



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

*Quarterly Board Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2023
2:00pm*

*The meeting was held remotely via Zoom and the public could view the meeting
livestream on YouTube with interpreting and captioning at
<https://youtube.com/live/7UUKtg5ysnM>*

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice Chair John Hooper called the meeting to order at 2:08pm. Trevor Brennan, Administrative Operations Specialist, called roll call.

Present: Mr. John Hooper
Dr. Jennifer Herbold
Ms. Casey Stone-Romero
Mr. Ryan Means – NMAD Designee

Absent:

Quorum was met.

Six staff members from NMCDHH were present via Zoom: Executive Director Nathan Gomme, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Deborah Romero, Director of Community Engagement Lisa Dignan, Director of Community Advocacy Corina Gutiérrez, Community Engagement Specialist Jessica Eubank, and Trevor Brennan. Jessica Eubank interpreted the meeting along with Dr. Barbara Shaffer and Jacqueline Trujillo. Assistant Attorney General Delilah Tenorio was also present (joined at 2:53pm). Brooke Bui from Partners Interpreting LLC. provided CART transcription.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Hooper asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

23.8

Commissioner Herbold made a motion to approve the agenda.

Designee Means seconded.

Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes

Commissioner Stone-Romero – Yes

Designee Means – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2022 MINUTES

Vice Chair Hooper asked if there were any additional changes to the minutes from December 8, 2022.

Commissioner Herbold requested more advance time to review the minutes and report in the future if possible. There were no further comments or corrections.

23.9

Designee Means made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
Commissioner Herbold seconded.
Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Yes	Commissioner Herbold – Yes
Commissioner Stone-Romero – Yes	Designee Means – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Selection of Commission Board Meeting dates for remainder of Calendar Year 2023.

Commissioners held a brief discussion regarding the remaining Board meeting dates for calendar year 2023. After discussion, the following dates were selected: June 15, September 14, and December 14, 2023. Commissioner Stone-Romero will be unable to attend the June 15 meeting, but will send a designee.

23.10

Commissioner Herbold made a motion to approve the dates as discussed.
Designee Means seconded.
Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Yes	Commissioner Herbold – Yes
Commissioner Stone-Romero – Yes	Designee Means – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Adoption of OMA resolution

Lisa Dignan explained the changes to the OMA resolution to the Commissioners: An increase in the time of notice for a regular meeting from 10 to 14 days. An increase in time of notice for a special meeting from 3 days to 10 days. For emergency meetings, an increase in time of notice from 24 hours to 48 hours. These changes are due to the inability to obtain accessibility services such as ASL interpreting and CART services in a short period of time due to high demand for such services.

Commissioner Hooper noted that there was a typo in the resolution, the word days was missing from the length of time for Special meetings. This typo will be corrected before the resolution is signed by the Board Chair.

Commissioners and Ms. Dignan held a brief discussion regarding the time of notice for emergency meetings, no changes were made.

23.11

Commissioner Herbold made the motion to accept the OMA resolution as corrected.
Designee Means seconded.
Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Yes	Commissioner Herbold – Yes
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Commissioner Stone-Romero – Yes

Designee Means – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Election of Board Officers

Board held election of officers. Due to the resignation of Board Chair Concha Dunwell, Executive Director Gomme oversaw the election of Board Chair, a role normally performed by the Vice-Chair. Commissioner Hooper was nominated for Board Chair by Commissioner Herbold. Commissioner Hooper accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

23.12

Commissioner Herbold made the motion to accept Commissioner Hooper as Chair of the Board. Designee Means seconded.

Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Abstained

Commissioner Herbold – Yes

Commissioner Stone-Romero – Yes

Designee Means – Yes

Motion passed.

Designee Means nominated Commissioner Herbold for the role of Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Herbold asked if there was a set time for elections for the NMCDHH Board. Executive Director Gomme explained that the election was originally scheduled for the December 2022 Board meeting, but had to be tabled due to time constraints. Dr. Herbold accepted the nomination on an interim basis, but requested that the Commission have another election when more members have been appointed to the Board.

23.13

Designee Means made the motion to accept Commissioner Herbold as Vice-Chair of the Board. Commissioner Stone-Romero seconded.

Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Abstained

Commissioner Stone-Romero – Yes

Designee Means – Yes

Motion passed.

Designee Means nominated Commissioner Stone-Romero for Secretary. Commissioner Stone-Romero accepted the nomination on an interim basis. There were no other nominations.

23.14

Designee Means made the motion to accept Commissioner Stone-Romero as Secretary of the Board. Commissioner Herbold seconded.

Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes

Commissioner Stone-Romero – Abstained

Designee Means – Yes

Motion passed.

V. REPORTS

a. Executive Director Report

The annual auditors report was scheduled to be first on the agenda. Auditor Thad Porch had not arrived at the time due to a prior meeting conflict, therefore the Board moved onto the Executive Director and Departmental reports.

Executive Director Gomme shared that the initial hearing with the state legislature had gone well, and that an increase in the general fund appropriation to the agency was anticipated, but nothing has been signed into law yet.

Commissioner Herbold and Executive Director Gomme discussed how the budget for the Commission is approved and through what process funds are allocated for things like employee payroll and raises, and what role the Commission Board has in those processes. Executive Director Gomme explained that the pay levels were set by the State Personnel Office depending on duties, and increases were determined by the Legislature. Commissioner Herbold and Executive Director Gomme also discussed how the Board can support these budgetary processes and possible future actions such as a change to a flat fee rate for surcharge as discussed during previous Board meetings.

Executive Director Gomme discussed the increase in outreach events performed by Commission staff, during FY23, and the challenges encountered during these events such as interpreter availability/cost, and adapting to changes being made by virtual meeting platforms, agencies, organizations, and communities. Commission staff have expanded their ability to utilize interpreters on a variety of platforms to adapt to needs as they occur. Executive Director Gomme also discussed the uses of VRI vs VRS interpreting for the general community in remote meetings, and how action by the FCC decisions during COVID and upcoming decisions could impact the future of interpreting on virtual platforms. Commissioners, Executive Director Gomme and Lisa Dignan discussed the availability of interpreters in New Mexico, and the impact all of these changes are having on that availability.

Executive Director Gomme discussed the Broadband Expansion project, the future of New Mexico Relay, and how they are interconnected as well as the process for how the expansion will occur for broadband and likely changes and impact on overall relay performance.

Commissioners and Executive Director Gomme discussed the recently concluded legislative session and the Commissions involvement in the process and several legislative items. A number of things were still pending.

A brief break, during which all action was suspended, occurred from 3:18pm-3:30pm.

b. Department Reports Q & A

Commissioner Hooper, Executive Director Gomme, and Lisa Dignan discussed the frequency of requests for assistance finding interpreters. Requests for interpreters are the third most common question received by the Commission front desk during the first quarter.

Executive Director Gomme and Commissioner Hooper complimented the work being done by Commission Staff, and especially by Susana Santillan in Southern New Mexico in regards to outreach.

Executive Director Gomme and Commissioners discussed vacant positions within the Commission staff, and the plan to address these vacancies, which is budget dependent.

Designee Ryan Means, Commissioner Hooper, and Executive Director Gomme discussed the legislative process, and how information is shared regarding action on items as the legislative session occurs.

c. Auditors Report

Auditor Thad Porch was unable to attend the meeting. Executive Director Gomme briefly discussed the audit process with the Commissioners and shared that there were no findings in the report. The Auditors report will be rescheduled for the June 15th meeting.

23.15

Designee Means made the motion to table the Auditors Report until the next regularly scheduled NMCDHH Board meeting on June 15, 2023.

Commissioner Herbold seconded.

Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes

Commissioner Stone-Romero – Yes

Designee Means – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

23.16

Commissioner Herbold made a motion to adjourn.

Designee Means seconded.

Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes

Commissioner Stone-Romero – Yes

Designee Means – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Trevor M. Brennan

Trevor Brennan
Administrative Operations Specialist