On June 14, 2018, the fifth meeting of the second term of the DAC was opened by the DAC Co-Chair Lise Hamlin of the Hearing Loss Association of America. Welcoming remarks were given by Patrick Webre, Chief of the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Karen Peltz Strauss, Deputy Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau. The DAC Co-Chair then requested a roll call of the members present. The date of October 3, 2018 was announced as the next DAC meeting date.

Next, Suzy Rosen Singleton, Chief of the Disability Rights Office (DRO), provided updates on DRO’s recent activities, including updates on accessible emergency alerts and communication, hearing aid compatibility rules, the CVAA biennial report to Congress, and accessible video programming.

The Federal Communications Commission Chairman, Ajit Pai, addressed the DAC and thanked members for their participation. Chairman Pai remarked on the FCC’s commitment to accessibility and the recent implementation of new rules as well as the improvement of existing rules regarding Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS). The Chairman closed his remarks by stating that he looked forward to seeing the DAC’s recommendations on Video Relay Service (VRS) metrics in the future.

Eliot Greenwald, Deputy Chief of the DRO and Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) provided updates on the DRO’s activities regarding TRS, including updates on VRS, IP CTS, and state applications for TRS certification.

Next, Linda Vandeloop of AT&T, and Co-Chair of the Technology Transitions Subcommittee, gave a report on the subcommittee’s activities. The subcommittee held a workshop on April 9, 2018 regarding Real Time Text (RTT) and its operation with refreshable Braille displays. That workshop has informed a recommendation regarding best practices for implementing RTT with refreshable Braille displays and the subcommittee will be presenting the recommendation to the DAC during the upcoming October meeting. Sarah Herrlinger of Apple discussed the new Braille display standard jointly supported by industry members that would allow users to use Braille displays across operating systems and hardware without the need for specialized or custom drivers. The subcommittee is also working on crafting a recommendation, by the October 2018 meeting of the DAC, related to integration of RTT into relay services.

After a break, Ron Bibler, Co-Chair of the Video Programming Subcommittee, gave a report of the subcommittee’s activities. The report covered the activities of the subcommittee’s Captions and Audio Description Transmittal Working Group such as determining best industry practices to ensure various online platforms can receive and show closed captions and audio descriptions if that content is available from the content providers. It was reported that the subcommittee has reached out to various providers to determine their practices on sending, receiving, and displaying captions and audio descriptions but that it has been difficult to get detailed responses.

Next, Kara Graves of CTIA led a facilitated discussion on the current state of accessible technology. The discussion started with how 5G may change the technology landscape and how accessibility may benefit from these improvements. The discussion then moved into topics such as artificial intelligence, consumer products, and cloud based services. Jim Brasher of Cisco demonstrated an accessibility improvement made to Cisco’s 8800 series enterprise phones. The improvement is a screen reader that has been added which allows users who are blind or visually impaired to access the phones menus and functions which were previously inaccessible.

The DAC then had lunch sponsored by Verizon. Subsequently, , David Furth, Deputy Chief of the FCC’s Public Safety Homeland Security Bureau and Debra Patkin, Attorney-Advisor of the FCC’s Disability Rights Office and Alternate Designated Federal Officer of the DAC, led a facilitated discussion on accessible emergency communications. The discussion covered topics such as Next Generation 911, text-to-911, RTT to 911, 911 apps, and relay services to 911,

Next, Richard Ray of the Disability Rights Office of the City of Los Angeles, and Co-Chair of the Emergency Communications Subcommittee, gave a report on that subcommittee’s activities. The subcommittee plans to host a Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) Education Day on RTT. The event is designed to educate PSAPs on what RTT is, how it works, why it is beneficial, and how PSAP’s can implement RTT. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 2, 2018, the day before the next DAC meeting, and will be open to the public and live streamed online.

After a break, Rochelle Garrow of the National Association for State Relay Administration, and Co-Chair of the Relay and Equipment Distribution Subcommittee, gave a report on the subcommittee’s activities. The subcommittee has two workgroups. The VRS Metrics Workgroup has been working on an issues paper to determine the challenges VRS interpreters face. The IP CTS Metrics Workgroup received information from MITRE on several issues including phase three testing and protocols and is planning on having a recommendation ready by the next DAC meeting in October. Next, Pam Holmes of Ultratec/CapTel, and Co-Chair of the Relay and Equipment Distribution Subcommittee, gave a report on access to accessible communication services in emergency shelters. The subcommittee wrote a recommendation to address and prevent complications in using accessible communication services in emergency shelters such as the requirement that equipment be registered to a specific location or user. While the recommendation was presented during this June meeting, the subcommittee is pleased that the FCC has already acted to address the concern regarding IP CTS.

Next, the call for new business was made, and there was no new business. The meeting then opened for public comment, and there was none. A few questions from DAC members were raised regarding usability of set-top boxes, text-to-911 statistics, and securing the future of the TRS fund.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 PM.

Disability Advisory Committee Members in Attendance

June 14, 2018

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  **Last Name** | **First Name** | **Organization Represented** |
| Bacon | Everette | National Federation of the Blind |
| Bailey  | Bruce | U.S. Access Board |
| Bastian | Zachary | Verizon |
| Berrier | Jerry | Perkins School for the Blind |
| Bibler | Ron |  |
| Burstein | Diane | NCTA - The Internet & Television Association |
| Card | John | DISH Network |
| Davert | Scott | Helen Keller National Center |
| Diaz | Maria | Dicapta |
| Dillner  | Ian | Verizon |
| Gallagher | BJ | Speech Communications Assistance by Telephone, Inc. |
| Gebre | Mussie | Deaf Blind Citizens in Action |
| Graves | Kara | CTIA - the Wireless Association |
| Guinivan  | Phyllis | Association of University Centers on Disability |
| Hamlin | Lise | Hearing Loss Association of America |
| Jones | Gay | U.S. Department of Homeland Security |
| Herrlinger | Sarah | Apple Inc. |
| Lintz | Dana | U.S. Small Business Administration |
| Martinez | Eddie | TCS Associates |
| Mitchell | Helena | Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center |
| Nemeth | Rachel | Consumer Technology Association |
| Nygren | Maggie | American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities |
| Pila | Joshua | National Association of Broadcasters |
| Rafi | Abe | The Arc |
| Ray | Richard | City of Los Angeles |
| Richert | Mark | American Foundation for the Blind |
| Rosenblum | Howard | National Association of the Deaf |
| Salaets | Ken | Information Technology Industry Council |
| Scarpelli | Brian | ACT - the App Association |
| Sonnenstrahl | Al  | Deaf Seniors of America |
| Stephens | Anthony | American Council of the Blind |
| Stout | Claude | Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. |
| Vandeloop | Linda | AT&T Services, Inc. |
| Vogler | Christian | Gallaudet Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center |
| Yunashko | Bryen |  |

CGB Staff

Karen Peltz Strauss

Suzy Rosen Singleton

Eliot Greenwald

Debra Patkin

Will Schell