, technology, ADA language, definitions, and other things need to be updated. Need to figure out best way to make the changes that can go through. Perhaps use Google docs for sharing if it is allowed.

Ethics Commission supposedly treats everyone the same regardless of status and variations in serving as a volunteer or employee due to the outdated ethics code. Perhaps better and regular orientations to expectations of Council volunteers will help with entry and exit policies and Sunshine law review.

Homework assignments are to write a letter on a certain issue that you volunteered to do and review the Statute and bylaws for recommended changes to be submitted by December 9. EMOT committee will have Zoom meeting that day to work on letters. Perhaps also submit ideas for entry/exit policies.

February 3-4 meeting in Tallahassee will include visiting legislators, inviting someone from Ethics Commission, maybe training. Debbie and Glenna will be at Deafnation Expo November 6, tomorrow, in Kissimmee, to man a table for FCCDHH. The next meeting is May 12 -13, location to be determined.

Gallaudet University Alumni Association will have a luncheon here in St. Augustine March 19 – there are large number of alumni that moved to Florida.

Several national organizations are hosting conferences in Florida. HLAA will host their annual conference in Tampa June 23 – 25 plus a Walk4Hearing fundraiser. DSA (Deaf Seniors of America) will have their annual conference in Ft. Lauderdale June 2023.

NAD (National Association of the Deaf) will host their conference in Orlando June 2022. ASLTA (American Sign Language Teachers Association of America) will host their conference in Orlando in June 2025. ALDA recently held their conference in New York, next one is in San Diego 2022.

Local ALDA and HLAA chapters have been hosting Zoom meetings for people to stay in contact with workshops and happy hours.