

## Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay Board Meeting

### Opening:

The quarterly meeting of the Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay was called to order at 1:00 PM on January 26, 2023 at TAM's conference room and on the Zoom video conference platform by Chair Alfred Sonnenstrahl. This is the second hybrid board meeting.

### Present:

Alfred Sonnenstrahl, Chair  
Darrin Smith, Vice Chair  
Steve Cooper  
Allysa Dittmar  
Glenn Lockhart  
Lori Markland  
Alex Simmons  
David Drenser  
Kevn Putkovich  
Payal Sharmacharya  
Shannon Minnick  
Deirdre Lynch

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved and distributed.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and distributed.

### Director's Report by David Bahar:

- Brandie Callendar is our front desk administrative assistant.
- We had a board training last week, and most of the board members were able to participate and we had a positive experience.
- Senior call-check in program spending in the past few years has fluctuated significantly. The budget request we received for the senior call program that we approved does not meet the invoices. The two invoices we've received thus far are for the first two quarters; one was \$40,000 and \$30,000, respectively. So it's approximately \$70,000 the senior call check in the program has spent so far, and I think the request was between \$300,000 to \$400,000.
- Secretary Beatty submitted her resignation, as is customary with the change of administration. However, she was reappointed as secretary of MDOD. We're looking forward to another several years under Secretary Beatty's leadership.
- Secretary Beatty is the secretary of the Department of Disabilities, and she's been reappointed by the new administration.

- The letter from the board to the governor has been drafted.

#### Finance Manager's Report by Leslie Hannibal:

##### LESLIE:

- We opened the year with \$10.9 million in revenue at the close of fiscal year '22. Currently, we've received about \$988,457,000 in expenditures. Those are for paying our invoices during the course of our activities during the year. We currently receive \$931,022 in revenue from the UTF funds. So at this current time, we have \$10,846,389 remaining for the course of the year, and that's our ending balance thus far. The revenue seems to continue to be about \$2.5 million to \$2.8 million. And I foresee our expenditures of about \$3.5 million to \$4 million during the course of fiscal year '23.

#### Maryland Relay's Report by Travis Dougherty:

- NASRA this year for 2023, for the very first time in history, is partnering with TEDPA, and we aimed for that on Halloween.
- Universal Telecommunications Access Platform, newest RTT relay service.

#### Maryland Accessibility Technology's Report by Kevin Steffy:

- There has been a significant increase last quarter in terms of request. We're seeing an increased trajectory in the number of requests, which means there's a high demand for that communication facilitator service, which is a good thing because it allows our DeafBlind constituents to have independent access to video remote communication.
- The Metro Washington Association of the DeafBlind, their president, Lisa, we talked about the possibility of partnering because they know the community, they know the DeafBlind individuals who can provide different training and workshops. We would like to collaborate with them.
- MAT will be meeting with the Federick Community College and CBCC, their program to see about the possibility of having those folks who are students in the field of interpreting, if they're interested in becoming communication facilitators and partnering with us as well.

#### Outreach's Report by Donna Broadway:

- So we do have a website update. The process we were going to have to migrate our website was different. So we recently had a meeting with MDOD who recently had a meeting with DoIT, and the process or our website has changed. So instead of the sub site, it seems that's going to be scrapped for now, and we're just going to go straight from I guess the old DoIT site to the new site that's on the MDOD platform.
- In another recent discovery, we will be getting new branding. So it looks like the new governor will be coming down with new guidelines. We'll probably get a new logo. We may get a new sub logo, which are the Maryland Relay, the TAM and the MAT logo. I will let you know what happens at the next meeting. We will be spending a lot of money updating everything.

- Tarita, the former outreach coordinator, moves on to a different position. Hamilton still has access to Tarita's email, TAM will be able to see any events or contacts that she has.
- Under the state of Maryland guidelines, we're not allowed to have TikTok on any state owned devices.

Business From the Previous Meeting:

Bylaws committee deferred this to the next board meeting as the committee is not ready to make a proposal.

The Senior Call Check program is expecting a new incoming secretary to start work with the Dept of Aging.

New Business:

None

Announcements:

DONNA: If you have a TTY that you want to donate, then you can email me or you can email more info at Maryland.gov, and we can see how we can get that donated. We have gone to pick up a few TTYs. We are looking for TTYs to put into our collection, so if you have them and you want to get rid of them, please contact us and we can see about doing that.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM by Chair Sonnenstrahl.

Minutes submitted by: Travis Dougherty

Minutes Draft approved by: Chair Alfred Sonnenstrahl