

Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2020

Certified by Co-Chair Isidore Niyongabo – November 4, 2020

On October 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. EDT, the fourth and final meeting of the third term was opened by DAC Co-Chair Isidore Niyongabo of National Black Deaf Advocates. This meeting was held virtually via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Welcome remarks were given by Patrick Webre, Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB). Mr. Webre recognized the hard work performed by the two working groups in producing recommendations for today's meeting. Next, Diane Burstein, Deputy Bureau Chief of CGB also shared her gratitude and acknowledged the commitment put in by the DAC members during their time on the DAC for the past two years. Debra Patkin, DAC Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DFO) followed up with welcoming remarks of her own.

After roll call was taken, Suzy Rosen Singleton, Chief of the Disability Rights Office (DRO), began her DRO updates report by observing the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 10th anniversary of the Twenty-First Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA). Chairman Ajit Pai joined the meeting to greet the DAC and to thank the DAC members, including the Co-Chairs of the Committee and the chairs of the working groups, for their service.

Then, Ms. Rosen Singleton, joined by Eliot Greenwald, Deputy Chief of DRO, completed their report on DRO's recent activities. Some of the DRO updates discussed included an upcoming report and order expanding the audio description requirements and modernizing the Commission's terminology to use the term "audio description" rather than "video description," a report and order designating 988 as the nationwide three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a report on the 2019 test of the Emergency Alert System which identified some accessibility concerns, an annual reminder to the industry to make televised emergency information accessible, an announcement of the allocations for the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for the 2020-2021 fund year, and the fifth Biennial CVAA Report to the Congress, among other announcements. On the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) front, the updates included a grant of a petition for reconsideration regarding the Video Relay Service (VRS) Interoperability Profile for Relay User Equipment, a notice of applications for and grants of conditional certifications to certain Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS) providers that use only automatic speech recognition technology without the aid of communication assistants, a TRS rate order for the time period between July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, a declaratory ruling clarifying the VRS inducement rule, an order modernizing TRS rules and procedures, an item that adopts new IP CTS rates and proposes IP CTS service quality metrics. Also discussed were steps taken to ensure access during the pandemic, such as designating TRS call centers and TV captioners as essential to avoid gaps in coverage and continued temporary waivers of rules to keep TRS operational during the pandemic.

Next, the DAC heard from Timothy Creagan of U.S. Access Board, and Sam Joehl of Level Access, Co-Chairs of one of the two working groups, on a report and recommendation regarding audio description quality best practices. The recommendation was voted upon and passed.

The DAC then heard from Heather York of VITAC and Christian Vogler of Gallaudet University, Co-Chairs of the other working group, on a report and recommendation on best practices for access to live programming in smaller markets. The recommendation, which included a toolkit for electronic newsroom technique (ENT) coordinators, was voted upon and passed as amended.

The meeting opened for public comments. Ms. Patkin responded to a question regarding closed captioning quality standards, and the National Association of Broadcasters commented on the recently adopted access to live programming recommendation, in particular, the ENT Coordinator Toolkit.

Closing remarks were made by Will Schell, DAC DFO and the DAC Co-Chairs, Mr. Niyongabo and Brian Scarpelli of ACT | The App Association.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m. EDT.

Disability Advisory Committee Members in Attendance
October 14, 2020

Last Name	First Name	Organization Represented
Alkebsi	Zainab	National Association of the Deaf
Bacon	Everette	National Federation of the Blind
Bastian	Zach	Verizon Communications, Inc.
Blakeney	Shellie	T-Mobile
Burger	Brianne	U.S. Department of Education
Creagan	Tim	U.S. Access Board
Davis	Townsend	ABC, Inc./The Walt Disney Company
Diaz	Maria	Dicapta
Goel	Divya	DeafBlind Citizens in Action
Graves	Kara	CTIA
Hamlin	Lise	Hearing Loss Association of America
Holmes	Pamela	Ultratec, Inc.
Joehl	Samuel	Level Access
Jones	Gay	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Kaika	Eric	Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.
Kirby	Maria	Apple, Inc.
Maddix	Michael	Sorenson Communications, LLC
Malaier	Sarah	American Foundation for the Blind
Nemeth	Rachel	CTA
Niyongabo	Isidore	National Black Deaf Advocates
Nygren	Margaret	American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Parker	Darlene	National Captioning Institute, Inc.
Pila	Josh	National Association of Broadcasters
Richardson	Carl	City of Boston
Rosen	Jeff	Convo Communications, LLC
Rosenthal	Rebecca	National Association for State Relay Administration
Scarpelli	Brian	ACT - the App Association
Schroeder	Paul	Aira Tech Corporation
Snyder	Joel	Audio Description Associates, LLC
Stephens	Anthony	American Council of the Blind
Stern	Mark	ZP Better Together, LLC
Strecker	Michael	ClearCaptions
Trager	Brian	Rochester Institute of Technology, NTID Center on Access Technology
Vandeloop	Linda	AT&T Services, Inc.
Vogler	Christian	Gallaudet University Technology Access Program
Wlodkowski	Thomas	Comcast

York	Heather	VITAC
Ziegler	Dixie	Hamilton Relay, Inc.

CGB Staff

Patrick Webre

Diane Burstein

Suzy Rosen Singleton

Eliot Greenwald

Will Schell

Debra Patkin