



## TARGETED ACCESSIBILITY FUND OF NEW YORK

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### Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 14, 2006

**\* Approved by Board May 9, 2006\***

**Board Members Present:** Patricia Knapp (Chairperson), Susan Zimmermann (Secretary/Treasurer), Mary Burgess, Gregg Collar, John Sutphen, and Garnet Goins.

**Others Present:** Lou Piazza (TAF Manager), James Kittleman (PSC),

- I. Patricia Knapp, chairperson, called the meeting to order and took role call. A quorum was present, including two proxy votes, and the meeting proceeded.
- II. The Board reviewed the minutes of the November 16, 2005 Board Meeting. John Sutphen made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Gregg Collar, and they were unanimously approved by the Board.
- III. Lou Piazza reviewed the status reports for the months of October through December 2005. Lou discussed the fact that the revenues have been trending down and then provided the Board with an Assessable Revenue trend report for 1999 – 2005. Susan Zimmermann made a motion that the status reports be accepted and Mary Burgess seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
- IV. Lou Piazza reported on the expense reports for October through December 2005. Susan Zimmermann the Board's new Treasurer said that she and Lou went over detailed financial reports and she was satisfied with that review. Lou provided some additional highlights of the monthly reports as well. Susan Zimmermann made a motion that the expense reports be accepted. John Sutphen seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the motion.
- V. Lou Piazza provided a status update on the Telephone Relay Service (TRS):
  - a. Lou informed the Board that the Relay Advisory Board met on February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Syracuse. In addition, the TAF petition that was presented to the NYS PSC to add members to the Relay Advisory Board was approved at the December 19, 2005 PSC Session. A copy of the Order was sent to all Board members. A summary of the approved Order was as follows:
    1. Expand the Board by five members. One from the hard of hearing community, one from the speech impaired community, one CLEC, one additional ILEC, and the current Relay Provider as a non voting member. (To date only one member has joined the Relay Advisory Board. That person is from the NYS Association of the Self Help

for Hard of Hearing People and Lou is investigating other group's participation.)

2. Appoint organizations to represent the user community.
  3. Restrict members of the Advisory Board from working directly or indirectly with TRS competitors of the current TRS Provider.
  4. Member organizations representing user communities be reviewed by Industry and PSC Staff every three years.
  5. Advisory Board members be residents of the State.
- b. Lou informed the Board that he received a letter from Mr. Robert Mayer – NYS PSC Director of Communications advising that the PSC is evaluating the cost and benefits of caption telephone service with the possibility of incorporating that service into the NYS Relay. He is requesting that TAF Administration submit a detailed cost projection and benefit analysis for caption telephone service, along with any other issues that may be applicable. A response is due by month's end. Lou has been working with the TAF Ad Hoc Relay Committee on the response. Lou provided a copy of Mr. Mayer's letter to the Board. Pat Knapp asked Lou to provide a draft copy of the response to each Board member by February 21<sup>st</sup> for their review and comments. Comments are due back to Lou by February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mary Burgess suggested and the Board agreed that the letter contain a statement that "the position and opinions reflected in the letter do not necessarily reflect the position of the companies and organizations represented by the members of the TAF Board". Lou also informed the Board that comments to the FCC's Public Notice on mandating Captioned Telephone Relay Service have been filed by responding parties. The exception is that the NYSPSC may also request comments on this subject in a possible future proceeding.
- VI. Lou read the letter of appreciation that will be mailed to Barbara Bouton (former Board Member) thanking her for the dedication and service to TAF. Lou will mail it out along with a gift.
- VII. Lou informed the Board that the letter sent to all TAF Participants informing them of the new TAF website and its monthly reporting ability resulted in an increase in usage for monthly input by the companies via the website
- VIII. Pat Knapp requested that Lou research the By-Laws on the requirements of replacing MCI (whose represents CLEC industry segment) as a Board member and let the Board know his findings. Pat Knapp, Mary Burgess and Gregg Collar will form a Ad Hoc group to address the replacement procedure for the Board.
- IX. The Board agreed that the August 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting be held at the NY Relay Center, in Syracuse and that a tour of the Relay Center be conducted. Lou will get details (i.e. directions, motels and the like) by the next meeting.

- X. The next scheduled Board meeting is Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup> in Albany at the Pool/NYSTA conference room at 10 A.M.