

Governor's Advisory Board
On Telecommunications Relay
Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2005

Deaf Independent Living Agency, Inc.
Salisbury, MD

ATTENDANCE:

GABTR Members: Mitch Travers, Louis Schwarz, Paula Holbrook, James Stevenson, Rebecca Ladew, Betty Dodds and Susan Stevens Miller.

TAM Staff: Brenda Kelly-Frey, Michael Hollywood, Pam Stewart, Nancy Seidman, and Patty Bird.

AT&T Staff: Patty Ferran

Interpreters: Joy Carney, Roberta Quinn, and Marianne Doremus

CART Transcriber:

Public: Ken Putkovich

Call to Order: Mitch Travers called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m., October 15th, 2005 at Deaf Independent Living Agency, Inc. in Salisbury, MD.

TAM Reports:

Pam Stewart, Contract Administrator:

- Demonstrated CapTel's new feature, which connects to a computer allowing text manipulation on the computer screen.
 - Ideally for people who have hearing loss and vision loss.
 - This feature can change the background colors, fonts, and sizes.
 - TAM will look for 1 or 2 people with hearing and vision loss for this trial.

Patty Bird, MAT Coordinator:

- Shared the information on the 4-month period from June to October 2005.

Nancy Seidman, Public Relations Coordinator:

- Announced that TAM has a contract with Market Street Communications, an advertising and public relations firm.
- Gave details on new emergency card, which will be distributed to everyone.
- Explained the new theme for the Maryland relay ad campaign: Trust.

Michael J. Hollywood, GABTR Liaison:

- Discussed the possibility of 3 different dates for the 2006 GABTR meeting.
 - Made request that some of the members respond to polls for the dates (March 18th, June 10th and October 14th)
- Reminded the members that there was a change in mileage reimbursement rate.
 - It was increased to \$.48 per mile from \$.40.

Brenda Kelly-Frey, TAM Director:

- Gave details on her trip to NASRA and TEDPA Conferences in Tucson, Arizona.
 - Voice over Internet Protocol was the hot topic at NASRA conference.
 - Noted that reimbursable rates for TRS have been changed as of July 1st.
 - Shared information on FCC's possibility on transferring fiscal responsibility to states VRS (Video Relay Service) as well as Internet Relay.
- Responded to a question from Ms. Holbrook on the time line for fiscal responsibility and oversight of VRS and Internet Relay
- Answered a question from public on the feeling about States having responsibility for provision of VRS and Internet Relay.

AT & T Report:

Patty Ferran, AT & T Account Manager:

- Discussed the issue of operators' goals to participate in outreach events relating to deaf community such as Gallaudet University, Workforce Technology Center, and Maryland Renaissance Festival.
 - It gave operators opportunities to learn more about deaf awareness.
- Explained her recent public relation activities.
- Answered a question from Ms. Holbrook about reaching people with strong oral communications and hearing loss.

GABTR Members' Reports:

Mitch Travers, GABTR Chairman:

- Gave presentation about CapTel's warranty program and contract with AT & T.
 - CapTel warranty period is 5 years. Warranties are retroactive from the time you received the CapTel.
 - Explained that AT&T contract is in 1st year renewal after 3 years of service.
- Announced the locations for next 3 GABTR meetings in 2006 (after Mr. Hollywood received all responses for the poll on GABTR meeting dates):
 - March 18th, Greenbelt
 - June 10th, Deep Creek
 - October 14th, Easton

Rebecca Ladew, Speech Disabled Representative:

- Discussed her experiences from FCC Consumer Advisory Committee meetings.
- Informed members that she signed up to participate for training for homeland security and working group.

Louis Schwarz, Hearing Impaired Representative:

- Gave details from his experience with people who gave him feedback about MD Relay.
- Explained his experience with HOVRS's software.

Susan Stevens-Miller, Government Representative:

- Gave no report.

James Stevenson, Government Representative:

- Gave commendation to TAM for creating emergency contact card.
- Discussed his experience with Allegheny County's emergency drill, including HAZMAT.

Paula Holbrook, Government Representative:

- Explained about subcommittee on Strategic Planning.
 - Ms. Annette Reichman was responsible for this subcommittee.
 - Mr. Schwarz, Mr. Stevenson and Ms. Holbrook were on this committee.
 - Met in TAM conference room twice.
 - Discussed TAM's future.

Betty Dodds, Senior Citizen Representative:

- Polled members to see if they were planning to attend Access Emergency Communications Conference at Gallaudet University on November 2nd and 3rd.

Public Feedback/Comments:

Ken Putkovich:

- Gave vital information about emergency warning.
 - WARN act (Warning Alert Response Network)

Meeting was adjourned at 12:14 pm.