

**FLORIDA COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
Virtual Quarterly Meeting**

Thursday, November 7, 2024 – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, November 8, 2024 - 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Glenna Ashton, Chair (Florida Association of the Deaf)
Cory Parker, Vice-Chair (Florida Department of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation)
John Jackson (Florida Department of Children and Families)
Gina Haliburton (Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf)
Chris Littlewood (Association of Late-Deafened Adults)
Cindy Simon (South Miami Audiology Consultant)

Department of Health:

Tara Hylton, Chief, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention

Service Providers:

Kelly Gagain, Clint Solomon, and April (Interpreters)
Lisa Johnston (CART)
Nels Anderson and Patrick Langan (Vanguard Audiovisual)

Public Attendee:

Amy Ryals (Deaf Service Center)
Monique Roussell

November 2024 Meeting

Meeting Minutes Review:

The minutes were voted on and accepted, with a correction made indicating PSC is supporting the TASA Bill and change ‘bilaws’ to ‘bylaws’. Glenna Ashton stated we have no chair, no report for AQUATICA. The Council approved the August 2024 meeting minutes without further objections, after a 4-person vote.

Cory Parker thanked Tara Hylton for her coordination of the FCCDHH. Changes can be frustrating, but he is available for face to face if needed. FCCDHH Council Chair also agreed with Cory, on the coordination of the council.

Committee Updates:

- Ad Hoc – Bylaws: Glenna Ashton, noted we are staying with the original bylaws, since the State law must change first. Bylaw draft has been withdrawn.
- EMOT (Education, Medical, Outreach and Technology): No update.
- Budget: No new updates. The budget being moved to the new bureau was discussed in the August meeting and adopted in July 2024, at the start of the state fiscal year. There

will be cost savings as some meetings will be held via Zoom. The cost savings can be utilized to support future council activities and meetings.

- Legislative: The council is hoping for an update on the TASA bill supported by Cecil Bradley, who is seeking a Senate sponsor, at the February meeting.
- Web: No chair, no update.

Organization Updates:

- Florida Association of the Deaf (FAD): Glenna provided an update. FAD new president encouraging the FAD to be more active. They recently sponsored a large event in Orlando, FL and sent staff to the National Association of the Deaf Conference in Chicago, IL in July. Glenna plans to provide an update on the next council meeting.
- Community Update: Alecia (FRID member) inquired about the 2006 council recommendation for licensure for Florida interpreters. Discussion held around what other states currently have a licensure for interpreters.
- Audiologist Representative: Cindy had no updates for the council.
- Vocational Rehabilitation: Cory had no updates for the council.

Biennial Report:

The council focused on reviewing the 2025 Biennial Report Draft. The report was revised to include Florida specific epidemiological and statistical data on Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents and veterans. The report language was revised to reflect statistics reference for adults and some photos were revised and new photos are to be added, once received from the council. The final revised draft of the report will be shared with the council prior to the November meeting and quotes for print (500 copies) will be requested by the Department of Health.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Department Staff Updates:

Tara Hylton provided the following:

- A candidate has been identified for the FCCDHH Liaison position and will be meeting the council at the next meeting. Note, with a FCCDHH Liaison now available, emails and phone calls should be returned in a more timely manner.
- ZZZZ requests – Develop a process for ZZZZ requests and sending to council for response.
- FCCDHH to participate in the ASL Festival, voted and agreed on with 5 votes.
- Possible collaboration at the ASL Festival with FEDHH, FLASHA, HLAA per Glenna
- FCCDHH Liaison to help with travel and identifying hotels for upcoming ASL Festival, as well as other upcoming travel.

- Shared via email during meeting, information flyer and registration details on United Hands Organization.
- 2025 Biennial Report needs photo from Office of Communication.
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing epidemiological data was provided with confirmation for the 15% national data which, clarifies that it is 15% of the adult population. This data was reviewed and revised in the 2025 Biennial Report.
- The council has an interest in learning more about the Family Café's event. Hoping to get insight as well as information from them to put on our own Expo.

Future Activities, Meetings, and Planning:

- The May FCCDHH meeting location is planned for Jacksonville, FL.
- FCCDHH Annual Budget is approximately \$100,000 (allocated July 1st each year). This budget funds a 0.5 FTE FCCDHH Coordinator position, \$40,000 for support services and meeting planning, and travel. Current year lapsed salary from the vacant coordinator position and remaining travel funds due to reduced face-to-face meetings may allow for a possible reallocation up to \$25,000 for a small expo.
- An update will be provided by DOH Budget Manager on the projected amount of unallocated funds available that can possibly be redirected for an expo and supporting materials.
- Glenna Ashton suggested contacting Tony of ASL Festival to inquire about a booth at the festival, however we are not providing interpreters.
- Plans to meet to discuss logistics for planning an expo, who to invite, etc.
- Details of travel and hotel logistics were discussed.