**Governor’s Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay**

**Board Meeting**

**Opening:**

The quarterly meeting of the Governor’s Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay was call to order at 9:09 AM on April 15, 2022 on the Zoom video conference platform by Chair Alfred Sonnenstrahl.

**Present:**

Alfred Sonnenstrahl, Chair

Darrin Smith, Vice Chair

Steve Cooper

Glenn Lockhart

Deirdre Lynch

Lori Markland

Shannon Minnick

Michelle Morales

Ken Putkovich

Alex Simmons

**Absent:**

Allysa Dittmar

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

**Director’s Report by David Bahar:**

TAM had submitted our budget proposal request, which was approved by the legislation. During that budget process, typically what happens is the legislation asks us to create a report which is attached to the Governor's budget book for the following year. TAM team are returning to the telework schedule post-Omicron and welcoming our outreach coordinators back to the TAM office. There are no significant updates on RTT. David will give “The Future of Relay” presentation at National Emergency Number Association, National Association of State Relay Administrators, and National Association of the Deaf.

**Finance Manager’s Report by Leslie Hannibal:**

TAM is in a financially sound position with the USTF fund. TAM started the year off with a 12,410,929 balance. The expenditures has continued to outpace the revenue that TAM actually take in from the fund. TAM is expected to collect about $2.7 million. Our expenditures should be about $4 million. TAM will outspend the moneys that TAM is taking in to the fund. TAM do have projections that go out up to the year 2027, and that's part of the request from the state that TAM need to submit for the upcoming budget session. TAM have been working on putting those numbers together in order to present the data to the budgetary individuals.

**Maryland Relay’s Report by Travis Dougherty:**

TAM team attended MDAD’s 35th Anniversary and MDODHH’s 20 Years Anniversary Gala. Hamilton Relay awarded Deaf Accessibility Award to Kirsten Posten for her leadership in Maryland. Captioning Relay Service (CRS) is two-ways CART service, rather than one-way CART service. Maryland Relay are currently finalizing the CRS survey for the state of Maryland and the national level. Maryland Relay hired a graphic designer to work on the TAM Museum project. Maryland Relay considers Over-The-Top mobile application for Relay RTT calls in Maryland. nWise is the one who may lead the development. Analog Captioned Telephone Service (CTS) is declining quickly due to digital transition from analog by internet service providers. Maryland Relay works close with NASRA, TEDPA, and NAD on gathering and developing the CTS report to FCC.

**Maryland Accessibility Technology’s Report by Kevin Steffy:**

MAT have received 66 new applications, and distributed 46 pieces of telecommunications equipment. MDTAP uses the word "libraries." MAT is collaborating with MDTAP to utilize space. The Arc, located in Hartford County, and Deaf Independent Living Association, located in Salisbury, Maryland. TAM will get a space at the Maryland Deaf Community Center in Frederick. The office procurement under DGS realized it would be too much work on their end to be able to break it down into various categories and award accordingly, which led to their decision to cancel the IFB development process. MAT can't award just to one vendor that would meet all requirements from MAT. MAT wants the clients to have an option between different products/services to find what meets their needs. The procurement office and MAT team are going to be sending out to bid for up to three vendors every piece of equipment. When MAT receive those bids, MAT will go with the lowest price bid. MAT hired several contractors. Brenda Bush, and Betsy Hein will be a MAT evaluator. Eddie Martinez hired as a contractor for the deafblind community and those who rely on Braille. Since December 2021, DeafBlind Communication Facilitator program have received and filled 36 requests. The program have grown from one to nine DeafBlind users. MAT are conducting the outreach for the communication facilitator program. MAT is in the process of hosting a protactile training for the communication facilitators.

**Outreach’s Report by Donna Broadway:**

Maryland Relay are continuing to focus the outreach efforts to include community events, law enforcement communities, businesses with Relay Partner trainings, 911 PSAP and RTT trainings. TAM team and outreach coordinators have attended several events including B'More Healthy, Montgomery County Rockville Campus Resource Fair, relay partner training with MC Department of Parks, and more. Maryland Relay website will be migrate from DoIT to DoD platform. The outreach program are working on TV ads for MAT and Maryland Relay. Maryland Relay is collaborating with Caption Anywhere, a Deaf-owned company, to oversee the newsletter going forward.

**Business From the Previous Meeting:**

There is no old business from previous meeting.

**New Business:**

Bylaws:

Term limits: Oftentimes historically when a new member is appointed, they are carrying over a previous member's term, meaning that they don't truly, they haven't really begun the time clock on their own term yet. At any time a new person is appointed, the board want to make sure that it's very clear whether they're carrying over another person's term, and when their official term starts.

Board seat vacancies: If somebody resigns or retires or whatever the case may be, their term expires, does the board then move to vote for a new member? Or do we want to leave it to the Governor's appointment? And how does that process work? What does that look like?

Vice Chair Darrin motioned to table the bylaws discussion. Mr. Lockhart seconded. No objections from anyone. Motion carried.

Senior Call Check program:

Chair Sonnenstrahl recuse himself from the board chair position to be a regular board member due to his role with the letter to the governor. Vice Chari Smith takes the floor.

Mr. Lockhart motioned to suspend the vendor payment to the Department of Aging until the time when the Senior Call Check program is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Simmons seconded. Mr. Lockhart motioned the amendment to change the language to “Mr. Lockhart motion to advise TAM to suspend the vendor payments to the Department of Aging until the Senior Call Check program is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.” Mr. Simmons seconded. Mr. Lockhart withdrew his motion. Mr. Simmons seconded.

Mr. Lockhart move to advise the TAM to urge that the Senior Call Check program provide, at a minimum, text check-in functionality in addition to voice call check-in functionality, in aligning and comporting with the minimum access standards expected by, for instance, public safety, which are currently voice and text within the state of Maryland. Mr. Simmons seconded. No objections from the board. Motion carried.

By general consensus, the board recommended TAM to have accessibility assessment to determine whether SCC is in compliance with the ADA by next board meeting.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

Deputy Assistant Secretary John Brennon presented the Citation Award from Governor Hogan to recognize Maryland Relay’s 30 years anniversary.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM by Chair Sonnenstrahl. The next quarterly meeting may will be on 9 AM on July 29, 2022, instead of July 15th due to the conflicting schedule with TEDPA/NASRA Conference 2022.

**Minutes submitted by:** Travis Dougherty

**Minutes Draft approved by:** Chair Alfred Sonnenstrahl