

## Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)

### Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2017

*Certified by Samuel Joehl - April 4, 2017*

On March 21, 2017, the inaugural meeting of the second term of the DAC was opened with welcoming remarks by the Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai. Chairman Pai expressed his appreciation for the ongoing advocacy of the DAC and discussed upcoming Commission items to improve the accessibility and functional equivalence of communication services for Americans with disabilities. The Chairman closed by stating that he looks forward to working with the DAC.

DAC Co-chairs Lise Hamlin, Hearing Loss Association of America, and Sam Joehl, SSB BART Group, then introduced themselves and welcomed the DAC members. DAC members next individually introduced themselves and described their affiliations, in a roll call of members present. Following the roll call, the Co-chairs thanked the National Cable and Telecommunications Association for its sponsorship of refreshments.

Karen Peltz Strauss, Deputy Chief of the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau then addressed the meeting. She thanked DAC members who had served during the first term, and welcomed new members. She stressed that DAC recommendations are taken very seriously and have been incorporated in a number of proceedings. Ms. Strauss announced that nominations for the Chairman's Awards for Advancements in Accessibility would be open through April 13, 2017, and encouraged members to participate in the nomination process and to visit <https://www.fcc.gov/general/chairmans-awards-advancements-accessibility> for more information.

Next, Suzanne Rosen Singleton, Chief of the Disability Rights Office (DRO), welcomed members and introduced Will Schell of the DRO as the new FCC Facilitator of the Video Programming and Emergency Communications Subcommittees. Elaine Gardner, Designated Federal Officer of the DAC also thanked the DAC members, and presented a background on the DAC for new members and an overview of the day's agenda. She announced that the four DAC subcommittees would have meetings following the DAC meeting, led by their respective chairs: Emergency Communications (Mark Fletcher, Avaya); Video Programming (Thomas Wlodkowski, Comcast and Gary Behm, RIT Center on Access Technology); Relay / Equipment Distribution (Rochelle Garrow, National Association for State Relay Administration and Pamela Holmes, Ultratec); and Technology Transitions (Zainab Alkebsi, National Association of the Deaf).

Following a break, a presentation on the Commission's Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) was led by Scott Marshall, of the FCC's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau and Ed Bartholme of Call for Action and CAC Chair. They presented a history of the CAC, and its work on issues relating to consumers with disabilities. Following questions, Carmen Scanlon and Elizabeth Mumaw of the Commission's Office on Intergovernmental Affairs explained the background and work of the Commission's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee (IAC). Ms. Scanlon explained that the IAC is not chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as is the DAC. She described the IAC's composition of representatives from state, local and tribal governments, established to facilitate communication between these entities and the Commission.

After this presentation and questions related to it, discussion was held on the structure of the DAC, the topics before the subcommittees, the process for requesting subcommittee reassignment, the function of the DAC's Executive Subcommittee, and the accessibility of subcommittee teleconference meetings. At this point, Suzanne Singleton, DRO, introduced herself and gave some background on the Commission. Next, she introduced DRO deputy chiefs Susan Kimmel and Eliot Greenwald. Ms. Kimmel explained that she led the DRO complaints team, explained the complaint process, and introduced the DRO complaint team. Mr. Greenwald, Deputy Chief of the DRO and Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief for Telecommunications Relay Services, set forth the work of the TRS team to ensure functionally equivalent communication. He announced and explained the TRS item scheduled to be voted on at the Commission Open Meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and introduced the DRO TRS team. Following his presentation, DRO legal staff introduced themselves. Michael Scott, DRO Attorney Advisor and an FCC Facilitator for the Relay/Equipment Distribution Subcommittee, discussed his work on real-time text issues before the Commission. Rosaline Crawford, DRO Attorney Advisor and an alternate FCC Facilitator for the Technology Transitions Subcommittee, introduced herself and her work on the implementation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communication and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA). Next, Will Schell, DRO Attorney Advisor, alternate Designated Federal Officer for the DAC, and FCC Facilitator for the Emergency Communications and Video Programming Subcommittees, introduced himself and explained his work in three areas: set top box controls; emergency communications; and video description. Jackie Ellington, DRO Attorney Advisor, spoke of her work as the Administrator of the National DeafBlind Equipment Distribution Program. Finally, Susan Bahr, DRO Attorney Advisor and FCC Facilitator for the Video Programming Subcommittee, addressed her work on issues concerning hearing aid compatibility and captioning. Sharvedh Kanaye, ASL Specialist, introduced himself and his work on the ASL Consumer Support Line. Robert McConnell, Telecommunications Accessibility Specialist and alternate FCC Facilitator for the Relay/Equipment Distribution Subcommittee, explained his role in telecommunication accessibility and direct video communications. Finally, Solita Griffis, DRO Management Analyst, explained DRO's AccessInfo listserv, and the services this listserv provides. Administrative assistants April Jackson and Karl Simmonds were also introduced.

Paula Silberthau of the Commission's Office of General Counsel next addressed the DAC. She explained the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and its requirements for the DAC and its subcommittees, including its notice and open meeting requirements for full DAC meetings. Ms. Silberthau elucidated the differences between requirements for full DAC meetings and meetings of its subcommittees, and responded to a number of questions from DAC members.

Following a lunch break, the Co-chairs of each subcommittee introduced themselves. The logistics of subcommittee meetings following the full DAC meeting were discussed.

The meeting was then opened for public comment. Public comments were heard regarding electromagnetic sensitivity from Matina Johnson and Marcy Pollan, and comments on this issue were also received by email. Suzanne Singleton responded by advising these commenters to participate in a relevant Commission open proceeding, ET 13-84.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM.

Disability Advisory Committee Members in Attendance  
March 21, 2017

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organization Represented</b>
Alkebsi	Zainab	National Association of the Deaf (NAD)
Bacon	Everette	National Federation of the Blind (NFB)
Bastian	Zachary	Verizon
Behm	Gary	NTID Center on Access Technology
Berrier	Jerry	Perkins School for the Blind
Bibler	Ron	Consumer
Card	John	DISH Networks
Creagan	Tim	U.S. Access Board ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Davert	Scott	Helen Keller National Center
Diaz	Maria	DiCapta
Gallagher	BJ	Speech Communications Assistance by Telephone
Goldberg	Larry	Yahoo, Inc.
Guinivan	Phyllis	Association of University Centers on Disability
Hamlin	Lise	Hearing Loss Association of America
Joehl	Sam	SSB BART Group
Jones	Gay	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Kelley	Scott	LG Electronics
Luckett	Jill	National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA)
Martinez	Eddie	TCS Associates
Mitchell	Helena	Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center
Niyongabo	Isidore	National Black Deaf Advocates
Nygren	Maggie	American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disability
Pila	Joshua	National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)
Powderly	Tim	Apple, Inc.
Rafi	Abe	The ARC
Ray	Richard	City of Los Angeles, Disability Rights
Romagnino	Kara	CTIA - the Wireless Association
Salaets	Ken	Information Technology Industry Council
Scarpelli	Brian	ACT – the App Association
Sheffield	Rebecca	American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)
Sonnenstrahl	Al	Deaf Seniors of America
Stephens	Tony	American Council of the Blind
Stout	Claude	Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI)
Taylor	Jamie	Deaf Blind Citizens in Action
Vandeloop	Linda	AT&T Services, Inc.
Vogler	Christian	Gallaudet RERC
Yunashko	Bryen	Consumer
Wlodkowski	Thomas	Comcast Cable

CGB Staff

Karen Peltz Strauss  
Suzy Rosen Singleton  
Eliot Greenwald  
Susan Kimmel  
Elaine Gardner  
Will Schell  
Rosaline Crawford  
Michael Scott  
Sue Bahr  
Jackie Ellington  
Sharvedh Kanaye  
Robert McConnell  
Solita Griffis  
April Jackson  
Karl Simmonds