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**Task Force on Health Services for Individuals Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Meeting Five Summary  
Friday, July 19, 2019  
North Carolina Institute of Medicine, Morrisville, NC  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

The meeting agenda can be accessed using this [LINK](#)

A detailed transcript of the meeting's proceedings can be accessed using this [LINK](#)

**Attendees**

**Co-Chairs:** Mark Benton, David Rosenthal

**Task Force Members:** Steve Barber, Ashley Benton, Julie Bishop, Crystal Bowe, Hank Bowers, Eileen Carter, Sam Clark, Shelly Cristobol, Cal Cunningham, Jennifer Gill, Beth Hathaway, Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke, Donna Nicholson, Ronda Owens, Lawrence Shockey, Mellissa Speck, Kathie Smith, Vickie Smith, Brad Trotter, Tovah Wax

**Steering Committee:** Corye Dunn, Lee Williamson, Jan Withers

**Speakers:** Tony Davis, Lise Hamlin, Nicholas Reed

**Guests:** Holly Riddle, Andrew Zavaleta

**NCIOM Staff:** James Coleman, Rob Kurzydowski, Berkeley Yorkery, Adam Zolotor

**Introductions/ Task Force Meeting Four Debrief**

**Mark Benton**

Deputy Secretary for Health Services  
NC Department of Health and Human Services

**David Rosenthal**

*Director (Retired)*  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division  
Minnesota Department of Human Services



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**Adam Zolotor, M.D., DrPH**  
*President and CEO*  
North Carolina Institute of Medicine

Task Force Co-Chairs Mark Benton and David Rosenthal began with introductions. During introductions, every meeting attendee stated their name, title, and organization. After introductions, Mr. Rosenthal and Dr. Zolotor provided a debrief of the Fourth Task Force meeting.

### **Accommodations for Hard of Hearing Residents in Long Term Care**

**Tony Davis, MSW**  
*Hard of Hearing Services Coordinator*  
Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
NC Department of Health and Human Services

The first presentation of the day was from Tony Davis, Hard of Hearing Services Coordinator for the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Mr. Davis provided an overview of the different types of assistive listening devices, different funding options for said devices, barriers to funding, and potential policy recommendations to increase utilization of these devices in long term care facilities.

[Davis Presentation Link](#)

### **Communication Access for People Who Have a Hearing Loss in Health Care and Long-Term Care**

**Lise Hamlin**  
*Director of Public Policy*  
Hearing Loss Association of America

The second presentation of the day was from Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy for the Hearing Loss Association of America. To start off, Ms. Hamlin talked about the history of HLLA, the work that they do, and provided some background information on hearing loss, the ADA, and section 504 rules related to communication access. She also provided an overview of different policy solutions to improve communication access for the hard of hearing.

[Hamlin Presentation Link](#)



### **Discussion: Draft Recommendations**

**Robert Kurzydowski Jr., JD, MPH**

*Project Director*

North Carolina Institute of Medicine

After Ms. Hamlin's presentation, Robert Kurzydowski facilitated a large group discussion focused on developing recommendations based upon presentations and dialogs around long-term care during the 4<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting. Topics discussed included hearing screenings, the role of audiologists in long term care, regulation of long-term care facilities, universal design, and the education of providers on the linkage/similar presentation of symptoms between hearing loss and chronic diseases. After discussion, the Task Force took a break for lunch.

### **Promoting Hearing Health in Older Adults**

Following lunch, the last presentation of the day was from Dr. Nicholas Reed an Assistant Professor at John Hopkins University. Dr. Reed talked to the Task Force about his research around hearing-related hearing loss, the consequences of hearing loss in older adults, and how age-related hearing loss can be addressed. He also gave some examples of hospital-based hearing programs at John Hopkins designed to identify hearing loss among patients and community-based intervention.

[Reed Presentation Link](#)

### **Discussion: Draft Recommendations (cont.)/ Next Steps**

**Robert Kurzydowski Jr., JD, MPH**

*Project Director*

North Carolina Institute of Medicine

After Dr. Reed's presentation, Mr. Kurzydowski facilitated a continuation of the Draft Recommendations discussion from earlier in the day. After the recommendation discussion wrapped up, Mr. Kurzydowski ended the day by looking forward to the 6<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. During the 6<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting, we will hear from Mark Payne from the Department of Health Services Regulations, and Ashley Benton from the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. After presentations from Mr. Payne and Ms. Benton, the 6<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting will be focused on discussion surrounded on draft recommendations.