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

**Statewide Advisory Council Meeting**

**March 9, 2023**

**5:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participants: Attendees from Community:**

Commissioner, Opeoluwa Sotonwa Neil McGill, ViAbility

Peggy Lee, MCDHH Lee Nettles

Marlene Hostovsky, MCDHH Stephanie Hakulin

Aurora Wilber, MCDHH Suzann Bedrosian

Sharon Harrison, MCDHH Sue Philip

Sehin Mekuria, MCDHH

Carol Menton, MCDHH

Janay Mitchell, MCDHH

**SAC Members:**

Michelle Dardeno

Brock Cordeiro

Ellen Perkins

Lori Seidman

Linda Sakin

Stephanie Clark

Michelle Cline

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| **Agenda Topic** | **Discussion** | **Follow up/Person Responsible** |
| Welcome  | * Communication Procedures
* Introductions
* Review of Agenda
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| Budget Review  | **House 1 Budget*** funds MCD at $9.9 M, a $1.4 M (+16%) increase vs. the FY23 GAA.

**Budget Highlights*** **Legal ASL interpretation, case management, vlogs support, and training:** Adds critical capacity for court and other legal access
* **After-hours Emergency Communication Program:** Enables deaf and hard of hearing individuals to access interpretation services outside of operating hours
* An assessment on access to **affordable hearing aids** and evaluations of how best to connect consumers to resources.
* Budget discussion: hearing aid funding, senior citizen specialists
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| Commissioner’s Report  | * MCDHH Updates from Commissioner, PowerPoint attached
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| Legislative Task Force | * Brock Cordeiro has created spreadsheet with current legislation (attached).
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| Next SAC Meeting | * April 27 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  |