



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

*Quarterly Board Meeting
Thursday, June 4, 2026
3:00pm*

The meeting was virtual on Zoom and the public could view the meeting livestream on YouTube with interpreting and captioning at [https://www.youtube.com/live/ SVbmJX52FA](https://www.youtube.com/live/SVbmJX52FA)

DRAFT – These minutes will be subject to possible revision and approval by the commissioners at the next Board meeting on September 3, 2026.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair John Hooper called the meeting to order at 3:11pm. Renee Bregar, Administrative Operations Specialist, conducted roll call.

Present: Mr. John Hooper - Chair
Mr. Ryan Means

Absent: Mr. Joseph Lopez, III
Dr. Norm Dawson
Dr. Jennifer Herbold
Dr. Stephon L. Scott
Ms. Tiffany Gallegos

Quorum was not met. Therefore, any action items requiring a vote were not addressed.

Seven 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, Jessica Eubank; Community Engagement Specialist, Trevor Brennan; and Administrative Operations Specialist, Renee Bregar. Jessica Eubank, Rhonda Hall, Isabella Krooth and Alex Luce interpreted. Partners Interpreting LLC provided CART transcription. Mr. Eduardo Ugarte, from the New Mexico Department of Justice (NMDOJ), was also present.

II. FY25 FINAL AUDIT Presentation by Auditor Thad Porch

Mr. Porch mentioned this will be the final audit his organization will complete for NMCDHH, the term limit has been reached. He provided a high-level description of what an audit is; a review of financial statements to determine if they are materially correct. He described the three different types of opinions as related to errors found within the financial statements. For eight consecutive years, NMCDHH has received an unqualified, unmodified opinion, the best opinion an organization can receive.

Mr. Porch then discussed assets and liabilities and changes to each. He did, specifically, mention the telecommunication relay surcharge and noted the decline, which has been year over year. However, there was still a net increase indicating healthy revenue.

Mr. Porch then touched on the change in accounting practice, Gatsby 101, and how the change affects net position.

There was some discussion between Mr. Porch, Commissioner Hooper and Executive Director Gomme around inflation, the budget and an expected increase in taxes going forward.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gomme discussed the expansion of broadband services into some rural communities, TTY services, relay services and related costs, a meeting with and demonstration by Lotus, a company which provides rings used for accessibility. Director Gomme also mentioned some of the challenges of wearables such as glasses for accessibility; they require a username and a password, a smart phone and/or other technology, none of which is required to use rings. Director Gomme also confirmed that NMCDHH staff have completed 2 of 3 training sessions as related to the Americans with Disabilities Act which applies directly to accommodation and accessibility.

Commissioner Means asked about the potential of funding for broadband services for secure rural schools (SRS) and if the State of New Mexico has any plans to access funds. Director Gomme confirmed that information about the funds and where they will be used is publicly available in the Office of Broadband Expansion (OOBE) newsletter. He also confirmed that the goal for broadband access across the state is 2029, currently.

Director Gomme also mentioned that NMCDHH has implemented Google ads, which automatically directs to our new Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program

(TEDP) online accessible application when typing “Deaf” and “New Mexico”. This leads to our expanding TEDP program.

In closing, Director Gomme announced the departure of Mx. Bourque and thanked them for their work within the agency.

IV. Department Reports

Commissioner Hooper complimented CDHH staff, specifically Mr. Robb, for his work with the Albuquerque Police Department.

Commissioners and Executive Director Gomme discussed the accessibility of tables in the quarterly report and how they will be handled in the future.

Commissioner Means, Executive Director Gomme, and Ms. Gutiérrez discussed Deaf Self-Advocacy Issues and resources within New Mexico, and nationwide.

Director Gomme briefly discussed the Lotus Ring pilot program to commence at PAH! Hiland Plaza. He confirmed that related funding is allocated for Deaf, including DeafBlind, and Speech-disabled individuals. There are 74 kits (multiple rings) available to be deployed.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee F. Bregar

Renee Bregar
Administrative Operations Specialist