

Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021

Certified by DAC Co-Chair Brian Scarpelli – September 24, 2021

On September 9, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. EDT, the second meeting of the fourth term of the DAC was opened by DAC Co-Chair Isidore Niyongabo of the National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA). This meeting was held virtually via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Welcoming remarks were given by Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, who reiterated the Commission's commitment to ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement, to ensure modern communications, and to identify and address accessibility gaps. Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel also announced two new working groups under the DAC. One working group would examine opportunities and challenges of utilizing Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) with video conferencing platforms and examine appropriate uses for TRS versus other forms of accommodations with these platforms. Another working group will examine the feasibility and challenges of deploying Real-Time Text (RTT) in the wireline environment.

Next, Commissioner Geoffrey Starks welcomed DAC members and commended the invaluable work done by the Committee. Commissioner Starks recognized the pandemic's negative impact upon people with disabilities and reviewed recent actions by the Commission to increase access for individuals with disabilities. Commissioner Simington then spoke about the importance of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA) and recent steps taken by the Commission to improve TRS services for people with disabilities.

Patrick Webre, Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB), thanked the DAC members for crafting thoughtful recommendations for the Commission's consideration. Mr. Webre also recognized the work of the Pandemic Communication Access Work Group and the Emerging Technology Working Group. Finally, Mr. Webre reminded the members that nominations are due September 17, 2021, for the Commission Chair's Awards for Advancement in Accessibility (FCC Chair's AAA).

Diane Burstein, Deputy Bureau Chief of CGB, then expressed her gratitude to the members of the fourth term of the DAC and to Commission staff who assisted with DAC operations. Will Schell, DAC Designated Federal Officer (DFO), summarized the DAC meeting communications protocols, and introduced Joshua Mendelsohn, who is the new Deputy DFO and DRO staff attorney.

Emily Voorde, Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, explained her role within the White House and how her office engages and communicates with constituents with disabilities.

DAC Co-Chair Isidore Niyongabo then led a roll call of members, where the DAC members then introduced themselves and their organizational affiliations.

Next, the DAC heard from Richard Ray of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), Chair of one of the two DAC working groups, on a report and recommendation

regarding pandemic communication access. Discussion was held and the recommendation was voted upon and passed as amended.

The DAC then heard from Kara Graves of CTIA, Chair of the DAC emerging accessible communication opportunities working group, on a report and recommendation. A discussion was held, and the recommendation was voted upon and passed as amended.

The meeting opened for public comments. Will Schell responded to questions about cued language transliteration being provided as part of video relay services and how the public may apply for DAC membership.

Closing remarks were made by DAC Co-Chairs Isidore Niyongabo and Brian Scarpelli.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Disability Advisory Committee Members in Attendance
September 9, 2021

Organization	Representative
ACT - the App Association	Brian Scarpelli
American Foundation for the Blind	Sarah Malaier
Apple	James Craig
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
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	Isidore Niyongabo

National Emergency Numbering Association	Richard Ray
National Federation of the Blind	Everette Bacon
NCTA	Jared Sher
Perkins School for the Blind	Kristyn Leigh
Sorenson	Michael Maddix
TDI	Blake Reid
T-Mobile	Dennis Selznick
Trace Research and Development Center	Bern Jordan
Verizon	Zachary Bastian
ZP Better Together	Gregory Hlibok
U.S. Access Board	Timothy Creagan
U.S. Department of Education	Brianne Burger
FEMA	Aaron Kubey

CGB Staff Speakers

Patrick Webre

Diane Burstein

Will Schell

Josh Mendelsohn