

**ATEL Committee Meeting  
Public Utilities Commission  
September 12, 2013  
9:00 AM**

**Attendees:**

**Denise Corson, Courtenay Petracca, Joe Pereira, Harry Mancoll, Ellen Lenox Smith , Jeanne Panarace, Pam Kling, Jim Lanni, Ken McCarthy, and CART Reporter.**

**1. Minutes were reviewed. Jim Lanni made a motion to accept the minutes, and Ellen seconded.**

**2. Denise made some comments on some follow up from the minutes.**

**o ATEL sent out postcards with their new number to all of ATEL's clients over the last 10 years.**

**o Beth Slough, from WCI, read in the ATEL Committee notes that there was discussion regarding concerns shared by another state equipment distribution representative around First Street. We have done lots of testing (as has WCI) of First Street and they have done an outstanding job. However, based on feedback shared by state equipment programs, we have done the following things to make this better.**

**i. We have provided additional FAQ style scripts to First Street around the topic of amplification. Part of this includes how the phone is for people who need more than amplification, who can't**

disseminate speech, etc. With this, we will continue to fine-tune how all candidates are screened.

ii. We worked to adjust language around "flying off the shelves" and to be clear that a third party is involved on the call.

o Courtenay and Joe were unable to attend the last meeting to discuss advertising with Cox Communications, but Joe stated he would be in touch with Courtenay to look into what options are available.

3. ATEL Committee updates- James Litvack has started a new part-time position so was unable to attend the meeting. James is still considering other positions, so it is unclear on whether he will be able to chair future meetings. The Committee decided to wait until the next meeting to see if James' schedule remains the same, and then decide what changes we need to make to the committee; it was suggested we could elect a new chair or consider a change of time to accommodate James. Denise stated that we have four members coming up for renewal: Matthew Provost, Nancy Shuster, Pamela Kling and Laura Peterson. Nancy Shuster and Pamela Kling agreed to renew their terms. Laura Peterson resigned a few months back due to a scheduling conflict, and Jeanne Panarace agreed to replace her on the committee. Matthew Provost stated that he was unsure if he could renew his term due to now only working part-time at TechACCESS; therefore the committee is looking into a speech pathologist replacement. James wanted to know when the terms of the other members expired, and would like a copy of the members with their term expiration dates. Denise stated she would provide a

copy at the next meeting.

**4. CapTel Call Me number-** Courtenay stated that call me numbers are now available through Hamilton Relay. The Hamilton CapTel Call Me # is your personal phone number that makes it possible to receive captioned calls on your PC/Mac, Smartphone and Tablet with out using an 800#. You register your current cell phone number with Hamilton CapTel and they give you a new number that when used goes directly through a captioning operator anytime someone calls the Call Me #.

**5. Wireless Program/Legislative change-** Denise stated that there are currently 7 State Programs providing wireless devices, mostly through Sprint. Denise also stated that the TEDPA Conference is scheduled for the end of the month, and this is one of the topics states will be discussing. Last time we tried to have the legislation changes in 2012 the CDHH were also trying to get a few bills passed, none of which passed. However, the Emergency and Public Communication Access Program has now passed and is already part of Governor's Budget Plan for FY2014. Another bill the CDHH has already introduced is that Theaters with at least 10 screens must provide captioning and audio describing. Due to the fact that these other bills have already been introduced, the committee feels that this would be a good time to resubmit the minimal changes to the wording of the ATEL legislation to allow wireless technology. Denise stated she would work with James in resubmitting the bill for the Legislation session in January.

**6. Open Discussion –** The committee discussed the difficulty in

**getting sign language interpreters; you can only use interpreters that are licensed in RI, and many of them are booked at long-term assignments during the day, and are unavailable for short meetings. Although remote interpreting is an option, not everyone is comfortable using this service. Some of the reason that Jeanne stated there is a shortage of interpreters are that the RI standards are harder, 8 years of schooling needed, highly skilled profession, and advanced schooling is not offered in RI.**

**7. The time and date of next year's quarterly meetings: they are scheduled at 9AM- 11AM at the PUC: December 12th.**