

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AGENCIES OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**  
**Directors' Annual Meeting**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**  
**8:00am – 5:00pm, June 21, 2017**

Present for Meeting:

Sherri Collins (AZ)  
Nathan Gomme (NM)  
Steven Snow (ID)  
Virginia Moore (KY)  
Jan Withers (NC)  
Annie Urasky (MI)  
Opeoluwa Sotonwa (MO)  
Kelby Brick (MD)  
Steve Peck (WA)  
George Herchenroether (RI) (For Steven Florio)  
John Wyvill (NE)  
Marilyn Call (UT)

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Sherri Collins, NASADHH President, welcomed everyone; introductions were made.

### **National Law Enforcement Issues and Solutions**

Presenters: Virginia Moore (KY) (Co-Chair), Jan Withers (NC) (Co-Chair), Theodore "Ted" Baran, Director, Department of Public Safety, Gallaudet University

- Reviewed results of survey conducted by North Carolina DSDHH; NASADHH member states were surveyed regarding the need for and availability of training to assure safe interactions between law enforcement and deaf/hard of hearing people.
- Provided overview of issues and efforts in NC and KY to develop solutions.
- Reviewed various solutions, including driver communication cards, designation on driver's license and law enforcement database, provision of information during roll calls, training videos for basic training and continuing education, training for members of the deaf/hard of hearing community, and so forth, and their pros and cons.
- Baran provided his background as a veteran law enforcement officer who is also a CODA. He also provided an overview of what is required of police officers with respect to their performances, the challenges they face daily, and the support they need to do their jobs effectively. He reviewed his experience training officers from the perspective of an officer who is fluent in ASL and knowledgeable about the Deaf community. He also shared his observations as to what makes training for law enforcement officers effective and what they need to know. Tips were also provided for educating the Deaf community.
- Provided overview of efforts to date to develop solutions at the national level, specifically through NASADHH, and the challenges to these efforts. Discussed various ideas, including a video training series and a standard curriculum that other states could adopt for their own use.

## **Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Bill: Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Marilyn Call (Utah)

Panelists:

- Michelle Michaels, Hard of Hearing Specialist and Legislative Liaison, AZCDHH
- Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy, HLAA
- Two audiologists from the Salt Lake City area

Discussion:

- Bill passed in U.S. Senate, now in U.S. House of Representative.
- Reviewed pros and cons
  - Actual impact on cost?
  - Quality of OTC aids?
  - Access to and quality of hearing health care?
  - Impact on hearing health?
  - Sufficient safeguards in place?
  - Barrier to professional-patient/client relationship?
  - Impact on adoption rate (successful acceptance & utilization of aids by consumer)?
  - Impact on insurance for aids?
- What's ahead?
  - The way the bill is constructed makes it a "must pass" bill in the House
  - If passed, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will have up to 4 years to solicit feedback for and develop rules
    - Per panelists, rules must address the following:
      - Define "mild" and "moderate" hearing loss
      - Place limits on output and gain
      - Include prominent warning regarding risks
      - Advise where consumer is to go if problems persist
      - Must establish consumer protection standards
  - Consumer/Advocacy organizations need to monitor impact on market, consumer access to appropriate hearing aids and hearing health, penetration of need, etc.

## **Roundtable Discussion: NASADHH Priorities/Services**

Moderator: Sherri Collins (AZ)

- Gomme provided a summary of the results of a survey that was conducted in the spring of 2017 to ascertain which issues are priorities for member State agencies. The results were printed and placed in the meeting participants' packets.
- Meeting participants discussed how they establish priorities and why. All reviewed the proposed topics for further discussion during the afternoon phase of today's meeting and concurred with them.

## **Workgroup Sessions**

### **Topic: Early Intervention/Language Acquisition**

**Motion:** Virginia Moore (KY) moved that an ad-hoc committee be established to assess LEAD-K for the purpose of developing a "public statement" by NASADHH. Motion carried.

- Committee members: Kelby Brick (MD), Nathan Gomme (NM), Deborah O'Willow (WA), and Steven Florio (RI)
- The committee is to report to NASADHH's board in approximately three months

**Topic: Law Enforcement:**

- Per discussion, all agreed the following is needed in order to improve interactions between law enforcement and Deaf/Hard of Hearing people nationwide:
  1. White paper
  2. Generic video for national exposure
  3. NASADHH needs to own this initiative
  4. Engage Citizens’ Police Academy to include Deaf and Hard of Hearing people
  5. Train the Trainer model –seek law enforcement officers who are fluent in ASL
  6. Develop “recommended” curriculum for adoption by states
  7. Consider whether we should work with U.S. DOJ
  8. Partner with and attend conferences of national law enforcement associations

**Motion:** Kelby Brick (MD) moved that NASADHH establish a committee to develop a white paper, a video series, and a strategic plan for dissemination. Motion carried.

- Committee members: Nathan Gomme (NM), Annie Urasky (MI), John Wyvill (NE), Kelby Brick (MD), Deborah O’Willow (WA)
  - Brick will act as the writer of the white paper.
  - Annie will act as the grant writer

**Topic: Interpreter Certification/Licensure**

- Issue: a draft letter was circulated among various national organizations stating that RID needs to practice greater transparency and responsiveness with respect to its progress on certifications and tests. Does NASADHH want to write its own letter expressing its concerns, particularly with respect to RID’s impact on state licensure?

**Motion:** Kelby Brick (MD) moved that NASADHH draft a letter to Gallaudet University President Roberta Cordano, proposing that Gallaudet create an “Office of Public Engagement.” Motion carried.

**NASADHH BUSINESS MEETING**

**Officers**

- Collins (President) provided an update on NASADHH Board activities (see PPT enclosed.)



NASDHH Annual meeting HLAA june 20

**Budget**

- No discussion.

**Election/Vote**

- No election as one is not needed. The next election is to take place during the 2018 business meeting in Hartford, CT.