



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
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## **DRAFT MINUTES** **Disability and Communication Access Board** **General Board Meeting**

Location: Virtual and 1010 Richards Street, Room 118  
Date: November 20, 2025  
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Charlotte Townsend, Chairperson; Anthony Akamine, Ronald Awa, Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Scott Fleming, Dayne Greene, Violet Horvath, Gerald Isobe, Michael Nojima, Gerald Ohta, Teri Spinola-Campbell, LisaAnn Tom, Board members; Kristine Pagano, Rodney Kanno, Bryan Mick, Susan Rocco, Mylynne Simon, Staff

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPANTS: Peter Fritz, Curt Kiri, Anna Asuncion Lopez, Donald Sakamoto, Ryan Tamashiro, Fanny Yeh

SIGN LANGUAGE  
INTERPRETERS: Mala Arkin and Denise Green

REAL TIME  
CAPTIONERS: April Chandler and Kelly DeCamp

- I. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. She provided an overview of public testimony or comments, and remote meeting procedures.
- II. Roll was called, and Board members introduced themselves.
- III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend reported that the Board did not receive any written testimony for this meeting.

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented that the notice of written testimony language is outdated. The Board packet law was amended, and testimony can be submitted less than two business days prior to the meeting.

- IV. Approval of General Board Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2025.

The minutes of the September 18, 2025 General Board meeting were approved as circulated (M/S/P Horvath/Akamine).

Board member Violet Horvath noted that Board member Dayne Greene suddenly dropped out of the meeting. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend confirmed that this did not affect quorum.

## V. Executive Director's Report

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend and Kristine Pagano provided the Executive Director's report.

### Board member vacancies.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained that as a Governor appointed Board, there should be seventeen (17) members. We currently have twelve (12) members. She announced the interim Board member is Judy Paik until confirmed. Judy Paik will be attending the January meeting.

### Committee Chairpersons appointed.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend announced the Standing Committee and Committee chairpersons as follows:

Gerald Isobe, Standing Committee on Communication Access  
Michael Nojima, Standing Committee on Facility Access  
Violet Horvath, Standing Committee on Parking  
Violet Horvath, Standing Committee on Transportation  
Charlotte Townsend, Legislative Committee  
Anthony Akamine, DCAB representative to the Special Parent Information Network

Comment: Peter Fritz asked what areas are missing members and what gap does the Board need to fill?

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained there must be representation from each County and provided other types of memberships such as a parent with child with a disability or individuals with disabilities. For more information, one can visit the Disability and Communication Access Board website at <https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/>

### Personnel

Kristine Pagano reported for Kirby Shaw.

#### 1. Vacant Facility Access Unit Office Assistant position number 121818 - Update.

Kristine Pagano reported that interviews were completed and in the process of selecting an applicant.

#### 2. Report on staff attendance at trainings, conferences, and events.

##### 1. Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind, Deaf Awareness Day, September 26, 2025 – Update.

Staff was invited to participate and provide information on DCAB and the Special Parent Information Network programs, services, and activities to attendees.

##### 2. 2025 Deaf Awareness Day, September 27, 2025 – Update.

DCAB sponsored and hosted the 2025 Deaf Awareness Day on September 27, 2025 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Pikake Room. The Standing

Committee on Communication Access Chairperson Gerald Isobe will provide a more detailed report under Committee reports.

3. Hawaii Digital Government Summit 2025, September 30, 2025 – Update.

Staff attended the Hawaii Digital Government Summit 2025. The information learned from the summit was very informative. There were a few workshops to update DCAB staff on topics such as artificial intelligence and emergency preparedness.

4. 2025 White Cane Walk, Resource Fair, October 17, 2025 – Update.

At the 2025 White Cane Walk, Resource Fair on October 17, 2025 which was held at the State Capitol, staff provided information on DCAB programs and services. Staff networked with Ho‘opono’s clients and people with disabilities. At this event, staff learned about the community’s advocacy efforts for the upcoming legislative session.

5. Deaf Safari Day – October 25, 2025 – Update.

The T-Mobile Relay Hawaii sponsored the Deaf Safari Day on October 25, 2025 at the Honolulu Zoo. Staff manned a booth and met with not only people from the disability community but also families who were visiting from the mainland and other countries to educate them about DCAB’s programs, services, and activities.

6. Communication Access/On-Demand Interpreting for Hawaii Deaf Community presentation to University of Hawaii, American Sign Language students, November 6, 2025 – Update.

The Standing Committee on Communication Access Chairperson Gerald Isobe will provide a more detailed report under Committee reports.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. The Committee held a meeting on October 27, 2025.

a. Establishment of a Permitted Interaction Committee to review Programs and Services Manual.

The Committee voted to establish a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to review the Programs and Services Manual. However at the meeting, a public comment was raised that the full Board needed to vote on this.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend announced that the full Board will need to vote under agenda item number VII.

Testimony: Peter Fritz explained that the Executive Committee is recommending the establishment of a PIG and if the Executive Committee votes on it, then it can only be staffed by members of the Executive Committee. At this

meeting, they are voting to establish a PIG but not tying it directly to the action of the Executive Committee.

b. Status Update on Disability and Communication Access Board's Executive Director.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend reported that Kirby Shaw is out on leave and expected to return November 12, 2025. In the interim, Kristine Pagano is the Acting Executive Director, and she will continue to fulfill her duties as the Administrative Officer. If there are questions, it will be addressed under agenda item VIII.

B. Legislative Committee

1. The Committee held a meeting on November 3, 2025.

a. The Committee will meet on Mondays at 12:00 noon starting on January 26, 2026.

Bryan Mick reported the Committee will meet on Mondays at 12:00 p.m. starting January 26, 2026 when the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature begins its session.

b. The Committee reviewed and approved the DCAB's position types for bills and resolutions, subject matter categories, and positions statements for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, 2026.

Bryan Mick reported the Committee reviewed and approved DCAB's position types for bills and resolutions, subject matter categories, and positions statements for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature.

c. The Committee pre-authorized staff to submit testimony in certain circumstances, such as when a bill is an official companion bill or functionally identical to a bill the Committee already voted on.

Bryan Mick reported the Committee pre-authorized staff to submit testimony in certain circumstances, such as when a bill is an official companion bill or functionally identical to a bill that the Committee previously voted on.

d. The Committee reviewed four topics for which staff anticipate bills to be introduced:

(1) Parking in access aisles.

(2) Travel placard.

(3) Lengthening of the meter fee exemption for Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permits.

(4) Establishment of a Disability Integration Specialist position at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

Bryan Mick reported the Committee reviewed four (4) topics for which staff anticipates bills to be introduced.

(1) Parking in access aisles: This bill would lessen the enforcement of the violation of parking in access aisles.

- (2) Travel placard: This bill would establish a travel placard that people would be able to take with them and use at their destinations when traveling off-island.
- (3) Lengthening of the meter fee exemption for Disabled Paid Parking Exemption Permits: This bill would lengthen the meter fee exemption time period that's associated with the disabled paid parking exemption permits.
- (4) Establishment of a Disability Integration Specialist position at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency: The bill would establish a disability integration specialist position at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

The public in-person meeting location had technical difficulties for two (2) minutes and resumed the meeting.

C. Standing Committee on Communication Access

- 1. The Committee held a meeting on October 30, 2025.

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported the Committee met on October 20, 2025.

- a. Report on the Deaf Awareness Day event held on September 27, 2025 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Pikake Room.

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe provided a report on the Deaf Awareness Day event held on September 27, 2025 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Pikake Room.

One hundred twenty five (125) individuals attended the event. Board Chairperson Charlotte Townsend welcomed and introduced keynote speakers Ed Chevy and Dr. Angel Ramos, Principal of the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind. A panel of five (5) Deaf community members shared their lived experiences about communication access at home, in school, and at work.

There was a Deaf Museum exhibition of how technology changed with the way telephone calls are made and received with TTY equipment, pictures and stories of local Deaf history and culture. The event was also livestreamed on YouTube.

- b. Summary of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) meeting on September 30, 2025.

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported on September 30, 2025, DCAB staff met with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) to discuss how to improve communication access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. The discussion focused on lessons learned from past tsunami warnings. DCAB staff informed HIEMA of the need to increase visibility of on-screen interpreters, captions on TV news, and accessible information on social media and press announcements.

- c. Review of quarterly Communication Access statistics.

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported DCAB tested one (1) Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) applicant during the quarter, and twenty three (23) interpreters remain active in the Continuing Education Program. DCAB staff responded to five (5) technical assistance inquiries related to the revised Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218 and continued to post monthly updates of credentialed communication access providers on the DCAB website.

Eight (8) interviews were conducted with Interpreter Training Program representatives across the country to explore effective models for Hawai'i. DCAB staff explored the concept of an Interpreter Training Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

DCAB staff responded to thirty (30) technical assistance inquiries from individuals and agencies on effective communication, including collaboration with HIEMA to improve emergency accessibility in response to the recent tsunami warning.

Other ongoing activities included monitoring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) updates on communication access and meetings with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services relating to the Hawai'i Electronic Information Technology Disability Access Standards.

d. Recap of the Deaf Safari Day event held on October 25, 2025.

Committee Chairperson Gerald Isobe reported on October 25, 2025, the Deaf Safari Day was sponsored by Relay Hawaii. About seventy five (75) Deaf individuals, American Sign Language (ASL) students, and families with children visited the DCAB booth. There were families who traveled from the neighbor islands to participate in the event. The event was valuable as it provided an opportunity for Deaf individuals and their families to connect with vendors to participate in their programs, services, and activities.

Board member Violet Horvath asked for clarification regarding the Committee Chairperson's report on the meeting date of October 20 or 30, 2025. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend confirmed the meeting date was on October 30, 2025.

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented that there were discussions about a lot of meetings, efforts and networking. In the Committee report, he would like to hear a summary of the five (5) most important points or two (2) most important points from those meetings.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend emphasized the importance of networking. The Executive Director and Board make public appearances in the community to show that DCAB is the premier advocacy agency on behalf of people with disabilities. Outreach and networking are critical for DCAB. The amount of detail that we present in our reports are needed to educate the Board and others about DCAB.

D. Standing Committee on Facility Access

1. DCAB Facility Access Unit conducted 2025 Basic ADA Trainings on October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2025 – Update.

Committee Chairperson Michael Nojima reported the Standing Committee on Facility Access did not meet since the last General Board meeting.

The DCAB Facility Access Unit just completed all sessions for the 2025 Basic ADA Trainings on October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2025. The five (5) sessions were presented by DCAB staff.

Sixty two (62) individuals participated in the October 22, 2025, Session 1, Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) Chapter 3 and 4.

Sixty five (65) individuals participated in the Session 2: ADAAG Chapters 5 and 6 on October 29, 2025.

Eighty (80) individuals participated in the Session 3: ADAAG Chapters 7 and 8 on November 5, 2025.

Eighty four (84) individuals participated in the Session 4: ADAAG Chapters 9 and 10 on November 12, 2025.

The last Session 5 covered the Hawaii Outdoor Developed Areas Accessibility Guidelines was held yesterday on November 19, 2025.

Testimony: Curt Kiri asked the Board if these trainings were an annual requirement for ADA Coordinators?

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained that these trainings are not required for ADA Coordinators. Department ADA Coordinators may have multiple duties and responsibilities other than the ADA. These trainings are geared for people who design for compliance.

Testimony: Curt Kiri proposed DCAB submit a bill or legislation where the duties of the ADA Coordinator is purely for ADA coordination. Where the ADA Coordinator does not have dual or triple roles. Dual or triple roles being non-ADA related roles such as a language access coordinator, etc.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained the role of ADA Coordinators should be strengthened. It was stronger in the past but has weakened over time.

E. Standing Committee on Parking

1. The Committee held a meeting on November 17, 2025.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath reported the Committee met on November 17, 2025.

a. Review of Quarterly Parking statistics.

During the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026, around eight thousand seven hundred (8,700) placards were issued and four hundred nineteen (419) special license plates reauthorized or issued. Of the placards, about two thousand two hundred (2,200) were temporary, six thousand five hundred (6,500) long term, and twenty (20) were Disabled

Paid Parking Exemption Permits. Of the long-term placards, about two thousand eight hundred (2,800) were renewals issued by DCAB, reflecting a renewal rate was sixty seven percent (67%).

- b. Concerns with the City and County of Honolulu appointment process for parking permits.

The Committee reviewed, and correspondence between the City and DCAB ensued on this issue. The City is analyzing its procedures and DCAB is hopeful they will make adjustments to allow walk-ins once again.

- c. Review and update of DCAB's Legislative Position Statements for Parking Related Bills and Resolutions.

The Committee did not have any suggested edits to the Legislative Position Statements for Parking Related Bills and Resolutions.

- d. Draft survey of disability parking permittees on challenges encountered when using their parking permit.

Due to time constraints, the Committee deferred this agenda item to the next Committee meeting.

- e. Update of two state legislation 1) Senate Bill 1008 Draft 1 Conference Draft 1 – Relating to Parking. Authorizes the counties to adopt ordinances to enforce the accessible parking space requirements for parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities and electric vehicles. 2) Bill 2026-0016 HB HMSO-1 – Relating to Parking. Prohibits the issuance of a citation for encroachment into an access aisle by a vehicle with a disability parking permit unless an oral complaint is made to a law enforcement officer or 911 dispatcher by a person who also has a valid disability parking permit and whose access was directly impeded.

The Committee reviewed a bill drafted by a state representative which would lessen the enforcement for access aisle violations. The issue would be more effectively addressed by adopting a state design standard which exceeds ADAAG, such as wider spaces or additional access aisles. The survey of permittees will likely ask questions related to this topic so that metrics can be presented to the Legislature in the future.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu inquired if the renewal placards are in different colors every year similar to safety checks for cars to reduce fraudulent use.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath explained that the Committee is aware of some cases where people illegally modify the placards and deferred to Bryan Mick.

Bryan Mick reported the color of the placard is based on the type of placard. The color of temporary placard is red for one (1) to six (6) months. The long term placard color is blue for six (6) years. The color of disabled paid parking exemption permit is green. The serial number identifies the placard, and it displays the expiration date. If parking enforcement came across a placard that



looks like it had been modified, the parking enforcer can check to see what the actual expiration date is and can issue a citation if it doesn't match.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu inquired if DCAB can utilize a QR code instead of a number where parking enforcement can scan the QR code on the placard.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath responded that the Committee had this on the agenda but due to time constraints could not get to the agenda item.

Testimony: Donald Sakamoto asked if the placard color code is universal for all states, blue, red and green?

Bryan Mick reported that the colors blue and red are standard except for green. It is noted that there are other states that have different colors.

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented that the DCAB allows one to take a photo of the placard that may be altered.

Bryan Mick explained that the photo must be legible enough for DCAB to read the placard number. DCAB will reach out the placard holder regarding their placard.

Testimony: Curt Kiriu inquired if one can take a photo as a citation to DCAB.

Bryan Mick explained not for purposes for a citation but if there is a violation. DCAB will try and contact the person or company regarding the use of the placard. For example, if an individual has a placard but they are parked in an access aisle. DCAB will contact the individual and remind them they shouldn't be parking in the access aisle. Chairperson Charlotte Townsend stated that this becomes a public education effort to qualified individuals with a parking placard.

F. Standing Committee on Transportation

1. The Committee held a meeting on November 17, 2025.

Committee Chairperson Violet Horvath reported the Committee met on November 17, 2025.

a. Review of responses from the County of Hawaii Transportation Department regarding public transit.

The Committee reviewed responses from the County of Hawaii regarding several of their programs and continues to have several concerns, including geographical gaps in coverage. The Committee plans to invite the County to present at a future Committee meeting.

b. City and County of Honolulu Bill 54 (2025) CD2 – Relating to Public Transit.

This bill would have eliminated fare waivers on fixed route buses for Personal Care Attendants but has been deferred thanks to public testimony including from DCAB.

c. Update of Richards Street Loading Zone in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Committee announced the two (2) metered parking spaces were removed in front of the Kamamalu Building and the entire curb is now a loading zone.

d. United States Department of Transportation Final Rule – Ensuring Safe Accommodations for Air Travelers with Disabilities Using Wheelchairs – Delayed Enforcement [2025-18980] – Update.

Link to the United States Department of Transportation Final Rule – Ensuring Safe Accommodations for Air Travelers with Disabilities Using Wheelchairs:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/09/30/2025-18980/ensuring-safe-accommodations-for-air-travelers-with-disabilities-using-wheelchairs>

The Committee discussed the federal government's announcement that not only will they delay the enforcement of these regulations, but will also commence rulemaking to repeal the regulations.

e. Uber Sued for Denying Rides to Passengers with Service Dogs, Wheelchairs.

The Committee discussed the federal government press release that they are suing Uber for disability discrimination, when drivers denied rides to people with service dogs or wheelchairs.

G. Special Parent Information Network (SPIN)

1. SPIN Conference Update.

Board representative Anthony Akamine provided a report that the SPIN's 40th Annual SPIN Conference will be held on March 28, 2026 at the University of Hawaii, Campus Center. He reported the SPIN Advisory Committee moved up the date for the Conference, and will receive assistance from the University of Hawaii, Center on Disability Studies. The Committee met on November 12, 2025 to select workshop topics and tentative speakers.

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics tentatively committed to funding \$4,000 for neighbor island airfares and registration scholarships.

2. State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Community Meeting.

Susan Rocco reported SPIN is assisting the Monitoring and Compliance Branch of the Hawaii Department of Education in publicizing and organizing its December 5, 2025 SPP/APR meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to have diverse stakeholders review data from the 2024-2025 school year on key special education indicators, adjust targets as needed, and recommend improvement activities in preparation for an accountability report to the U.S. Department of Education.

3. October SPIN News.

Susan Rocco provided information on the quarterly issue featured three (3) infographics related to bullying, including newly released data on Hawaii middle and high school students with disabilities who completed the Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Two (2) additional infographics created for this issue include a description of surrogate decision-making and the special education eligibility category of Speech or Language Disability.

Due to a power outage, Board member Dayne Greene reported he logged back on about ten (10) minutes ago and inquired if the SPIN newsletters are forwarded to elementary and secondary schools.

Susan Rocco shared that in the past, SPIN used to print one (1) newsletter for each student. Currently there are about one thousand (1,000) subscribers on their e-newsletter distribution list.

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented if anything has been done for additional funding and improving special education laws.

Susan Rocco responded that Hawaii has a very good Monitoring and Compliance Branch.

VII. Review and Vote on the Establishment of a Permitted Interaction Committee to review and update the Programs and Services Reference Manual for Persons with Disabilities.

Link to the Programs and Services Reference Manual for Persons with Disabilities: <https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/files/2023/08/Approved-Programs-and-ServicesManual7.20.2023.pdf>

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained the history of the Programs and Services Reference Manual for Persons with Disabilities and the need to be updated.

The Board established a PIG to review and update the Programs and Services Reference Manual for Persons with Disabilities (M/S/P Greene/Spinola-Campbell).

VIII. Update as of November 12, 2025, Status of Executive Director.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend informed the Board that effective December 1, 2025, Kirby Shaw will no longer be the Executive Director. Kristine Pagano will continue to be the Acting Executive Director. The Executive Committee will convene to hire a new Executive Director.

IX. Old Business

A. ADA Coordination.

1. Review statistics of ADA technical assistance program. Update.

Bryan Mick reported for Elizabeth Delovio. Staff responded to forty eight (48) ADA or other federal laws inquiries that impacts persons with disabilities. Of the forty eight (48), twenty three (23) technical assistance were related to

service animals, proper signage on service animals, reasonable modification of policy and procedures, design accessibility, and meeting agenda accommodation statements. Two (2) were related to the Fair Housing Act reasonable modifications and the minimum number of accessible parking spaces. Four (4) were on behalf of the Governor or Department of Health relating to the statewide parking program for persons with disabilities and design of an accessible parking space including access aisles. There were eighteen (18) consumers who contacted DCAB regarding service animals, emotional support animals or assistance animals, bullying because of a disability, accessible furniture, design access to a tourist attraction and housing accommodation.

2. State and County ADA Coordination – Update.

Bryan Mick reported there were two (2) meetings with State ADA Coordinators with eighteen (18) Department ADA Coordinators at the first meeting and second meeting with sixteen (16) Department ADA Coordinators. At two (2) County ADA Coordinators meetings, one meeting had all four (4) County Coordinators in attendance, and the second meeting, two (2) Coordinators attended.

B. Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) Report on the Animal Inspection Station and procedures for individuals arriving with animals at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

Bryan Mick reported that PIG members and representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) and Department of Transportation (DOT) met at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport's Animal Inspection Station to investigate the Animal Inspection Station and the pedestrian routes from various terminals to the station. The PIG's report provided fifteen (15) observations and design recommendations relating to accessible routes, signage, and design of service animal relief areas to the DAB and DOT. Also recommended DOT to reconvene an advisory group of persons with various disabilities and representatives from all entities which operate at the airport who can provide feedback on design, programs and services at the airport.

X. New Business

A. Governor's Administrative Directive on Accessibility to State Government by Persons with Disabilities – Update.

- Governor Green signed the Administrative Directive on October 3, 2025. The Administrative Directive is posted on the Department of Budget and Finance website at [https://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2509036-HTH\\_Administrative-Directive-No.-25-03.pdf](https://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2509036-HTH_Administrative-Directive-No.-25-03.pdf)

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend provided the history of the Governor's Administrative Directives on Accessibility to State Governments by Persons with Disabilities. She announced Governor Green signed effective October 3, 2025, Administrative Directive 25-03 its commitment to persons with disabilities to access state government. The Administrative Directive includes the Department of Justice's new rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps for Title II of the ADA, State and Local Governments. Guidance on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps can be found in the

Hawaii Electronic Information Technology Disability Access Standards on the Office of Enterprise Technology Services website.

- B. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Announces Tentative Agenda for November Open Meeting and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Analog TRS Modernization - Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Speech-to-Speech and Internet Protocol (IP) Speech-to-Speech Telecommunications Relay Services – CG Docket Nos. 03-123, 08-15.

Link to the FCC Tentative Agenda for November Open Meeting:  
<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-415185A1.pdf>

Link to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Analog TRS Modernization - Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Speech-to-Speech and Internet Protocol (IP) Speech-to-Speech Telecommunications Relay Services – CG Docket Nos. 03-123, 08-15:  
<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-415186A1.pdf>

Bryan Mick announced that the FCC met earlier today. FCC is seeking comment on terminating the mandatory status of TT relay for state-based TRS programs to afford states the flexibility to adapt their programs to local needs and technology. FCC are looking to remove the analog services and only recognize IP based services.

Testimony: Peter Fritz mentioned that FCC wants to eliminate the TRS communication assistant (operator) and replace it by using speech-to-text and text-to-speech applications.

- XI. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration for the Board's agenda at the next meeting.

Testimony: Peter Fritz commented about an issue that was raised at a Standing Committee on Parking regarding a phone complaint about a doctor who wouldn't certify.

Chairperson Charlotte Townsend explained that the issue has already been taken care of with staff.

- XII. The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE PAGANO