

Telecommunications Access Program Advisory Board Meeting
April 18, 2024
KCDHH Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gerry Gordon-Brown, Shirl Duncan, Jeb Pinney, Christa Cervantes (via telephone), Holly Evans, Trudy Ross

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bobby Moore, Tommy Evans, Tyler Campbell

STAFF PRESENT: Jessica Endler-Smith, O.J. Disney, Rachel Morgan Kincaid, Anita Dowd

COMMUNICATION FACILITATORS: Laura Kogut, Linda Bozeman, Shannon Grider

VISITORS:

Ms. Gordon-Brown called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Ms. Gordon-Brown asked members to review the minutes from the April 2023 meeting. Because the October 2023 meeting did not have a quorum present, the notes from April had not yet been approved.

MS. DUNCAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 2023 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WITHOUT REVISION. MS. ROSS SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED WITHOUT DISCUSSION.

REPORTS

Statistics Report

Ms. Endler-Smith called members' attention to the equipment information that had been distributed to those present and said she would entertain any questions.

Ms. Gordon-Brown noted that there had been several requests for electrolarynx devices and asked whether TAP still supplies those. Ms. Kincaid replied that TAP had applied to TelTex to receive electrolarynx devices, but that their arrival had been slowed by the Commonwealth's procurement process. Once that process is complete, TAP will begin supplying the devices to consumers.

Ms. Ross then asked if TAP staff are satisfied with their current number of consumers. Ms. Endler-Smith replied that the number of consumers being served is normal and within

expected boundaries. She also noted that the need for amplified and captioned phones has declined in direct proportion with the decline in land line usage, while the need for wireless devices has increased.

Ms. Duncan then asked about the qualifications for consumers to receive equipment such as an electrolarynx. Ms. Endler-Smith replied that consumers are required by the regulations that govern TAP to have speech impairment and to be professionally diagnosed by, among others, an audiologist or a speech therapist. Ms. Morgan added that procedures for this specific equipment already exist since TAP used to carry it in the past. Ms. Endler-Smith continued that in order to qualify for TAP, all a person needs is that certification of their disability and the ability to prove that they reside in Kentucky.

THE STATISTICS REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Outreach/Activity Report

Mr. Disney gave the report on TAP's activities since October 2023. Mr. Disney reported that he and Ms. Endler-Smith attended:

- The Telecommunication Distribution Association (TEDPA) meeting (June)
- A fire safety presentation for parents of children with a hearing loss in Oldham County (October 14)
- A health fair in collaboration with Kentucky Hears (October 17)
- The regular TAP board meeting at KCDHH (October 18)
- A home visit to help a TAP customer troubleshoot issues with an iPad (November 16)
- Flap Jack for Firefighters in Richmond, KY, an informational presentation for parents of children with a hearing loss (November 18)
- CATS Network Advisory Council meeting at the Thrive Center (December 4)
- Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference in Orlando (January 2024)
- Went to Hazard County, KY to set up a new TAP cabinet (March 18)

THE OUTREACH/ACTIVITY REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS READ.

Old Business

Ms. Gordon-Brown noted that there was no old business.

New Business

Ms. Gordon-Brown asked Ms. Endler-Smith to tell the board about the upcoming TEDPA and NASRA conferences in Louisville. Ms. Endler-Smith noted that KCDHH will be hosting the TEDPA conference at the Galt House from September 4-7. NASRA will be hosted from September 8-11. This is notable because KCDHH has not hosted a conference for nearly 20 years. The conference was supposed to be hosted by KCDHH two years ago but had to be postponed due to various factors. Ms. Endler-Smith has been meeting with TEDPA semimonthly to prepare for the conference, and she expects at least 20 vendors to attend, including Hamilton, T-Mobile, and hopefully Apple Accessibility. In response to a question from Ms. Gordon-Brown, Ms. Endler-Smith noted that the conferences will not be open to the public, but only to government employees, disability service providers, or relay service providers.

Ms. Duncan commented that TAP staff's experience with Delta Airlines was deplorable and asked if there was anything the board could do to prevent those experiences in the future. Ms. Dowd replied that it was chiefly a matter of advocacy (particularly self-advocacy) and persistence over time.

Announcements

- The next meeting will be on October 24, 2024, at 2 p.m. The location is yet to be determined.

MS. DUNCAN MOVED TO ADJOURN. MR. GREEN SECONDED. The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.