



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

*Quarterly Board Meeting
Thursday, June 15, 2023
3:00pm*

*The meeting was held remotely via Zoom and the public could view the meeting
livestream on YouTube with interpreting and captioning at
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2zrfik2Sfs>*

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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
Dr. Meena Mann
Ms. Christine Fuller – DVR Designee.

Absent:

Quorum was met.

Five staff members from NMCDHH were present via Zoom: Executive Director Nathan Gomme, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Deborah Romero, Director of Community Engagement Lisa Dignan, Community Engagement Specialist Jessica Eubank, and Trevor Brennan. Jessica Eubank interpreted the meeting along with Jacqueline Trujillo and Amy Bourque. Partners Interpreting LLC. provided CART transcription.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Hooper asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

23.17

Commissioner Herbold made a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Mann seconded.

Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Mann – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes

Designee Fuller – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF March 23, 2023 MINUTES

Chair Hooper asked if there were any changes to the minutes from March 23, 2023.

23.18

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

Commissioner Hooper – Yes
Commissioner Mann – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes
Designee Fuller – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. REPORTS

a. Auditor's Report

Thad Porch presented the annual auditor's report. There were no material errors. NMCDHH was given an unmodified opinion, which is the best opinion possible.

Executive Director Gomme and Mr. Porch discussed aspects of the report pertaining to revenue and the general fund with commissioners.

Commissioner Hooper and Executive Director Gomme discussed how revenue from telephone taxes are dispersed, the impact of a flat-fee rate, and possible future changes to rates, as previously discussed during the March 11, 2021 Board Meeting/Auditor's report.

Chair Hooper thanked Mr. Porch for his report and commended Ms. Romero for another great audit.

b. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Gomme shared updates on the current Request for Proposal (RFP) underway for the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP), and the recent decision by a Sole Source provider to longer continue their contract after June 30. Executive Director Gomme and Commission staff are working to ensure a continuation of service and smooth transition to a new vendor. Executive Director Gomme recently updated the community on the progress with solving this issue at a recent New Mexico Association for the Deaf (NMAD) Town Hall.

Executive Director Gomme shared that accessibility in virtual meeting spaces such as Zoom, Webex, Teams, and other platforms is a topic of much discussion in the community and with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Recently, there was an application released for one of the virtual meeting platforms in cooperation with a Video Relay Service (VRS) company, which as of the time of the report still hasn't received, FCC approval for funding. The FCC did however recently announce that they would be looking into virtual meeting platforms, and the appropriate accommodations needed to match the existing VRS//VRI/phone system.

Executive Director Gomme shared and discussed recent events regarding virtual meeting platforms, their interactions with Video Relay Service (VRS) companies, as well as proposed changes to Direct Video Communications Services, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) involvement with these items.

The Commission has recently started a pilot program to distribute unlocked iPhone 14's under the TEDP program. This program hopes to address the continuing shortage and discontinuation of accessible landline and mobile phone options, and the greater accessibility provided on an adaptive device such as the iPhone, where the applications available can be tailored to meet the needs of the individual and their disabilities. Because the phones are unlocked and utilize e-sim card technology, the individual can also pick the best carrier for their needs.

Executive Director Gomme, Lisa Dignan, and commissioners discussed the upcoming Fiscal Year budget, and Commission vacant positions. The Commission hopes to fill 4 positions in Fiscal Year 2024.

Commissioner Hooper asked if there is any backlog in case load and frequency of walk in appointments. Executive Director assured commissioners that although all Commission staff are very busy and multi-tasking, there is no backlog of caseload. Hiring is an ongoing issue for all state agencies. The Commission strives to schedule meetings with constituents in advance, to ensure that all accessibility and communication needs are met, but does address the needs of constituents as they appear.

Commissioner Hooper and Executive Director Gomme discussed how state budget allocation is appropriated at the beginning of the Fiscal Year per the legislative process.

Commissioner Mann asked about contact between the Commission and the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) Youth Leadership Conference that will occur in Albuquerque in September 204. As this item was not on the agenda for discussion, discussion was tabled.

c. Department Reports Q & A

There were no questions regarding department reports.

V. ADJOURNMENT

23.19

Commissioner Herbold made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Mann seconded.

Mr. Brennan took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes

Commissioner Mann – Yes

Designee Fuller - Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Trevor M. Brennan

Trevor Brennan
Administrative Operations Specialist