Disclaimer: This is a translation of the VTAD November 7th 2020 Forum. It has not been thoroughly edited; however, it is a representation of the meeting conducted in ASL. Submitted by: Laura Siegel, VTAD Secretary.

John: Soon live.

Mark: Ready, let’s go ahead. It’s live now.

John: Shall I put the spotlight on you, Elena?

Elena: Sure, wait til I show up. Perfect, okay. Now I will go ahead.

Elena: Hello. I am the President… well, acting President and treasurer for the Vermont Association of the deaf. Welcome to our town hall that we are hosting. There are a few things we will cover. I will throw out what is on our agenda. Our goal is to be finished by 8:30pm. We might extend a bit longer. Please go ahead and make comments on our Facebook page. And the right people will respond to any questions or comments or concerns you may have. Okay? Important thing is each will explain. Give each other a few seconds to move on to the next speaker. Just need to give it time for them to be in the spotlight. Okay? We appreciate your patience. I will start off with the agenda. First, we will talk about the press conference, covid updates, captioning bill, hearing aid bill, director of deaf and hard of hearing services updates. Then VIRS will explain their updates. Vermont Co op will explain their updates. We will have… remember we did a survey. . .we will have update and results from that survey. Then we will have the president or treasurer elections. I will expand on that later. Then updates on NAD CORs. Okay?

Let’s start with the press conference. As you know we have had live interpreters on stage, sometimes with hearing interpreters, sometimes with DI. For the most part, it has been cool. I know sometimes we are short on interpreters. We either have DI or no DI. Sometimes we just have one and so there’s limited chances to switch back and forth. We try our best. If you have any concerns or feel something isn’t right about that interpreter. Or you see a need for improvement, please contact me or any of the board members. We can address your concerns regarding the press conferences. Now it seems like it’s Laura’s turn.

Laura: Hello My name is Laura Siegel. My sign name is (L hand shape on chest and wiggle the finger.) I am the secretary for the Vermont Association of the Deaf. There are a few things I will cover. First two things I will mentioned are the hearing aid bill and the open captioning bill. Back in February everything was going in the right direction but then covid happened. So legislation and the state house was closed therefore everything was put on hold. Then I learned last September, they met up again via Zoom to discuss those bills. Both bills (hearing aid and open captioning) were dropped. If you feel strongly about either bill, go ahead and contact your local representatives to support those bills again. The purpose of those two bills – for instance for the hearing aid one – you know how some insurance covers it, other don’t covers them. So most likely people must pay out of pocket but cannot afford it. So the bill will enforce insurances to cover them. Now for the open captioning bill – the purpose is – if you wanted to go to the movies anytime you want – that will enable that. Often, we find ourselves asking will the movie have captioning or not. The bill will always enforce captioning to be an option. The other thing I wanted to let you know about is the director of deaf and hard of hearing services. Before we did have two potential candidates and offered both the job but they both turned down the positions. The reason remains unknown. Right now, the state is going through a hiring freeze process. DAIL (Department of Aging Independent Living) Executive Director Monica Hutt has tried to convince the state to repost the job, so we can hire someone. She has been doing that since March and so far, no luck. As soon as she can post, I promise I will advertise the position again. Hopefully once that happens, our access to services will enhance. Now I just wanted to review a few updates relating to Covid. AS you know we are approaching to the holidays, many of us will be eager to leave the state and travel. The important thing is to remain safe. If you do, you have to self-quarantine for 14 days before you can “return” to civilization. Still the same practice with wearing masks, remaining six feet from others, and handwashing. We are very fortunate our state is green. That means many Vermonters are following the rules, so that’s good. Keep green, stay green. Both thumbs up! Now next, Kelly will present.

(Kelly was in the spotlight for a few seconds. Then Bill Bliss put into the spotlight.)

Bill: Hello my name is Bill Bliss. I am the coordinator for VIRS after few updates last August the new Advisory Council met for the first time. It’s a good group. The deaf community reps are John Pirione, Elena Shapiro, Bill Hudson and Will Pendlebury who's the chair for the council. That council’s goal is to improve services for the community. The council meet every six weeks to discuss concerns, issues, or problems with our service. how can we improve VIRS? At the last meeting the council voted to changes some rules. As you know the Yolanda Henry community fund pays for interpreters that are not covered by the ADA before that fund would pay only for family events. Now that has changed. Anything you need if not covered by ADA we can pay for interpreters for example, AA meetings as well as community clubs, local organizations, wherever you need an interpreter for. We can help with that. However, it is limited. You can request two times a year. That’s it. Each event is limited up to 4 hours. We hope to continue improving that fund by collecting donations so we can expand on services. VIRS is also trying to improve our computer system. We have a new software. It’s called Usked. Our process keeps changing. Some have improved, some need improvement. But we have continuously helped interpreters and the Deaf community have more access to interpreting services through VIRS. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact your representatives, John, Elena, Bill or Will. Or email or call VIRS. So thank you. Not sure who’s next.

(Spotlight is on Elena.)

Elena: John will talk about the survey’s results and expand on information we need. Is it your turn, John?

(Spotlight is on John.)

John: Hello Everyone! I am a VTAD member. I will be happy to share the survey Elena and I conducted this past summer. We did the survey and collected 34 responses. We reviewed and analyzed your comments. We appreciate you taking the time to respond. I just noticed someone commented (looking at the Zoom chat screen). I am also the VTAD liaison and thank you for reminding me. Okay, the survey that Elena and I sent out wasn’t enough. Why is that? The board did get a sense of what everyone had to say in comparison to what was being stated on the survey wasn’t the same. How the survey was designed was somewhat limited. It only asked 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Behind those numbers, what’s the narrative? That part was missing. Nevertheless, there are some good information. For example, there were two questions - What was the strength of interpreters and what was the challenges of interpreters? I could see what areas worked well and what areas did not work well. After reviewing those 34 responses, the majority responded that feedback is the issue and interpreters were not sufficiently open to feedback. That’s an important finding. This is consistent with the VTAD board members’ findings based on their interaction with the community. Other than this, the rest did not provide a sufficient information. For example, is it easy to request for an interpreter? The participant only choose a number between 1 and 5. If they pick 4, what does that really mean? If 3 was picked, what does that look like? What’s the story behind that? That’s problematic, but the survey was still a good start. Now our next step is to set up a town hall meeting so we can get together and communicate in our first language (ASL). With ASL, we could produce more and rich information. The other option is that, given that you are currently watching us, you can go ahead and share your story on Facebook. If you are not comfortable doing that, then you can contact Elena or me directly. What you can share is your experience with certain situations such as whether making a request is easy for you, is it challenging, or to whom do you make a request... Hold on let me look up another question. Elena.. Elena. What were the other question you wanted me to add? Okay, Elena is next.

(Spotlight on Elena.)

Elena: OK Many of the many of the questions were vague like for example do you know where to go to request for an interpreter? Many said in reply yes I do know how. There were just a lot of information missing. Like whom makes that request? Do you know where to go? If you have a doctor appointment, do you contact the hospital itself? You interact with VCIL and VCIL put in a request for you? DVAS? Many other organizations? SSA offices? It’s more of do YOU need an interpreter and need to request for one? And you know where or how to get one? For example, if you want to give feedback, did you addressed that interpreter to give feedback or not? If not, who should? That part is somewhat vague. That town hall open forum is intended for you to throw in all of your ideas/suggestions. The meeting for tonight is just for the presenters. You can add your comments onto Facebook. You will have opportunity to join via Zoom to discuss and share any concerns or questions. John, do you want to add anything?

(Spotlight on John.)

John: Thank you, Elena. We need more stories that would help us visualize the full picture and what it looked like. It's important for us to know, it's important for VIRS to know, it's important for all the interpreters to know too. Again, I am the VTRID facilitator too. I need to gather the information. It’s common in the community that will represent the community well. I will also communicate the information with VIRS. VIRS have their own survey which is fine. We within the community have real experiences as deaf people. That’s important and hopefully you take the time to comment on Facebook or join in the next community forum. OK, we appreciate you taking the time taking our survey and putting it together. It’s a good start! I think that’s it on my response regarding that. Now it’s Elena’s turn. Oh no. Sorry, it’s Kelly’s turn.

(spotlight on Kelly.)

Kelly: Perfect hello I'm Kelly Decker I'm one of the three people here representing Vermont Interpreting Co Op. myself, Lianne Moccia and David Krueger. The three of us are here to answer any questions. Let me take a step back to give you a general overview of what the Vermont Interpreting Co Op will look like. What will it look like here and the man we have many different Ave that you can request an interpreter and many different systems for example the hospital have their own system of requesting interpreter, the University (UVM) have their own system of requesting interpreters VIRS have their own system. Sometimes people will call interpreters directly to see if interpreters are available. for an doctor’s appointment or for work. When they call, sometime it works out and sometime I am booked and am unable to help. Typically when I am not available, I will contact other interpreters to see if they can fill in the gig. I would even show a list of other possible interpreters they can contact. It’s a lot of work. Why not use technology, use the Internet, use the website too. That will be in process of building the coop. We will show everything like who's involved, you are review the background of every interpreter and their values. It would be on the website so if someone has a preferred interpreter, they can put in the request right on the web. Before I go any further, Lianne.. David.. is there anything else you want to add? David, you want to add something?

(spotlight on David.)

David: I am David Kruegar. I am involved with the Co Op. It’s cool. It’s very transparent. Where if deaf need an interpreter. You can contact. There’s easier communication involved. Both deaf and hearing consumers. Then going through VIRS. VIRS seemed to be all over the place. The Co Op has better collaboration. It helped a lot, really cool.

(spotlight on Kelly.)

Kelly: We expect our website to go live in the beginning of 2021. It has been one year our group have meet up several times to discuss on what we need to show, etc. It’s a lot of work. I am hopeful the website will be available January/February. Then it will all work out. We are open to your feedback. If you see something that isn’t clear, please let us know. You feel we need to add more, please come on and give your feedback. Please let us know. We are open.

(spotlight on Lianne.)

Lianne: Hello I'm Lianne Moccia. I'm from New Hampshire but really my heart belonged to Vermont. I am involved with the coop I just want to let you know right now our group has 8 members. Before we had the whole state – all 25 but the number kept going down. Right now left overs are eight of us. We have meetings every month, we commit to the meetings and maintain clear communication about the decisions. All of our collaboration are equal. No one is supervising us. Our structure is a little bit different than other interpreting agencies. Once we have the website up and running, you will see our faces, where we live, our background plus some philosophy as well as our principle. It should be pretty simple, clear, direct, open, flexible hopefully we’ll see. So really any questions or any other comments?

(spotlight on Kelly.)

Kelly: Laura just sent me a message that someone on Facebook asked what the name of our website will be. Our website hasn’t gone live yet. When it becomes live, then we will spread out what its name will be. I don’t want to release it and encounter frustrations. We will release the information when it’s ready. I saw Elena raised her hand.

(spotlight on Elena.)

Elena: Perfect. More of a question. You know VIRS will screen out who will be ideal for consumers based on what they wrote for interpreters’ preferences and send out a request and book interpreters. Can you expand on what or how you will approach it differently?

(spotlight on Kelly.)

Kelly: David, do you want to answer that? David will answer that.

(spotlight on David.)

David: the Co Op’s mission is.. VIRS follow based on interpreters’ locations first, not preferred list. Co Op will do first. You request for an interpreter. We will work as a team to determine who is a better fit for the requestor. We try to work it out to match the job/the person. The discussion is more transparent. Best interpreter that match that job. Not just forcefully place a warm body to a job. That’s how we are different. We are proactive in our thinking process. Who’s available? Who’s a better fit? As soon as we know what the job is, we discuss who is a better fit for the job.

(spotlight on Kelly.)

Kelly: I think what helps about our group is everyone knows each other. Our skills, what they studied for many years. For example, math, if an interpreter is an expert at math, they should be the one interpreting that job. Obviously, they would be the best fit. Often times, interpreting agencies don’t know you area of expertise. That’s where we can place the most qualified interpreter. Lianne?

(spotlight on Lianne.)

Lianne: Thank you. One thing I should mentioned. The Co Op is a business trying to earn money. There’s no money involved. We each member pays for the phone, for the website but..earn money from the Co Op. No. None. How we collaborate to communicate with each other, how we are open for the Deaf community, how people can take advantage of a simple request for an interpreter. Our goal is Best Fit. Different model, different structure. Share responsibly, share duties. No power involved. We share everything. Thumb up!

(spotlight on Elena.)

Elena: Ok. Laura, I am wondering maybe someone on Facebook has questions. Have you been monitoring? Nothing yet? Okay, I will go ahead with the next topic.

Remember I encourage you who just presented VIRS, Co Op, Laura explained, John explained about. Election, bills, deaf and hard of hearing director. Any questions, concerns, want to bring up, you should go ahead and comment, so we can respond after this. We want to be able to address and answer your questions and concerns. Now we are going to talk about the election. The reason I am bringing this up is due when we picked all of the officers last fall. Bam! Covid happened! A lot of issues started popping up. It became overwhelming. The former president didn’t feel he was a good fit for the job. So I took over as the acting President temporarily with the goal of picking a new President. I hope some people will volunteer. I will explain how this work. What we will now do: those of you who are interested. You can nominate yourself or someone else. That’s up to you. Mention a name. Please at tag their name.

So others can respond for example. I nominate someone and that person respond accept perfect. That means whoever accept will take over specifically on Zoom and be allowed to present why they should become president such as their skills, etc. etc. We will use a poll through Zoom for folks to vote right there and then. If no one nominates anyone, no one is interested in becoming President. Then you can vote me ACL to bump up as President. That will mean my position as treasurer will be vacant. You can then go ahead with your nominations to replace me. For this term, there is just one year left. The new election for all officers will be held next year. Based on my experience on what I have seen, I really encourage those who have been involved with nonprofit organizations, who participated in different agencies. Particularly those who know how to run and propose bills or concerns to legislatives.

Like in the beginning of this year, people brought up issues of no captioning, no interpreters on TV. Next no CDI, we needed to add DI. That kind of thing. That would be the president’s role to advocate and write up official letters with the support from the board and discuss and make things happens. I would like to see if I can nominate someone. For President I would nominate Erin Sanders. Erin can comment on Facebook whether she accept or not. That’s up to you. Then we will be monitoring who is being nominated. Then we can decide from there. For treasurer. If true biz we need a treasurer. That is if I bump up as President. The treasurer must have a background with money. Experience with fundraising or have a background in finance. That role is big. Every year must file tax for, must submit a nonprofit agenda for the state to maintain our non profit status that include tax exemption for purchases, also have to make sure we remain active under the state of Vermont. It’s a lot of responsibility plus that person MUST go to every VTAD event. They would be responsible for collecting money, reporting for example if we have a fall dinner, they would have to collect money and make a spreadsheet how many showed up, how many kids total, how much we spent on food, balance, profit, deduct, that kind of thing. At every meeting, must give update where we are at with fundings. If there’s anything we need to add or deduct. Just keep us updated. That’s the expectation of the treasurer. I see Laura is commenting who is being nominated. I will let Laura take the spotlight. Laura, go ahead and share.

(spotlight on Laura.)

Laura: Hello I will just repeat what people said on Facebook. So far, Tressah Dimaria nominated Jessica Norton to become the treasurer. Jessica Norton nominated Elena to become president. Ron Chaffee nominated Elena to become president. Jessica mentioned not Erin because she doesn’t go to VTAD events and not reliable. Tressah nominated Elena to be president. That’s what I have seen being posted so far.

(spotlight on John.)

John: Hello! Those who are nominating – that’s fine, please refrain from making comments. Just nominations. Making direct comments toward people – no no. Save that for later. Let’s focus on elections. Then we can include a discussion about people afterwards. Now just nominations. Name, accept. Name, accept. Comment, none. Okay?

(spotlight on Elena.)

Elena: Thank you for the nominations. I will wait. I will nominate someone. Other people might nominate someone else. Give them an opportunity to nominate and then we will host the next election Then each nominee who accept will need present their part why they should be selected. well they could be picked and then I will stay as the treasure if I bump up to become the president then I will need the treasurer to present and vote right there. Very soon after this. I need for you to nominate the treasurer if needed. I can’t think of anything else right now. Feel free to nominate. With that, I will transfer onto the next topic – NAD COR. Mary and Mary will summarize and explain what happened and the roles of each, identify the top five results. While they are presenting, feel free to comment and nominate. We will scroll up and go through your postings. Okay. Next to Mark. Oh. Laura? Laura?

(spotlight on Laura.)

Laura: I am curious to know who are the VTAD representatives? I will clarify. Right now sign name (E wiggle down from forehead) Elena is the acting president and treasurer. Who is the VP? Fs-Mark Tarno. Who is the secretary? Me obviously.

If you’re sick of me posting vlogs or resources on Facebook, I would appreciate any feedback you can spare. If you think it’s too much or if there’s anything you would like to see, let me know. I want to make sure you’re all satisfied. Representative at Large for North (pause for a moment) fs-Mary Sloan. Representatives at Large for South sign name Nick fs-Nick Lalanne Amaryah fs-Amaryah Pendlebury- Will Pendlebury’s wife. Those are the VTAD reps. Next I guess is Mary and Mark.

(spotlight to Elena.)

Elena: One more. Fs-John Pirione. He’s also our Rep at large and he’s also our liaison between VTAD and VTRID. Any issues he hears at VTRID meetings he brings to VTAD. Now Mark has the stage.

(spotlight to Mark.)

Mark: Hello everyone I'm the vice president VTAD so me, Mary Sloan and Bill Millios the three of us we have attended to NAD meetings for almost three weeks Since October first, we went from meeting to meeting to meeting back to back I have met a lot of different people about 138 delegates. It was a good one. I missed the last five. I don’t know about those. She’s the one that knows everything. Go ahead, Mary. Thumb up!

(spotlight to Mary.)

Mary: Hello Everyone. My name is Mary Sloan. Like Mark just mentioned, the three of us attended NAD (National Association of the Deaf) first biennial conference all online through Zoom. All of the priorities were determined. All 138 delegates I would say more than 138 but not lower than 128 so that they are attended five days worth for over one month. Long meetings but worthwhile. The 1st one Achieving Equality in Deaf Education 2nd Campaign to spotlight adverse impacts of language deprivation 3rd Dismantling Racism in the Deaf Community 4th Eliminating Barriers to Quality Care for Deaf Seniors and 5th foster care bill of rights I will give the forum to Mark.

(spotlight to Mark.)

Mark: Those are the five. If you need more information, let us know. We can give out more details. I think that’s all for now. Both thumbs up! Back to Elena. Oh Mary?

(spotlight on Elena.)

Elena: We will give the spotlight to Mary soon. It would really help if you could expand on those five CORS. What do they mean? Please?

(spotlight on Mary.)

Mary: Achieving for deaf education can get quality equal education and all that fair fit among their hearing peers hearing culture deaf culture different languages to admit all equal but they have access to language access to communication access to equipment that's the goal the 2nd campaign to spotlight. That one. Whereas some kids will be born from day one to age 5 during that time period don’t have understanding of language nothing. So try to give more exposure for that time period. Hearing parents, deaf parents. Just focus on giving language to kids. Give more information about that. The third is dismantle racism. That is give us tools to help our community to stop racism. For example, if you see a person who is black or have colored skin. Criticizing them or scolding them is a no no. try to dismantle that. To avoid insulting and rejecting people. To be more openly inclusive of our deaf community deaf blind. All inclusive. Fourth one eliminates quality care for deaf seniors. Have access for more information like where are the nursing homes or memory care or doctors on how to communicate with deaf senior citizens. For example, from NAD’s example. One person has the ability to sign and everything but when someone is speaking directly at that person. Truly have a full understanding of the context. Probably not. Feels like a barrier alone. Senior citizens should feel free to communicate freely at ease. Normally they sit quietly. If in a hospital or dying, want to be able to communicate, their last dying word. Die in peace. That would help senior citizen patients. Another example is having a checklist for their medical rights. Now last foster care bill of rights – that is for children in foster care system. Some parents don’t understand how to communicate with their kids. Bring in an interpreter. Empower the child’s right on how to communicate. For example, deaf people have rights to communicate. What about the child? No rights. Try to set up one for kids in foster care. That’s all I have. More information on the whole list of priorities on listed on NAD’s website. Thank you. Next to Elena?

(spotlight to John.)

John: I have a question. Thank you, Mark and Mary for the CORs. One of them is about language deprivation. That’s my area of research and the issue is so important to me. I have been doing research on this for a long time. I have been wondering about Vermont. I did some research and found that there are 500 deaf and hard of hearing students K to 12 altogether. Only 3 or 4 of them have interpreters. That’s worrisome. Does that mean the remaining 400 don’t sign? It’s possible that those have some “hearing loss”. It’s also possible that those are hard of hearing. We can’t rule out a possibility that there are those who are profoundly deaf. I wonder how many of them. My question is…well, I am new here. I am in my fourth year in VT. I am curious about VTAD’s efforts with deaf education. I am eager to get involved in advocating for educational rights and I want to make sure that there is no language deprivation. I want to contribute my current research to help with advocacy efforts. I want to help frame the issue so that the administration, which oversees education in VT, understands the root of the issue (language deprivation) such as audism, linguicism, and racism. This is a framework that may give the administration a better picture instead of using the legal framework such as ADA. The administration is too familiar with the ADA and the ADA already has flaws. We need to change the way the administration sees the issue that it’s about systemic oppression. I am curious about VTAD’s past and current actions concerning Deaf education. It’ll help me determine what kind of support I can offer.

(spotlight on Mary.)

Mary: John. Right now. On the national level just voted on language deprivation. So Bill Millios who attended the conference with us. He strongly favored it and so did I. We need accessibility to language. Those who don't have communication from day one from the day they are born that's where we got lost they act like caveman no we need to communicate so I asked freedom of state freedom to speak all of those understanding language that's why I favored it to activate that and I stayed up on mine and also to help achieve our deaf education right now we don't have a desk or another man those take 400 something only 4 have interpreters 400 where are their rights their vice to have language where to buy to learn ways to communicate they tried to put it I'm willing to work with you John if you want I had contact information for nad I can get more help to contact me anytime or leave a message or comment on Facebook I will get back to you as soon as possible thumbs up who's next and then.

(Spotlight on Elena.)

Elena: I was part of the delegate for NAD in Hartford CT three years ago two years ago I can't remember NAD CORs are the top five I saw it education and language deprivation those topic comes up again and again and again and cleared during the rest the cooler but with the comments were frustrated did and move on any of their people do anything? because it feels like it's a recurring issue mark? mary?

(spotlight on Mary.)

Mary: Right now from what I remember..from the cor meetings most people were frustrated. Of course. There is also a task force for language deprivation language is part of education they are continuously working on it too. They have a committee under NAD. 20 states have language equality. VT don’t have it. We do have resource for advocacy in education. Nick is one of them. He isn’t on tonight. He’s one of the educational advocate on deaf equality. Mark?

(spotlight on Mark.)

Mark: in those meetings, we have an intensive discussion about the following three: senior care, education, language deprivation. Exactly what Elena said – the same thing yeah. Repeat again and again.

(spotlight on John.)

John: I will offer a comment, but when I am done with that, I want to address Erin’s question about our (VTAD) goals concerning systemic oppression.   
  
Now regarding education, what you (Mary) have been discussing refers to LEAD-K. That’s what is happening all over the country. This is great and it’s important that NAD is doing this.

Does that mean we should wait for NAD to act? No, we don’t have to. We can start at our local level. That is what I had been wondering what has been done. Educational issues have popped up from time to time. In fact, two parents have reached out to me because I work at the university in the ASL/Deaf Studies program. They have asked me for help. They had shared their in-depth experience and it’s just wow. The school (where their kid attended) horribly oppressed their child. It’s not simply a wrong type of accommodation or an incorrect placement. It’s a serious barrier that had a severe effect. The school refused to provide an interpreting service and I found it to be so appalling. I was wondering about outside support such as nonprofit organizations doing advocacy, but they did not get involved at all. The issues did not only occur at the district level, but also at the state level – I refer to the Agency of Education. AoE did not truly understand the magnitude of the issues. What I’ve shared is from one family. Nicholas Lalanne, who is an educational advocate, mentioned another family with similar issues. One family, who contacted me, informed me that there are more parents out there who face similar issues. About two months ago, the parent, whom I corresponded with, filed a complaint with the AOE and they became interested in learning more about the issue. Yet, I have not followed up. I don’t know if they have gathered information. So, given that there’s momentum, we should capitalize upon it to push our advocacy efforts. It’s something to think about. Me? Erin said…Oh, Mary wants to say something…

(spotlight on Mary.)

Mary: What was Erin’s question just to clarify?

(spotlight on John.)

John: Erin said. The point is about language deprivation. What is VTAD’s goal regarding systemic oppression that causes language deprivation? All of other types of oppression that Deaf Vermonters face. What’s the current goal VTAD has in this regard? I don’t know because I am new. Anybody? Mary, okay?

(spotlight on Mary.)

Mary: Okay. Relating to oppression and language deprivation. The dramatic system now DTD bill is having a meeting soon back right now we just finish NAD conference last weekend 24th was the last day at the conference so we haven't had a board meeting to catch up we just wanna let everyone know what's going on about those five cors so I will update everyone to be active with these five priorities in the state of Vermont OK thank you. Next to Laura?

(spotlight on Elena.)

Elena: Laura? Jessica said there have been some frustration with NWMC with refusing to provide interpreters specifically in ER. Joan said there has been deaf blind isolation issues? Laura wants to respond to that deaf blind thing.

(spotlight on Laura.)

Laura: Thank you. Let's try to let you know independent living in one of my project and focusing on it deafblind services all over the state. I recently had a meeting in September with a lot of key players from Vermont Blind Association, VR, HKNC New England Representative. All parties included shared feedback and suggestions on how we can start SSP services again. Just wanted to be clear so you know back in 2014 Austine was still in operation one person had a grant to start training and getting started on SSP programs going but unfortunately one person under VCDHH started to distribute the money for other programs and the funds for SSP services fell through the crack to I'm trying to figure out how to get the ball rolling. I am working on it and also I'm already made the suggestion for a community fund like the Yolanda Henry fund under VCIL but need to add a name in honor of someone still working on it nothing is set in stone yet but I'm working on it trying to make it happen.

(spotlight on Elena.)

Elena: So that pretty much wrapped everything up I will attend Hall I'm looking forward to my Marion very nice presentation but we didn't really have an audience that I'm thinking for the next one when we do have our next town half for president flat treasurer however it it will be open anyone with June can drawn on, and move your heart that this was the first time I learn something better to help people uncommon so going forward please back to video again ask question everyone who presented today will respond to your question if they're not here now or they don't respond tonight they will respond by tomorrow I want to thank everyone for awesome novak's comments that's wrap it up thank everyone for joining us tonight have a great evening live off