



State of Vermont

Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind Advisory Council

Accessibility Subcommittee

November 7th, 2023, 11:00 am – 12 pm

Meeting Summary

Attendees

Laura Siegel

Valerie Hughes

Kate Parrish

Charlea “Deb” Baker

Bill Hudson

Captioner Lolaⁱ

Michelle John

CC Subcommittee Minutes

Preparation

Emails were sent by Charlea Baker prior to the meeting time. She shared the resources below.

Local level:

<https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/vt/2023-2024/bills/VTB00009165/> H463 VT House Bill was proposed and then dropped on March 21, 2023 Proposed by Elizabeth Burrows (Windsor)

National Level:

Sen. Markey, Rep. Eshoo Reintroduce CVTA to Make Communication Technologies Accessible for Americans with Disabilities

<https://www.markey.senate.gov/news/press-releases/sen-markey-rep-eshoo-reintroduce-cvta-to-make-communication-technologies-accessible-for-americans-with-disabilities>

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

<https://ndrn.salsalabs.org/actionalert11123?wvpld=b529e400-6350-4a46-a21e-62419a838b19>:

Disaster Relief Medicaid Act and Real emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion for Disasters Act.

Meeting Minutes Overview

Picture in Picture (PIP) functionality involves placing the interpreter in the bottom corner of the screen, ensuring a consistent presence throughout the entire broadcast.



Live captions, regardless of content format (news, governor's broadcast, or emergency alerts), are consistently displayed at the bottom of the screen.

Appoint a designated state staff member responsible for ensuring the accessibility of emergency or disaster broadcasts for both D/HH individuals.

Create a petition for Vermont residents who are frustrated with the inconsistent information being broadcast, including incorrect or incomplete captions and obstructed views of Deaf ASL interpreters. The petition calls for improved and reliable access to news.

Assign an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) point person to guarantee that all processes are accessible to state employees and the public.

Proposal

Establish a point of contact within the Vermont Emergency Management Team who possesses the necessary knowledge to obtain or set up captioners and ASL interpreters for broadcasts by news channels, the governor, and other relevant entities.

Allies

Kate McCaffrey- FEMA

HAAA- Deb or Val will reach out to Hear Hear Now Coalition (AARP & COVE) to see if they'd like to join the subcommittee.

Vermont State Housing Authority where many older and disabled Vermonters reside in

Audiologists and SLPs

Next course of action

- 1) Draft petition and a proposal to Governor by the council members.
- 2) Each one of us attending can input info on the drafts. Deadline by Nov 20th.
- 3) Next meeting scheduled for December 4th at 11am- Deb and Laura will set up accommodations and zoom link for the meeting.

¹ White Coat Captioning