



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

*Quarterly Board Meeting
Thursday, December 5, 2024
3:00pm*

The meeting was virtual on Zoom and the public could view the meeting livestream on YouTube with interpreting and captioning at www.youtube.com/live/7f9Q3TsFzq4

DRAFT – These minutes will be subject to possible revision and approval by the commissioners at the next Board meeting on March 27, 2025.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair John Hooper called the meeting to order at 3:13pm. Renee Bregar, Administrative Operations Specialist, called roll call.

Present: Mr. John Hooper
Dr. Jennifer Herbold
Dr. Norm Dawson
Mr. Joseph Lopez, III

Absent: Dr. Meena Mann
Ms. Casey Stone-Romero

Quorum was met.

Six staff members from NMCDHH were present: Executive Director, Nathan Gomme; Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Deborah Romero; Director of Community Advocacy, Corina Gutiérrez; Communication Development Specialist, Jessica Eubank; Community Engagement Specialist, Trevor Brennan; Administrative Operations Specialist, Renee Bregar. Jessica Eubank interpreted the meeting along with Rhonda Hall, and Barbara Shaffer. Francisco A. Philibert from Partners Interpreting LLC. provided CART transcription.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Hooper asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

25.1

Commissioner Herbold made a motion to approve the agenda as written.
Commissioner Lopez seconded.
Ms. Bregar took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Dawson – Yes
Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes
Commissioner Lopez – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval OF JUNE 6, 2024 MINUTES

Commissioner Hooper asked if there were any changes to the minutes from June 6, 2024.

25.2

Commissioner Dawson made a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Commissioner Herbold seconded.

Ms. Bregar took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Dawson – Yes
Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes
Commissioner Lopez – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. WELCOME DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTEHRN NM, MR. JOSEPH LOPEZ, III

Commissioner Lopez stated that he has been a resident of New Mexico for almost 15 years. He works for the New Mexico School for the Deaf Early Intervention Development Specialist, and also teaches ASL at New Mexico State University. Mr. Lopez is Deaf and has been a community advocate for many years as well.

V. CONFIRM MEETING DATES FOR CALENDER YEAR

Commissioners held a brief discussion regarding the Board meeting dates for calendar year 2025. After discussion, the following dates were selected: March 27, June 5, September 4, and December 4, 2025.

25.3

Commissioner Dawson made a motion to approve the meeting dates as discussed.

Commissioner Lopez seconded.

Ms. Bregar took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Dawson – Yes
Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes
Commissioner Lopez – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. ADOPTION OF REVISED OPEN MEETINGS ACT RESOLUTION FOR 2025

Commissioners held a brief discussion regarding the revised Open Meetings Act Resolution for 2025. The only changes from the 2024 resolution were to update the resolution dates for 2025.

25.4

Commissioner Herbold made a motion to adopt the updated OMA Resolution for 2025.

Commissioner Lopez seconded.

Ms. Bregar took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Dawson – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes

Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Lopez – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S GOALS

Commissioners discussed Executive Director Gomme's goals for FY25. The goals for FY25 are:

1. Work to request and potentially receive increased permanent funding for the Support Service Provider (SSP) and Communication Facilitator (CF) Programs.
2. Have a plan in place by end of Fiscal Year to comply with Title II of the Americans with Disability Act, Web Content Accessibility Guideline requirements that take effect in April 2026 regarding the Commission website and social media postings.
3. With the statewide plan expiring in 2025, I will work to be involved with the review application of the revisions to the Older Americans Act and the definition changes.
4. Develop a Task Force to address the interpreter shortage in New Mexico and the Commission's approach to mentoring.

25.5

Commissioner Herbold made a motion to approve the Executive Director's Goals as discussed.

Commissioner Lopez seconded.

Ms. Bregar took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Dawson – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes

Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Lopez – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS

a. Executive Director Report

Mr. Gomme discussed the role out of the Communication Facilitator Pilot Program at the beginning of FY25. New Mexico is now the fourth state with a CF program. Vancro continues to see an increase in the number of community members eligible and receiving services, and there may be a need for increased funding depending on continued growth.

Executive Director Gomme discussed funding and budget for the Commission provided programs. There will be a request for funding specifically for a comprehensive audit that compares state and federal reports to see if the funding we receive is counted and allocated correctly.

b. Department Reports Q & A

Community Engagement

Mr. Trevor Brennan is serving as the interim Director of Community Engagement. Mr. Brennan briefly discussed the retirement of Ms. Lisa Dignan, and the work being done to keep operations running smoothly in the department, while preparing for a new director.

Mr. Brennan discussed his experience at the M-Enabling Summit in Washington D.C. where he learned about a variety of accessibility/technological/disability issues that will benefit his work at the Commission, and especially the work being done with WCAG compliance. Mr. Brennan and Mr. Gomme continue to monitor AI technology in the Deaf ecosystem.

Mr. Brennan recognized Ms. Jessica Eubank, staff interpreter, who is receiving a Master's Degree in Interpreter Education, which will be helpful to the professional development work she does with interpreters in the community.

Administrative Services

Ms. Deborah Romero commented on how her department is now fully staffed, with amazing individuals who are doing great work.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

25.6

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Herbold seconded.

Ms. Bregar took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Dawson – Yes

Commissioner Herbold – Yes

Commissioner Hooper – Yes

Commissioner Lopez – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee F. Bregar

Renee Bregar
Administrative Operations Specialist