**Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**Statewide Advisory Council Meeting**

**February 9, 2023**

**5:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participants: Guests:**

Commissioner, Opeoluwa Sotonwa Representative Denise Garlick

Peggy Lee, MCDHH Carl Richardson

Marlene Hostovsky, MCDHH

Aurora Wilber, MCDHH

Sharon Harrison, MCDHH

Alysha Nuttall, MCDHH

Carol Menton, MCDHH

Cat Dvar, MCDHH

**SAC Members: Attendees from Community:**

Michelle Dardeno Marlene Blackstone, ViAbility

Brock Cordeiro Lee Nettles

Ellen Perkins Stephanie Hakulin

Lori Seidman Suzann Bedrosian

Leah McGaughey Sue Philip

Stephanie Clark

Michelle Cline

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| **Agenda Topic** | **Discussion** | **Follow up/Person Responsible** |
| Welcome | * Communication Procedures * Introductions * Review of Agenda |  |
| Rep. Denise Garlick | * How to advocate for the legislation you want * Are you a registered voter? * Do you always vote? * Are you actively involved in your community? * Do you know who your Representatives and Senators are? * Learn how to tell your story * Review of HD2775, captioning on public facing televisions |  |
| Action Items: | * March meeting will be held to discuss budget and support for community interests * April 20 “save the date” for SAC sponsored State House event. This would be an abbreviated event to recognize award winners from the past and set up legislative visits. We expect this may be a hybrid event to minimize travel an exposure risk. | SAC to take the lead with planning and agenda  Community to coordinate fact sheets and logistics, letter writing sessions, other activities to support State House Day |
| Commissioner’s Report | * MCDHH Updates from Commissioner, PowerPoint attached |  |
| Legislative Task Force | * Brock Cordeiro has created spreadsheet with current legislation (attached). |  |
| Next SAC Meeting | * March 9 at 5:30 pm.  New Zoom link will be provided. **Meeting registration required to avoid unwanted guests** | Any interested community members wanting SAC information can request to join the distribution list. Please email: [aurora.wilber@mass.gov](mailto:aurora.wilber@mass.gov) |