



**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COMMISSION FOR DEAF & HARD OF HEARING**

*Quarterly Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 7, 2020  
3:00 p.m.*

*The meeting was held remotely via zoom and the public could view the meeting  
livestream on YouTube with interpreting and captioning at  
<https://youtu.be/il8IZGTNmY8>.*

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**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Concha Dunwell called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Lori Neubauer, Administrative Operations Specialist, proceeded with roll call.

Present: Ms. Concha Dunwell  
Dr. Rosemary Gallegos  
Mr. Francis Vigil  
Mr. Johnny Robertson

Absent: Mr. Josh Pando

Quorum was met.

Six staff members from NMCDHH were present via Zoom: Executive Director Nathan Gomme, Deborah Romero, Lisa Dignan, Lori Neubauer, Corina Gutiérrez and Jessica Eubank. Jessica Eubank interpreted the meeting along with Andrea Ginn. Assistant Attorney General Delilah Tenorio was also present.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Concha Dunwell asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

**20.8**

Commissioner Johnny Robertson made a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Rosemary Gallegos seconded.

Ms. Neubauer took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Dunwell – Yes

Commissioner Gallegos – Yes

Commissioner Vigil – Yes

Commissioner Robertson – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

**III. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 19, 2019 MINUTES**

Chair Dunwell asked if there were any changes to the minutes from December 19, 2019.

**20.9**

Commissioner Francis Vigil made the motion to accept the minutes as written.  
Commissioner Johnny Robertson seconded.  
Ms. Neubauer took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Dunwell – Yes  
Commissioner Vigil – Yes

Commissioner Gallegos – Yes  
Commissioner Robertson – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. REPORTS**

***a. Executive Director Report***

Executive Director Nathan Gomme initially asked if there were any questions to his report. There were not, so Executive Director Gomme wanted to move on to the recent letter he wrote to the commissioners and what has been happening at the Commission since March. Due to COVID-19, the entire CDHH staff has had to adjust to working from home and faced new challenges. Staff members have entered the office from time to time, but they have followed best practices including social distancing and limiting the number of people in the office at the same time. The Commission wants to make sure our community is safe, and the staff are safe.

In the efforts of making “tele-everything” accessible as possible, we’ve faced challenges in regard to the homeless population, native population, as well as those on a lower socio-economic status. Those populations do not have the ability to reach out to us through webcam, email, or other internet-based technologies. CDHH has been working with the Department of Health and the Governor’s office to address these issues. In a recent discussion, we talked about contacting wireless services about setting up access points in rural and native communities. Broadband services will expand, but we need a solution now. We also are in discussion about how to provide equipment to residents in assistive living facilities. There are a lot of people there who are still using flip phones and don’t have the benefits of accessing telehealth services.

CDHH is continuing to distribute equipment and iPads, but we have shifted focus to iPads recently due to the enormous need for them for things like telehealth appointments. We have caught up on the waiting list of iPads and have seen a decrease in requests for amplified phones.

The Commission worked with the Massachusetts Commission and Wisconsin Council on Disabilities. They have come up with a visual tool and we have adapted it and it has been distributed to facilities in New Mexico. The document is in English and provides visual information and we are working on Spanish and Navajo translations, too.

There are constantly new issues to address, but there have been some positive results. We worked with several statewide, local and county agencies such as the Department of Health and the New Mexico Crisis Line when they reached out to us to talk about how to make their services more accessible. We worked with the Governor’s office to make sure that they provide interpreters and advised them on changes that would benefit the deaf and hard of hearing community. We’ve been in talks with various news stations and helped them understand how captioning works. Press conferences are happening daily, and we want the deaf and hard of hearing to have access to important information. We’ve also needed to explain how to provide transcripts and visual descriptions for the Deaf-Blind community and talked with stakeholders about the importance of SSP services and interpreting services.

CDHH staff are tracking the number of hours that they have spent working on COVID-19 related activities. We all are keeping up with normal daily tasks at the same time.

Commissioner Vigil thanked Executive Director Gomme for the letter and how it addressed the needs of vulnerable communities.

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***The meeting was suspended temporarily as Chair Concha Dunwell experienced technical difficulties with her video feed. No business was discussed, or actions taken during this time. The board meeting resumed when Chair Dunwell was reconnected.***

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**b. Department Reports Q & A**

The commissioners were asked if there were any questions for Corina Gutiérrez, Director of Community Advocacy, on her report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter board report. No one had any questions for Ms. Gutiérrez regarding her report.

The commissioners were asked if there were any questions for Lisa Dignan, Director of Community Engagement on her report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter board report. No one had any questions for Ms. Dignan regarding her report.

The commissioners were asked if there were any questions for Deborah Romero, CFO, on her report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter board report.

Commissioner Robertson wanted to know if there was a budget for the future, what it looked like and if there was a high amount of instability in CDHH finances.

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***The meeting was suspended briefly due to technical difficulties with the livestream. No business was discussed, or actions taken during this time.***

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Executive Director Gomme explained that the budget will be affected for FY20 and FY21, but currently we don't know the full impact until the State has the special legislative session. CFO Deborah Romero said we have to have some budget cuts and watch our spending, but we will have enough to close out FY20. We will have cuts to FY21, but we don't know what that is going to look like until the special session. Commissioner Robertson wanted to know when the special session would take place. Executive Director Gomme said that we do not know when or how it will be conducted at this time.

Commissioner Robertson also asked if there was any information regarding the telephone surcharge. Director Gomme said that is on hold during the pandemic.

Commissioner Gallegos and Chair Dunwell both made comments complimenting the staff of CDHH for their extra work during this time and for continuing to do business as usual as well.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Adoption of Revised OMA Resolution**

Chair Dunwell asked if the commissioners had the opportunity to review the revised Open Meetings Act Resolution. Assistant Attorney General Delilah Tenorio explained that the biggest change in the resolution appears in paragraph ten, which incorporates the steps necessary in order to have virtual meetings with the Commission during a public health emergency. It also incorporates the language of the Attorney General published March 17, 2020 that provides public entities guidance on how to use virtual meetings and teleconferences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Dunwell asked to hear a motion to adopt the revision of the OMA Resolution.

**20.10**

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adopt the OMA Resolution as revised.  
Commissioner Gallegos seconded.  
Ms. Neubauer took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Dunwell – Yes  
Commissioner Vigil – Yes

Commissioner Gallegos – Yes  
Commissioner Robertson – Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Before adjourning, Commissioner Robertson mentioned that he would like to have added to a future agenda is something regarding the impacts of COVID-19 and how it is impacting the communities the Commission serves and how CDHH responds. Executive Director Gomme said that it could be put on the next agenda as an item to discuss.

There was some discussion about having a special meeting, but Executive Director Gomme reminded the board that the next meeting would be June 11<sup>th</sup>. There would not be time to schedule a special meeting, inform the community, book interpreters and the captioning service between now and the June meeting. He added that there is a cost to the Commission to have these services and there were budget restrictions. Commissioner Gallegos felt that since the next meeting was scheduled so soon, there was no need to schedule a special meeting. Chair Dunwell agreed.

**20.11**

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adjourn.  
Commissioner Vigil seconded.  
Ms. Neubauer took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Dunwell – Yes  
Commissioner Vigil – Yes

Commissioner Gallegos – Yes  
Commissioner Robertson – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori G. Neubauer

Lori G. Neubauer  
Administrative Operations Specialist