On February 28, 2018, the fourth meeting of the second term of the DAC was opened by the DAC Co-Chairs Lise Hamlin of the Hearing Loss Association of America, and Sam Joehl of Level Access. The DAC Co-Chairs then requested a roll call of the members present. 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 date of June 14, 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 the hearing aid compatibility rules, Real Time Text (RTT) deployment, accessible video programming, and accessible emergency alerts and communication.

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 renewal of State TRS programs and updates on the TRS user registration database.

Thomas Wlodkowski of Comcast Cable, and Co-Chair of the Video Programming Subcommittee, read the subcommittee’s recommendation to the DAC on best practices for the aural description for people who are blind or visually impaired of visual but non-textual emergency information provided by broadcasters, such as the critical details of an emergency conveyed by radar maps and other graphic displays. After discussion and a break to adjust the agenda, a motion was made and seconded to amend the recommendation. The motion failed. Another motion was made to vote on the recommendation as originally written. The motion was passed, and the recommendation was adopted by the DAC.

Next, the Federal Communications Commission Commissioner, Mignon Clyburn, addressed the DAC and thanked members for their participation. Commissioner Clyburn remarked on the importance of considering the implications of disability access in all of the FCC’s rules from the beginning. The Commissioner also congratulated the States that have implemented Text-to-911. The Commissioner closed her remarks by thanking Elaine Gardner for her service to the Disability Advisory Committee.

After a break, Dr. Christian Vogler of Gallaudet Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center, Ian Dillner and Zach Bastian of Verizon, and Susan Mazrui of AT&T all discussed their agencies research, implementation, and deployment of RTT.

Next, David Schmidt, FCC TRS Program Fund Coordinator, discussed FCC Research and Development Efforts on Communications Accessibility. Mr. Schmidt explained that the FCC has expanded its accessible communication research efforts by collaborating with research organizations beyond MITRE. Recent research efforts have included VRS interoperability, device testing of IP CTS, and usability testing.

Next, Elaine Gardner, Attorney Advisor at the Disability Rights Office and Designated Federal Officer of the Disability Advisory Committee, was celebrated by the committee for her years of service and her commitment to disability rights.

After a break for lunch that was sponsored by CTIA, Ron Bibler, Co-Chair of the Video Programing Subcommittee introduced Heather York of VITAC to read a report of the Captions and Audio Description Transmittal Working Group. The report explained that they are working to determine best industry practices to ensure various online platforms can receive and show closed captions and audio descriptions if that contact is available from the content providers.

Next, 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 is hearing from MITRE on a number of issues including phase three testing and protocols.

Susan Mazrui of AT&T, on behalf of the DAC Emergency Communications Subcommittee, gave a report on that subcommittee’s activities. The Subcommittee is working on creating talking points and educational material regarding the benefits of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) adoption of RTT. Once that is finished, the subcommittee is planning a PSAP education day to showcase the benefits of RTT adoption.

Next, Zainab Alkebsi of the National Association of the Deaf, and Co-Chair of the Technology Transitions Subcommittee, gave a report on the subcommittees activities. The subcommittee is planning a roundtable workshop on RTT Implementations with Refreshable Braille Displays and is planning to issue a recommendation for the June 2018 meeting of the DAC. The subcommittee is also working on crafting a recommendation, by the June 2018 meeting of the DAC, related to integration of RTT into relay services.

Following a break, a few of the DAC members gave updates about what their organizations are doing. Next, a call for new business was made. Helena Mitchell of Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center suggested that milestones are an excellent way to keep track of evolving technology issues. No further new business was raised. The meeting was then opened for public comment. The public comments included questions about the types of disabilities that are represented on the DAC, concerns about caption quality standards provided via speech-to-text technologies, and 25 comments asked about deaf prisoners’ access to telecommunications.

Closing remarks were made by Elaine Gardner and the Co-Chairs, Lise Hamlin and Sam Joehl.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 PM.

Disability Advisory Committee Members in Attendance

February 28, 2018

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Last Name** | **First Name** | **Organization Represented** |
| Alkebsi | Zainab | National Association of the Deaf (NAD) |
| Bacon | Everette | National Federation of the Blind (NFB) |
| Bastien | Zach | Verizon |
| Berrier | Jerry | Perkins School for the Blind |
| Bibler | Ron | Consumer |
| Card | John | DISH Networks |
| Creagan | Tim | U.S. Access Board (*ex officio*) |
| Davert | Scott | Helen Keller National Center |
| Guinivan | Phyllis | Association of University Centers on Disability |
| Hamlin | Lise | Hearing Loss Association of America |
| Joehl | Sam | Level Access |
| Jones | Gay | U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA (*ex officio*) |
| Kuhl | Stephanie | National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA) |
| Martinez | Eddie | TCS Associates |
| Mitchell | Helena | Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center |
| Walke | Larry | National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) |
| Kirby | Maria | Apple, Inc. |
| Rafi | Abe | The ARC |
| Gerst | Matt | CTIA - the Wireless Association |
| Scarpelli | Brian | ACT, the App Association |
| Stephens | Tony | American Council of the Blind |
| Stout | Claude | Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI) |
| Gebre | Mussie | Deaf Blind Citizens in Action |
| Mazrui | Susan | AT&T Services, Inc. |
| Vogler | Christian | Gallaudet RERC |
| Yunashko | Bryen | Consumer |
| Wlodkowski | Thomas | Comcast Cable |
| Nemeth | Rachel | CTA |
| Bibler | Ron | Consumer |
| Behm | Gary | RIT – NTID Center on Access Technology |
| Nygren | Maggie | American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities |
| Diaz | Maria | Dicapta |

CGB Staff

Karen Peltz Strauss

Suzy Rosen Singleton

Eliot Greenwald

Elaine Gardner

Will Schell

Michael Scott

Sue Bahr

Robert McConnell

Theodore Marcus