

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AGENCIES FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

**Directors’ Annual Meeting**

**St. Louis, MO**

**1:00pm – 5:00pm, June 24, 2015**

In attendance:

Sherri Collins, AZ

Steven Snow, ID

Virginia Moore, KY

Lisa Kornberg, MD

Heidi Reed, MA

Anne Urasky, MI

Opeoluwa Sotonwa, MO

John Wyvill, NE

Nathan Gomme, NM

Jan Withers, NC

Steven Florio, RI

Marilyn Call, Utah

Ernest Covington, III, WV

**Welcome:**

Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy, HLAA

Hamlin welcomed NASADHH members and noted 2015 is the 35th anniversary of HLAA’s founding and that since its inception, HLAA has become more inclusive with respect to membership and conference participants, including greater diversity in communication modes.

Introductions were made.

**Partners with Federal Emergency Management Agency – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations in the United States of America**

Presenter: Gay Jones, Communications Specialist, Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, FEMA

Marcia Roth, Director, Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, FEMA, was unable to present as originally scheduled.

See PPT attached for Jones presentation.



Highlights:

* FEMA’s role – provide information that is consistent throughout the country and provide disaster assistance to States *only* following a Presidential declaration of disaster.
* Provide individual assistance (to individual households that meet the threshold) and public assistance (infrastructure, etc).
* Congressional act following Hurricane Katrina: PKERM – Post Katrina Emergency Reform Management – established Office of Disability Integration and Coordination in response to lessons learned regarding needs of people with disabilities during and after Katrina.
* Review of laws supporting/mandating equal access to emergency services
  + List of applications: major areas of focus include preparation, long-term/on-going; people with disabilities are more affected by disasters and take longer to recover
* “People with Disabilities” vs. “Others with Access and Functional Needs”
  + E.G. Woman 8-months pregnant; people with children; people on medications (asthma, etc) – do not have disabilities per se but require special attention
  + People with disabilities: 20% of population (estimated – many do not self-identify)
  + People with Access and Functional Needs: 50% of the population
  + Both groups = 70% of the population
* FEMA – FCC: Collaboration at federal level to ensure accessibility of information provided through media (e.g. worked with National Association of Broadcasters)
* SAM.gov: website for interpreters to register to serve as interpreters during times of emergency; list of interpreters in each State for emergency services; Region 10 cited as a success in this area – ask Jones for details.
* FEMA cannot partner with States but can partner with non-profits (e.g. NASADHH) on initiatives/projects

**Panel Discussion: Assistive Technology and ADA**

Moderator: Michele Michaels, Hard of Hearing Specialist (Arizona)

Panelists: Cynthia Compton-Conley, Ph.D., Director of Consumer Technology Initiatives, HLAA

Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy, HLAA

Shannon Smith, Director of Accessibility, Teltex, Inc

See list of moderator’s questions attached.



Highlights:

* Compton-Conley: Average audiologist knows very little about accessibility rights and assistive technology (other than hearing aids). Survey: 72% know little to none; those who reported knowing a lot turned out to be Dr. Compton-Conley’s former students at Gallaudet
* Proposed solution: Consumer Technology Initiative – webpage on HLAA website designed to educate consumers (and audiologists) regarding assistive technology and their rights with the intention to expand accessibility in all aspects of society
* Hamlin: need to do more to enhance accessibility in the workplace – educate both employee and employer regarding rights and assistive technology as resources
* Need to work more to educate professionals who are in a position to educate consumers; as an example, Smith cited a conference in NM for professionals who work with people with hearing loss (e.g. VR, audiologists, hearing aid dispensers, etc)

**NASADHH Business**

NASADHH President Steven Florio called meeting to order at 4:30pm

* Minutes for NASADHH business meeting conducted at NASADHH Directors’ Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA in July 2014 not ready for vote by members – tabled until next full meeting (summer 2016) for vote.
* President’s report (Florio):
  + Excellent agenda for the general meeting; wishes we could have a full day instead of a half day – so many good topics
  + Noted improved communication among Board officers due to video conferencing technology
  + Announced Eric Raff’s resignation from his position as Director of the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Washington State; therefore, he will no longer be a member of NASADHH. The membership will need to find a person to replace Raff as a Board Member-at-Large. Also, Florio shared that Raff has a proposal for the Board to consider. Discussion on both topics to follow Officers’ reports.
* Vice President’s report (Collins):
  + Focus has been on preparation for the 2015 Directors’ meeting
  + Glad that NASADHH is having its meeting this year where the HLAA conference is taking place – important to demonstrate commitment to Hard of Hearing consumers and to build on relationship with HLAA; it seems to be working – the HLAA leadership has taken notice of NASADHH
  + Next HLAA conference (2016): will be in Washington, DC and it will be an international conference
* Secretary’s report (Withers):
  + Keeping directory updated and thanked those who assisted the Secretary by proactively and timely notifying her of updates
  + Filed annual franchise tax report with the State of Delaware (where NASADHH is officially registered)
  + Moore asked if a federal form for maintaining NASADHH’s 501 (3)(c) status has been filed; Moore will work with me to obtain update from Raff who did the initial paperwork to obtain this status and to take any action as needed
* Treasurer’s report (Moore):
  + Reviewed financial report (enclosed)



* + Noted this past year’s expenditures have been reasonable
  + All is in order and balanced
  + Need to ensure we follow through on recruiting members and collecting membership dues (see form enclosed)



* + Concern: $23-$25 per month charge by Bank of America which allows States to pay membership fees using a credit card; Moore proposed charging a percentage to States for using a credit card.
  + **MOTION:** Steven Snow – impose a small fee on States that pay with a credit card and that the percentage would be determined based on Moore’s conversation with the bank
    - Seconded by Lisa Kornberg
    - All in favor – motion carried
* Discussion: Eric Raff’s proposal
  + Florio: Per by-laws, the Board has the authority to conduct certain business without involving the full membership. However, in the interest of transparency, Florio shared with the membership Raff’s proposal to serve as a Board Liaison (see Raff’s attached proposal). NASADHH does not have a Director or any kind of paid/volunteer staff who could support the operation of NASADHH. Raff proposed to provide on a limited basis this type of operational support (e.g. maintaining directory, website and coordinating meeting logistics, etc., in exchange for expenses paid for him to attend Directors’ annual meeting in support “personnel” capacity).
  + **MOTION:** Steven Snow – moved that the Board proceed with agreeing to Raff’s proposal.
    - Seconded by Nathan Gomme
    - All in favor – motion carried
* Discussion: Need to replace Eric Raff as Board Member-at-Large
  + Florio: Per by-laws, the Board has the authority to select a successor. However, in the interest of transparency, Florio wanted to bring it to the full membership meeting for discussion. Two (2) nomination forms have been submitted.
  + Candidates nominated to succeed Raff: Heidi Reed and Annie Urasky
    - Each gave a brief presentation promoting her selection as successor
    - Florio: Thanked Reed and Urasky for their interest in serving on the Board and for their presentations. At NASADHH’s next Board meeting, the Board will select the successor
* 2016 NASADHH Directors’ annual meeting
  + Collins/Florio: recommended having an all-day meeting on July 5, 2016 in Phoenix, AZ. The evening of July 5th is the opening of the National Association of the Deaf’s biennial conference in Phoenix. Collins cautioned that given her membership on the NAD Board and role in the conference planning, she may not be able to attend the entire meeting.
  + Gomme: given his proximity to AZ, offered to be the lead on-site logistics support along with Eric Raff.

Meeting adjourned 5:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Withers, Secretary, NASADHH