**Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 14, 2020**

*Certified by DAC Co-Chair Brian Scarpelli – March 29, 2021*

On February 18, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. EDT, the inaugural meeting of the fourth term of the DAC was opened by DAC Co-Chair Brian Scarpelli of ACT – the App Association. This meeting was held virtually via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Welcoming remarks were given by Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, who expressed her appreciation for the DAC’s role in accessible telecommunications policy and the importance of accessibility in the Commission’s work. Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel also highlighted the accessibility challenges that have emerged during the pandemic and the actions taken by the Commission to address such issues. Next, Patrick Webre, Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB), greeted the DAC and congratulated new and returning members on their appointments to the fourth term of the DAC. Mr. Webre noted that accessible communications have shifted to almost exclusively online for various aspects of our daily lives and shared the Commission’s work to implement the Emergency Broadband Benefit program.

Next, Diane Burstein, Deputy Bureau Chief of CGB expressed her gratitude to the members of the fourth term of the DAC. Debra Patkin, DAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO) provided an overview of the DAC, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the structure of the DAC, and its working groups. She also summarized the DAC meeting communications protocols.

The DAC members then introduced themselves and their organizational affiliations during a roll call of members. After that, the DAC members heard from Paula Silberthau, Attorney Advisor with the Commission’s Office of General Counsel, who explained the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act for the DAC and its working groups. She discussed the notice and open meeting requirements for full DAC meetings, as well as the Committee’s record management obligations.

After a break, Suzy Rosen Singleton, Chief of the Disability Rights Office (DRO), provided an overview on the Disability Rights Office and its work around modern communications, emergency communications, and video programming and its stakeholder engagement activities. Ms. Rosen Singleton also provided highlights of DRO’s recent activities, including updates on audio description, emergency communications, and the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. Eliot Greenwald, Deputy Chief of the DRO, provided updates on the DRO’s activities regarding Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS), including updates on Video Relay Service (VRS) and Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Services (IP CTS).

Next, DAC Co-Chair Scarpelli led a facilitated discussion on accessible communications for individuals with disabilities during the pandemic. In general, the DAC members flagged that, during the pandemic, the following communication accessibility gaps existed in the following areas: connectivity, consumer agility, devices and technology, emergency communications, real-time text, relay services, videoconferencing platforms, and video programming.

The meeting opened for public comments. Ms. Patkin responded to questions about electromagnetic hypersensitivity and a question about broadband connectivity.

Closing remarks were made by DAC Co-Chair Scarpelli.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Disability Advisory Committee Members in Attendance

February 18, 2021

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| **Organization** | **Representative** |
| ACT - the App Association | Brian Scarpelli |
| American Council of the Blind | Clark Rachfal |
| American Foundation for the Blind | Sarah Malaier |
| Apple | Maria Kirby |
| The Arc | Abe Rafi |
| AT&T | Linda Vandeloop |
| Bridge Multimedia Corporation | Wendy Sapp |
| Cerebral Palsy and Deaf Organization | Mark Hill |
| City of Boston | Carl Richardson |
| ClearCaptions | Michael Strecker |
| Comcast | Tom Wlodkowski |
| Communications Service for the Deaf | Juli Robinson |
| Consumer Technology Association | Rachel Nemeth |
| Convo | Amanda Montgomery |
| CTIA | Kara Graves |
| DeafBlind Citizens in Action | George Stern |
| Dicapta | Judy Mathews |
| Hamilton Relay | Beth Slough |
| Hearing Loss Association of America | Lise Hamlin |
| IBM | Mary Jo Mueller |
| InnoCaption | Cristina Duarte |
| National Association for State Relay Administration | Travis Dougherty |
| National Association of Broadcasters | Josh Pila |
| National Association of the Deaf | Zainab Alkebsi |
| National Black Deaf Advocates | Usherla DeBerry |
| National Emergency Numbering Association | Richard Ray |
| National Federation of the Blind | Everette Bacon |
| NCTA | Jacqueline Clary |
| Perkins School for the Blind | Kristyn Leigh |
| Sorenson | Michael Maddix |
| TDI | Eric Kaika |
| T-Mobile | Shellie Blakeney |
| Verizon | Zachary Bastian |
| ZP Better Together | Greg Hlibok |
| U.S. Access Board | Tim Creagan |
| U.S. Department of Education | Brianne Burger |
| U.S. Department of Health – ACL | Stephen Bauer |
| FEMA | Aaron Kubey |

CGB Staff

Patrick Webre

Diane Burstein

Suzy Rosen Singleton

Eliot Greenwald

Debra Patkin

Will Schell