

**April 16, 2024**

**Meeting Opens:** 5:37 p.m.

**Attendance:**

Present: AM, SC, AC, CC, PD, JD, AE, RH, RQ, MR

Remote: SBC (remote: childcare), NP (Remote: Scheduling conflict)

Absent: SL, DC

**Quorum:** YES

**Approval of Minutes December Meeting:** Motion to accept: JD; Seconded: CC. Y,Y,Y,A,Y,Y,Y,Y,Y,Y

Motion Passes.

**Public Meeting Law Changes:**

- Justifications for Absences:
  - Medical/Illness
  - Childcare/Family care
  - Travel/commute related issues
  - Work scheduling conflicts
  - Weather
- **Motion to adopt list of justifications going forward: Motion to Accept: SBC; Second: CC. Y,Y,Y,Y,Y,Y,Y,Y,Y,Y. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Legislation Discussion**

- We wanted to take time to have a discussion, not necessarily make any big decisions tonight
  - Dr. Nadine Petty and Aida Cerundolo have volunteered to join the subcommittee
  - HB1028
    - It passed the house with an amendment that didn't do much, they are not sure that the amendment did much to help close the gaps that we were looking at in the law. We will see if this gets improved in the senate.
    - The current language does not include impairment (primarily vs. solely) due to...
    - There are fears that it would make it easier to IEA people and send them to hospitals where there are not staff to treat them, which would put people in a disability in a bad situation.
    - There needs to be more collaboration between the healthcare system and the disability community.
    - Who is trained to make the distinction between Primarily and solely?
    - There was a discussion of whether or not this is forward progressing enough
    - We are keeping our eyes on this.
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**Other**

- Jeremy has been working on getting Steve Mason to visit a meeting. It keeps falling through for one reason or another. We will see if this happens next meeting to discuss what the state is doing, what they have planned, and any ways the council can provide partnership.
- Following up on the language access plan presentation last month. The Pocket Talk app is not a perfect solution, but it is a move in the right direction. Jeremy mentioned the idea of forward progress, and the idea that this may not be the best possible product, but this is an improvement over what we currently have. However, with concerns with DOJ, it may be a good idea to be in touch with them for review.
  - Current federal HHS guidelines do not to use programs like this one due to inaccuracies and concerns that this would introduce more inaccuracies when put into practice. Interpretation would be preferred.
    - If this is something that DHHS says no, what is the reasonable solution?
    - Would interpreters be something that ever gets approved in a budget.
    - There is an intermediate option that exists between the pocket talk and live interpreters called language line. It is more accurate, but the cost is higher.
    - Could a DAS meeting occur to have a state-wide agency contract
    - DHHS has about a 900k budget for certain language
    - Safety costs 1.88 a minute for 911 language access services.
    - Reaching out to Charlie Arlinghouse to discuss the different contracts concerning language.
- Commissioner Quinn asked if there are any more speakers who would be interested in this conversation. Ahni responded that the big project we were working on was getting BET, but the scheduling has caused a rift in availability. This would be a great task for the subcommittee to work on. Perhaps we could even bring in a state agency to coordinate with particular speakers.

**New Business**

**Public Comment:**

Welcome back to Chrissy Vanderhook from DOE

**Next Meeting** May 21, 2024; 5:30 p.m. NH Department of Safety. Government Affairs will meet at 5:00 PM.

**Adjourn:** 6:51: p.m.