

## **Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**October 18, 2024**

*Certified by DAC Co-Chair Kim Charlson — November 8, 2024*

On October 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. EDT, the final meeting of the fifth term of the DAC was called to order by DAC Co-Chairs Kim Charlson of the Perkins School for the Blind and Kyle Dixon of NCTA – the Internet & Television Association.

Commissioner Anna M. Gomez welcomed DAC members. She shared remarks on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s work and its goals to best serve the disability community, including working to ensure that manufacturers prioritize accessibility in product development, and highlighting the recently adopted hearing aid compatibility order, changes adopted to make videoconferencing services more accessible, and changes to telecommunications relay services.

Bob Aldrich, Acting Deputy Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB), congratulated the DAC on its upcoming 10 year anniversary, and acknowledged the October anniversary of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA). He also mentioned, from a global perspective, the September 2024 adoption of a Global Digital Compact by the United Nations. He expressed gratitude for the commitment and leadership of the DAC cochairs and for the work of the Working Group Co-Chairs. Finally, he thanked staff and accommodations providers who helped make the DAC meeting possible.

The DAC Co-Chairs then welcomed the group again and introduced themselves. Joshua Mendelsohn, DAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Acting Chief of the Disability Rights Office (DRO), summarized communications protocols and housekeeping rules for the DAC members. DAC Co-Chair Kim Charlson then began a roll call of members present.

Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel then joined the meeting to share remarks. She acknowledged National Disability Employment Awareness Month, thanked the DAC members for their time, and discussed some of the history of the DAC. She then turned to the recently adopted hearing aid compatibility order, and shared background on this item and the path of progress towards requiring 100% of handsets be compatible with hearing aids, highlighting the DAC's role in this work. She also highlighted the DAC's record of contributing to meaningful changes, and thanked the DAC for its patience, perseverance, and commitment that has made a meaningful impact. Finally, she announced the renewal of DAC for a sixth term, and applauded the DAC's commitment to building a digital future that works for everyone.

Co-Chair Kim Charlson then resumed the roll call, and closed by acknowledging members who were not able to join the meeting.

Michael Scott, DRO Deputy Chief, shared briefings from DRO. He mentioned the recent adoption of the 100% hearing aid compatibility requirement for all wireless handset models; the new requirement for georouting of mobile calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline; the October 8th

publication of the CVAA Biennial report to Congress examining the accessibility of telecommunications and advanced communications services and equipment over the past two years; the September 26th Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to ensure the accessibility of interoperable video conferencing services for people with disabilities; recent changes adopted to implement the requirements of the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022 and additional actions to further the affordability and accessibility of incarcerated person's communications services; recent steps taken to advance the nationwide transition to Next Generation 911; new requirements for closed captioning display settings; and a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing that captioning registration and certification requirements will not apply to video programmers if they provide programs only to public, educational, and governmental access (PEG) channels and nonbroadcast networks under certain circumstances.

Cristina Duarte, Co-Chair of the Working Group on Best Practices for Quality TRS for Individuals With Multiple Disabilities, led a discussion of the group's final report and recommendations. She then invited DAC member Karen Peltz Strauss to discuss her recommended changes to the document, specifically regarding the addition of language on telecommunications speech relay services. There was brief, additional discussion by the DAC, and then DAC Co-Chair Kim Charlson led a vote on adoption of the final report. Each member organization voted and the report was unanimously adopted.

The Committee took a ten minute break, then reconvened. Co-Chair Kyle Dixon introduced video remarks from Commissioner Geoffrey Starks. Commissioner Starks, in his recorded remarks, thanked the DAC and discussed some DAC efforts that have led to Commission action, including interoperable videoconferencing services requirements, new compensation rates for Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS), and new requirements for closed captioning display settings.

Sarah Malaier, Chair of the Working Group on Online Gaming Accessibility for Individuals Who are Blind or Have Low Vision led a discussion of the group's final report and recommendations. DAC Co-Chair Kyle Dixon then led a vote on adoption of the final report. The report was unanimously adopted.

Shadi Abou-Zahra, Co-Chair of the Working Group on the Use of Artificial Intelligence to Caption Live Video Programming, led a discussion of the group's final report. DAC Co-Chair Kyle Dixon then led a vote on adoption of the final report. The report was unanimously adopted.

Josh Mendelsohn facilitated a dialogue on potential future Working Group topics. The meeting then opened for public participation. Kevin Steffey from the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Association (TEDPA) made a comment regarding eSIM compatibility with Lifeline services.

Closing remarks were made by DAC Co-Chairs Kim Charlson and Kyle Dixon, and the meeting was then adjourned.

October 18, 2024 Attendees:

| <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Representative</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| Amazon.com, Inc.  | Shadi Abou-Zahra      |
| American Association of the DeafBlind (AADB)  | Cathy Miller          |
| American Council of the Blind (ACB)   | Claire Stanley        |
| American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)   | Sarah Malaier         |
| Apple, Inc.   | Megan Stull           |
| The Arc   | Sequaya Tasker        |
| AT&T Corporation  | Linda Vandeloop       |
| Cerebral Palsy and Deaf Organization (CPADO)  | Mark Hill             |
| City of Boston Mayor's Commission   | Carl Richardson       |
| ClearCaptions, LLC  | Michael Strecker      |
| Comcast NBCUniversal  | Patty Chuh            |
| Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD)  | Karen Peltz Strauss   |
| Consumer Technology Association (CTA)   | Rachel Sanford Nemeth |
| Convo Communications, LLC   | Thomas Horejes        |
| CTIA - the Wireless Association   | Sarah Leggin          |
| Dicapta   | Maria Victoria Diaz   |
| Hamilton Relay, Inc.  | Beth Slough           |
| Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)  | Neil Snyder           |
| Helen Keller National Center  | Scott Davert          |
| InnoCaption   | Cristina Duarte       |
| National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)  | Joshua N. Pila        |
| National Association of the Deaf (NAD)  | Zainab Alkebsi        |
| National Association of State Agencies Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH)   | Annie Urasky          |
| National Captioning Institute (NCI)   | Darlene Parker        |
| National Federation of the Blind  | Everette Bacon        |
| NCTA – The Internet & Television Association  | Kyle Dixon            |
| Perkins School for the Blind  | Kim Charlson          |
| Sorenson Communications, LLC  | Wendy Adams           |
| TDIforAccess, Inc.  | AnnMarie Killian      |
| T-Mobile USA, Inc.  | Shellie Blakeney      |
| University of Pittsburgh Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Wireless Technologies for People with Disabilities | Lindsey Morris        |
| Verizon Communications, Inc   | Zachary Bastian       |
| VITAC   | Heather York          |
| ZP Better Together  | Greg Hlibok           |
| U.S. Access Board   | Alison Levy           |
| U.S. Department of Education  | Brianne Burger        |

U.S. Department of Transportation

Brian Tegtmeier

Members Absent:

National Black Deaf Advocates

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Certified:

          /s/ Kim Charlson          

Signature of DAC Co-Chair