

Meeting Minutes: Advisory Committee Statewide Meeting

Dates:

- Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 3, 2025, 10 a.m. to noon

Location: Zoom

State Services updates

- Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing State Services: A Year in Review. See separate attached handout.

American Red Cross presentation

- Laura Garves from American Red Cross provided a presentation. Handouts are attached separately.

Advisory Committee members

- Lack of real-time captioning (CART) in medical facilities in Duluth but member would like to see issue addressed statewide.
- A member asked for support for getting replacement hearing aids for a child who broke and lost theirs when insurance denies coverage.
- Minnesota Hands and Voices shared updates on their events.
- A member asked about resources for supporting families and students with telehealth speech therapy classes.
- A member expressed support for interpreter licensure to ensure consistent quality and accountability. This issue is in the scope of the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (the Commission). This feedback was shared with them.

- A member asked about a statewide mandate requiring that closed captioning is always enabled in public spaces. From the Commission's website: Closed captioning mandate in public places. All public places of accommodation displaying televisions to the public are required to enable closed captions, effective August 1, 2024. If you encounter non-compliance with this mandate, please reach out to State Services.
- A member recommended that one of the MnSCU schools offer a bachelor's degree in Deaf Education. The member noted that currently Minnesota only offers a master's program at the University of Minnesota, which limits the pipeline of new teachers when there is a shortage. Addressing this is in the Commission's scope. This was shared with them.
- A member expressed concern that language deprivation persists in Minnesota leaving far too many children without equitable access to language during their critical years of development. Addressing this is in the Commission's scope. This was shared with them.
- Minnesota Wild Deaf/Hard of Hearing program is open to all ages and skills level. More information is available on the website: mnwilddeafhockey.com/
- Sonny Wasilowski shared that he is the alumni/deaf/deafblind communities' representative on the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf Site Council. He can be contacted on any topic related to MSAD at sonny.wasilowski@msa.state.mn.us.

Next meetings

Metro AC: Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 9-11 a.m. – Kelly Scherf

West Central AC: Friday, May 1, 2026, Noon-2 p.m. – Judy Leach

East Central AC: Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. – Judy Leach

South AC (Southwest and Southeast Region): Friday, May 8, 2026, 10 a.m.-Noon – Calla Kevan

Northern AC (Northeast, Northwest and Upper Northwest Region): Friday, May 15, 2026, 9-11 a.m. – Jerry Geist and Anne Janckila