



California Coalition

Of Agencies Serving Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons, Inc.

REGION I

Leslie Elion, Executive Director
Deaf Community Services of
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REGION II

Lisa Price, Regional Director
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Riverside, CA 92506
www.codie.org

REGION III

Amy Grindrod, Regional Director
Orange County Deaf Equal
Access Foundation
6022 Cerritos Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
www.ocdeaf.org

REGION IV

Patricia Hughes, Ph.D., CEO
Greater Los Angeles Agency on
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www.gladinc.org

REGION V

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REGION VI

Michelle Bronson,
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REGION VII

Sheri A. Farinha, CEO
NorCal Center on Deafness
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REGION VIII

Jim Brune, CEO
Deaf Counseling, Advocacy &
Referral Agency
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San Leandro, CA 94578
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March 9, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Meeting CG Docket 10-51 and 03-123

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 4th, the undersigned met with Maria Kirby, from FCC Chairman Wheelers office assigned to work on VRS Reform. Primary purpose was to introduce California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCASDHH) –8 community-based nonprofit organizations serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community in all 58 counties. Member CCASDHH agencies similar to NorCal Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, provide a vast array of social services and are whom consumers contact when barriers surface in any part of life, especially telecommunications to complain about lack of access, or problems that arise with the devices, and/or interoperability issues.

Further was to share concerns: starting with NorCal's January 10, 2014 letter that was sent to Chairman Wheeler regarding the RFI about VRS services which did not even include "who" the consumers were to be served by proposed project in the RFI related to VRS, specifically, Deaf and Hard of Hearing ASL users of VRS; confusion in the consumer community regarding the FCC's plans due to different terminology is used related to neutral platform making the issue more complicated than it needs to be; and, that the FCC has chosen to work with NIA (National Institute on Aging) instead of consulting with Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, Deaf plus (+) (i.e. Deaf plus CP, or Deaf plus developmentally disabled). Provided an example of how we are used to working together with the FCC and Federal Agencies collectively to find solutions, using the 2005 E911 Stakeholder Council led by the undersigned with TDI, to highlight the development and implementation of "E911" by establishing a numbering Database with telephone numbers assigned to each video phone connected to a relay service provider, and lastly explained how one of the federal participating partners of the Council, U.S. DOT whom had the NG911 project and had

incorporated Deaf Consumers needs in their original Proof of Concept and onward. Therefore, we would like to see this same approach for the VRS Reform.

Strong support was expressed for FCC to consult and work with Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, Deaf Plus, in all areas: research, development, advisory, equipment, interoperability, mobile/wireless, etc., and that due to the objections stated in letter filed on January 10, 2014 with numerous questions about the RFI, we hope from this point on, any RFPs and contracts developed, that the FCC include Functional Equivalency as a core element; any proposals must specify how Functional Equivalent goals will be developed and made a priority in the contracted work. Furthermore, any bidders for FCC TRS related RFPs must demonstrate compliance with section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act, hence the need for FCC's DRO office to be involved every step of the way, as well as Consumers who are Deaf and/or disabled with the expertise related to their own communication needs.

The undersigned expressed sincere appreciation for the meeting with Ms. Kirby, and for the direction the FCC is taking moving forward toward the USA's next generation telephony of an internet-based telecommunications world, as well as the work done in other areas such as captioning issues. Working together is critical for the success in telecommunications access for all Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and Deaf+ individuals, all of which is the crux of why we developing a stronger and more cohesive partnership with the FCC are essential and necessary to reach our mutual goals. Nothing about Us, Without Us.

With Appreciation,

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cc: Maria Kirby, Chairman Wheeler's Office
Ruth Milkman, Chief of Staff, Chairman Wheeler
CCASDHH, Chair, Jim Brune, and member agencies