

# Meeting Summary for D-AFN Collaborative Workgroup Session

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## Quick recap

The meeting served as an introduction and check-in session for participants focused on disability inclusion and accessibility, with representatives from various organizations sharing their experiences and backgrounds. The group discussed challenges and solutions related to accessibility in different settings, including workplace accommodations, transportation, and resource availability for people with disabilities. The conversation ended with plans to review and compile video recordings of future meetings while emphasizing the importance of disability rights and access, with participants agreeing to reconvene on July 21st.

## Next steps

- [Barbara: Share the 7-page resource list for MS and Parkinson's patients in the Palouse area with the group](#)
- [Tim & Liz: Review and compile video recordings from both June 2nd and current meeting to create a compilation video with highlights and individual speaker presentations](#)
- [Tim: Create a "sizzle reel" of the video content that provides a good cross-sampling of stories shared](#)
- [Liz: Complete transcription of the shared stories portions of the meetings for video accessibility](#)
- [All attendees: Reconvene for next meeting on July 21st at 4:30](#)

## Summary

### ASL Meeting Setup and Protocol

The meeting began with introductions and technical setup for an ASL (American Sign Language) channel, with Tom managing the logistics and Sarah serving as the primary host. Liz discussed the format of the meeting, noting that participants often join at different times and emphasized the importance of welcoming new attendees. She also mentioned that David, a deaf regular who sometimes voices for himself, might attend. The group discussed the possibility of Tom presenting an accessibility introduction slide, which he agreed to do. Liz and Sarah agreed that it was helpful for Liz to announce new participants joining the meeting to ensure proper connection and visibility. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about video work, where Tim explained that he had only begun parsing recorded content and had not yet conducted a detailed analysis.

### Disability Inclusion and Accessibility Initiative

The meeting served as an introduction and check-in session for participants, including representatives from various organizations and individuals with disabilities. Participants shared their backgrounds, roles, and experiences, emphasizing the importance of disability inclusion and

accessibility. The group discussed the impact of federal changes and the need to continue working on equitable access and emergency preparedness. Liz Clement, who is facilitating the meeting in place of the departed Nilofer, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn and collaborate with the group.

### **Improving Accessibility Through Shared Experiences**

Liz facilitated a discussion about sharing experiences with disabilities and accessibility, emphasizing the goal of honoring participants' stories to help DOH employees learn and improve their work. Phang shared her experience as a guardian for her brother with schizophrenia, highlighting issues with the court system's communication about financial collections, and suggested improvements to the information transfer process between agencies.

### **Parkinson's and MS Resource Guide**

Barbara discussed her efforts to compile a comprehensive resource list for people with Parkinson's and MS in the Palouse area, which now spans seven pages and includes information on specialists, therapists, and support services. She offered to share this list with others who might find it useful, particularly those working in the region or serving consumers there. Barbara emphasized the importance of clear communication and access to resources for individuals facing these challenges, noting her own experience of navigating the healthcare system without adequate support after her diagnosis.

### **Parkinson's Dance Group Event Impact**

Barbara shared her experience organizing an event featuring a film about a Morris Dance group that helps people with Parkinson's disease, which led to the establishment of a dance group for people with Parkinson's and MS. Todd highlighted his importance of networking and information sharing in connecting people with resources. Alyssa, who recently left her role, joined the meeting briefly to say hello and confirmed she would attend the next meeting on July 21st.

### **Challenges of Disability Disclosure**

David shared his experiences as a deaf person navigating workplace and social interactions, highlighting the challenges of disclosing disabilities and the assumptions others make about people with disabilities. He emphasized the importance of providing accommodations without assuming which specific supports individuals need, and stressed that people with disabilities often need to protect their privacy about their conditions due to potential negative consequences in professional settings. David concluded that meeting organizers should provide comprehensive accessibility measures for all participants rather than making assumptions about individual needs.

### **Balancing Accessibility in Meeting Spaces**

David discussed the importance of providing equal access to all meeting participants without requiring advance notice of disabilities, while acknowledging that accommodations for one person might inadvertently hinder others. He emphasized the need for creativity and understanding when balancing accessibility needs, as perfect solutions are not always possible. Liz shared her experience moderating a session on neurodiversity, highlighting the importance of

understanding that different accommodations work for different people. The group discussed the challenges of balancing accessibility needs in meetings, with Todd and Jesse sharing personal experiences of working in inclusive environments and the importance of open communication about accommodations.

### **Enhancing Grocery Store Accessibility**

The group discussed accessibility challenges in grocery stores, with Jesse sharing his experience of difficulty finding attendants and suggesting automated vending machines for easier shopping. Laura from Hopelink presented a project exploring transportation for people needing rides after medical procedures, highlighting legal and insurance risks, and mentioned a potential storytelling project to share findings with policymakers. Todd emphasized Laura's expertise and connection to the group's work, while Jim shared insights on interpreter challenges and the importance of accurate representation. Liz contributed a metaphor about growth through difficult environments, reinforcing the theme of perseverance in accessibility efforts.

### **Video Meeting Compilation Strategy**

Liz and Tim discussed their plan to review and compile video recordings of meetings, focusing on creating a "sizzle reel" to highlight key points while preserving full versions for future use. They emphasized the importance of accessibility and noted that Tim, who is retiring, will collaborate with Liz on this project before his departure. The group acknowledged the challenges of working with limited resources and expressed a commitment to learning and improving their video production efforts.

### **Disability Rights and Accessibility Challenges**

The meeting focused on the importance of disability rights and access, with Todd and David sharing experiences of how laws like the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act are often ignored despite being in place for decades. David shared a specific example from Clark County where accessibility needs were not met during a public Zoom meeting, highlighting ongoing challenges in implementing disability rights. The discussion concluded with an emphasis on the positive progress made in the US compared to other countries, with participants agreeing to meet again on July 21st at 4:30.

AI can make mistakes. Review for accuracy.