

Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2024

Certified by DAC Co-Chair Kim Charlson — June 17, 2024

On May 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. EDT, the fourth meeting of the fifth term of the DAC was called to order by DAC Co-Chairs Kim Charlson of the Perkins School for the Blind and Kyle Dixon of NCTA – the Internet & Television Association. The meeting was held virtually.

Alejandro Roark, CGB Chief noted that the meeting date coincided with Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD), the purpose of which is to get everyone talking, thinking, and learning about digital access and inclusion for more than 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide. Mr. Roark mentioned several recent FCC activities enhancing digital access for people with disabilities, and highlighted several items on the DAC meeting agenda: a dialogue on digital accessibility and a discussion on the Disability Rights Office's (DRO) engagement and complaint processes.

Diane Burstein, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) Deputy Bureau Chief, expressed her gratitude to staff and accommodation providers who helped make the DAC meeting possible. Joshua Mendelsohn, DAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO), summarized communications protocols for the DAC members. DAC Co-Chair Kyle Dixon then led a roll call of members present.

Suzy Rosen Singleton, Disability Rights Office (DRO) Chief, and Michael Scott, DRO Deputy Chief, shared briefings from DRO, including matters concerning emergency communications, captioning of video programming, the upcoming Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) biennial report, and telecommunications relay services. DRO Deputy Chief Will Schell then led a discussion on DRO's engagement and informal complaint processes, including an overview of the number and types of complaints filed with DRO over several recent years.

After a brief break, Judy Brewer, Assistant Director for Accessibility at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, reviewed several recent accomplishments by the Biden Administration in regard to digital accessibility. Ms. Brewer then facilitated a dialogue among the DAC members on FCC's work with digital accessibility.

The DAC members received updates on the following key consumer issues: broadband labels (Mika Savir, Attorney-Advisor, Consumer Policy Division, CGB); Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Wind Down (Miriam Montgomery, Chief, Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division, CGB); Preventing Digital Discrimination (D'wana Terry, Special Advisor to Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and Heather Hendrickson, Deputy Chief, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau); and U.S. Cyber Trust Mark (Tara B. Shostek, Attorney-Advisor, Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division, PSHSB).

Since the digital accessibility dialogue and key consumer issues updates went over their scheduled end times, a decision was made to skip the updates from the DAC working group chairs. The meeting opened for public participation, and there were no questions from the public. Closing remarks were made by DAC Co-Chairs Kim Charlson and Kyle Dixon, and the next DAC meeting date – October 18, 2024 – was announced.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

May 16, 2024 Attendees:

Organization	Representative
Amazon.com, Inc.	Shadi Abou-Zahra
American Association of the DeafBlind (AADB)	René Pellerin
American Council of the Blind (ACB)	Claire Stanley
American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)	Sarah Malaier
Apple, Inc.	Megan Stull
The Arc	Katy Schmid
AT&T Corporation	Linda Vandeloop
Cerebral Palsy and Deaf Organization (CPADO)	Mark Hill
City of Boston Mayor's Commission	Carl Richardson
ClearCaptions, LLC	Matt Palmer
Comcast NBCUniversal	Christopher Russo
Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD)	Karen Peltz Strauss
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)	Rachel Sanford Nemeth
Convo Communications, LLC	Amanda Montgomery
CTIA - the Wireless Association	Sarah Leggin
Dicapta	Judy Matthews
Hamilton Relay, Inc.	Beth Slough
Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)	Neil Snyder
Helen Keller National Center	Scott Davert
InnoCaption	Cristina Duarte
National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)	Joshua N. Pila
National Association of the Deaf (NAD)	Zainab Alkebsi
National Association of State Agencies Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH)	Annie Urasky
National Captioning Institute (NCI)	Darlene Parker
National Federation of the Blind	Justin Young
NCTA – The Internet & Television Association	Kyle Dixon
Perkins School for the Blind	Kim Charlson
Sorenson Communications, LLC	Wendy Adams
TDIforAccess, Inc.	AnnMarie Killian
T-Mobile USA, Inc.	Shellie Blakeney
University of Pittsburgh Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Wireless Technologies for People with Disabilities	Lindsey Morris
Verizon Communications, Inc	Ian Dillner
VITAC	Heather York
ZP Better Together	Greg Hlibok
U.S. Access Board	Timothy P. Creagan

U.S. Department of Education	Eric Caruso
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Timothy Beatty
U.S. Department of Transportation	Katherine Elkin
U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency	Aaron Kubey

Certified:

 /s/ Kim Charlson

Signature of DAC Co-Chair