



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

*Quarterly Board Meeting
Thursday, June 5, 2025
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/AXjbjomat2I

DRAFT – These minutes will be subject to possible revision and approval by the commissioners at the next Board meeting on September 4, 2025.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair John Hooper called the meeting to order at 3:03pm. Renee Bregar, Administrative Operations Specialist, called roll call.

Present: Mr. John Hooper - Chair
Mr. Joseph Lopez, III - Vice Chair
Dr. Norm Dawson
Mr. Ryan Means

Absent: Dr. Jennifer Herbold
Ms. Tiffany Gallegos
Ms. Kendra Karp

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; Director of Community Engagement, Amy Bourque, Communication Development Specialist, Trevor Brennan; Administrative Operations Specialist, Renee Bregar. Ms. Autumn Burgh representing the New Mexico Department of Justice was also present. Jacqueline Truillo, Jessica Seiders-Martinez, Barbara Shaffer and Dana Murrah interpreted. Partners Interpreting LLC provided CART transcription.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Hooper asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

25.14

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to approve the agenda as written.

Commissioner Means seconded.

Ms. Bregar took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper - Yes

Commissioner Lopez - Yes

Commissioner Dawson – Yes

Commissioner Means - Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 27, 2025, MINUTES

Commissioner Hooper asked if there were any changes to the minutes from March 27, 2025.

25.15

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

Commissioner Means seconded.

Ms. Bregar took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper - Yes

Commissioner Lopez - Yes

Commissioner Dawson – Yes

Commissioner Means - Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. WELCOME NMAD PRESIDENT

Commissioner Means stated that he is a native New Mexican, raised in Los Alamos, and is excited to be on the NMCDHH board.

V. DISCUSSION OF SURVEY RESULTS AND FY24 LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Commissioners held a discussion regarding the survey sent to the community. Commissioner Dawson asked for what purpose the survey will be used, what will happen with the information gathered from it and how it will be disseminated. Mr. Gomme stated the results may be used to direct the Commission, the staff and himself to better meet the community's needs. Topics included: a need for increased funding and programs that the respondents would like to see, the need for a greater focus on the Hard of Hearing community, the need to advertise and make the agency more visible. Healthy criticism was welcomed and received. It included: answering the phone timely, being out in the community more often and potential partnership with other organizations, like DCC, that also work in the Hearing Loss Community. Mr. Gomme stated that the board holds him accountable for his improvement as well as the agency's in those areas.

Commissioners and Mr. Gomme discussed how to address the feedback from the survey, and how the agency balances its goals and objectives, with its fiscal responsibility and realities.

Mr. Gomme and Commissioners discussed the Fiscal Year 2024 legislative measures, how the measures are set, and how the NMCDHH works during the year to achieve its goals.

Mr. Gomme and Commissioners discussed how New Mexico Relay works, how the legislative goal is set, and how the relay service has changed over time, and the challenges with program funding and meeting the legislative measure.

VI. OMA TRAINING UPDATE

Mr. Brennan shared with the board that there is currently no scheduled Open Meetings Act Training listed on the New Mexico Department of Justice Website. Mr. Gomme stated that the Board will be informed when the Commission knows of a session, so that language access needs can be addressed.

VII. REPORTS

a. Executive Director Report

Mr. Gomme recapped the many different discussions that took place during the very busy Legislative Session, as related to funding, including, agency budget, House Bill 120 (HB120), House Bill 59 (HB59) and Senate Bill 385 (SB385).

Mr. Gomme expanded on relay minutes information, a discussion that started during the survey results.

The cap on Vancro service hours will be suspended for FY26. The services available include Communication Facilitator (CF) and Support Service Provider (SSP) services. Both the SSP and CF programs are valuable and are being supported.

Real-Time Solutions (RTS) is the CDHH website provider. Mr. Brennan and Mr. Gomme have worked with RTS toward compliance and the Commission is close to 100% compliant with WCAG requirements. Our TEDP catalog and application have also been remediated to be fully accessible.

CDHH is working with the Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) group, along with several other state agencies, planning for an October event in Albuquerque.

Mr. Gomme discussed updates to the equipment distribution program, and the work being done to establish an online application portal. Commissioner Means and Mr. Gomme briefly described the budget for the program, how the application process works, and the criteria.

Specific to interpreting, Mr. Gomme mentioned that Ms. Eubank, Mx. Bourque and Mr. Brennan have been working together, as a task force, to try to address the shortage of interpreters in New Mexico, and how the Commission can support the existing community. Mr. Gomme commended Advocacy or all they do. Mx. Dahlgren has resigned from the Commission Las Cruces office. He also complimented Community Engagement for recently hosting an event regarding self-harm and suicide and how to interpret those topics. The team is currently working on updating to current books in the CDHH library, specifically those related to interpreting. Mr. Gomme complimented Administrative Services for keeping the budget afloat. He also complimented Mr. Sinderholm on his great work in TEDP.

Commissioner Hooper stated that the agency is doing a fantastic job; that he appreciates all that the Commission does in the community.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hooper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

25.16

Commissioner Means made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Lopez seconded.

Ms. Bregar took a roll call vote:

Commissioner Hooper - Yes
Commissioner Dawson – Yes

Commissioner Lopez - Yes
Commissioner Means - Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee F. Bregar

Renee Bregar
Administrative Operations Specialist