1	BEFORE THE					
2	FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION					
3	In the Matter of:					
4		DOCKET NO. 140029-TP				
5	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR RELAY SERVICE, BEGINNING IN JUNE 2015, FOR THE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, DEAF/BLIND, OR SPEECH IMPAIRED, AND OTHER IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FLORIDA TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS					
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10	SYSTEM ACT OF 1991.	·/				
11	PROCEEDINGS:	TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS SYSTEM ACT				
12	TAKEN AT THE	ADVISORY COMMITTEE				
13	INSTANCE OF:	The Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission				
14	DATE:	Thursday, October 29, 2015				
15	TIME:	Commenced at 1:30 p.m.				
16	11111.	Concluded at 3:10 p.m.				
17	PLACE:	Gerald L. Gunter Building Room G-105 2540 Esplanade Way				
18	. III.					
19		Tallahassee, Florida				
20	REPORTED BY:	LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR Official FPSC Reporter				
21		(850) 413-6734				
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FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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1	APPEARANCES:
2	JEFF BRANCH
3	JAMES FORSTALL
4	MAGGIE SCHOOLAR
5	JIM SKJEVELAND
6	CHERYL RHODES
7	RICK KOTTLER
8	CURTIS WILLIAMS
9	JEFF BATES
10	PAMELA PAGE
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## PROCEEDINGS

MR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm

Curtis Williams with the Office of Telecommunications,

and I'll be chairing today's meeting. We're going to go

ahead and get started if everyone's ready here.

Joining me is Jeff Bates, who is also with the Office of Telecommunications, and Pam Page, who is with the Office of General Counsel here at the Public Service Commission.

Everyone should have received a copy of the meeting agenda, so at this time we will just proceed with the agenda as printed.

The first thing I would like to do is have our attorney, Pam Page, read the notice.

MS. PAGE: Welcome, and good afternoon.

Pursuant to notice issued, this time, date, and place were set for this meeting of the Telecommunications

Access System Act Advisory Committee in Docket

No. 140029-TP.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms. Page.

Before we proceed, I would like to cover a few preliminary matters. First, the transcript will be made of today's meeting and provided to all TASA members. Also, please remember to state your name when speaking for the court reporter for the record.

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Please silence all your cell phones during today's 1 meeting. And for those on the phone, we ask that 2 3 you please put your phone on mute until you're ready to speak so we don't get interference here in the 4 5 conference room. At this time I'd like to go ahead and take 6 7 appearances. We will start with the individuals here and then proceed with those that are on the 8 9 telephone, so we can start with Jeff. 10 MR. BRANCH: Hello. My name is Jeff Branch. I'm with Sprint. 11 12 MR. FORSTALL: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is James Forstall. I'm with FTRI. 13 14 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. For phone 15 participants, please state your name and who you're representing. We can go ahead and start with you, 16 17 Ms. Schoolar, since you were the first on, I believe. 18 MS. SCHOOLAR: Absolutely. Hello, everyone. 19 Maggie Schoolar from Sprint. 20 MR. SKJEVELAND: And this is Jim Skjeveland 21 from Sprint. 22 MR. WILLIAMS: Do we have anyone else 23 participating by phone? 24 MS. RHODES: Yes. This is Cheryl Rhodes, and 25 I am a representative for the Deaf/Blind Association,

1	the Florida Deaf/Blind Association.
2	MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Cheryl, and welcome.
3	MR. KOTTLER: Also this is Rick Kottler with
4	DSCA.
5	MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Rick. Can you
6	define the acronym, please?
7	MR. KOTTLER: Yes. Sure. Sorry about that.
8	That's the Deaf Service Center Association.
9	MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
10	Do we have anyone else participating by
11	phone?
12	Okay. Hearing none, again, welcome,
13	everyone, and thank you for your participation. At
14	this time we'll go ahead and proceed with the
15	presentations. Jeff Bates will provide an FCC
16	update, and I will provide an update on the Florida
17	Public Service Commission.
18	We will then have a presentation by James
19	Forstall with FTRI on their annual report, followed
20	by Jeff Branch's update on Sprint Relay service in
21	Florida. Mr. Bates.
22	MR. BATES: Good afternoon, Mr. Branch,
23	Mr. Forstall.
24	Just a brief reminder on FCC number versus
25	DA number on orders. Decisions are issued in two

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different ways: By the authority of the entire

Commission with each Commissioner voting or by

authority delegated to the bureaus and offices of

the Commission.

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If a decision is decided by the Commission, it is identified by an FCC number. The FCC number is comprised of two digits indicating the year and a number of up to three digits indicating the sequence such as FCC 08-138. If a decision is issued through authority delegated to the FCC bureaus and offices, it is identified by a DA number, a delegated authority number. The DA number is constructed similarly to an FCC number with two initial digits indicating the year and a number of up to four digits indicating the sequence such as DA 08-1476.

First off, Order DA 15-589 released on May 15th, 2015. In this order, the FCC granted a temporary limited waiver of the requirement for providers of Video Relay Service to obtain from each new and existing user the last four digits of the user's social security number or a tribal identification number as a part of the VRS user registration process in those instances where the user does not have a social security number or tribal identification number.

The waiver of the social security number rule granted for a limited period of time became effective on May 15th, 2015, and will remain in effect until the Commission takes final action on VRS registration procedures pursuant to its open rulemakings on VRS matters.

Our next order is DA 15-680 which was released on June 10th, 2015. By this order, the FCC extended the previously granted waiver of the requirement that providers of Internet Protocol Relay, IP Relay, service handle 911 calls initiated by callers who have been registered but not verified by an IP Relay provider.

The FCC concluded that the waiver extension is necessary to prevent the resumption of a harmful practice while the Commission considers how to address this issue on a permanent basis. The waiver, which expired on April 29th, 2015, was extended retroactively to April 29th, 2015, and will remain in effect until the Commission resolves whether to adopt a permanent prohibition against the handling of 911 calls from callers whose registration information has not been verified prior to placement of the call.

And our final order from the FCC is Order DA 15-922. It was released on August 14th, 2015. The FCC directed that payment be made from the Interstate

Telecommunications Relay Services Fund, TRS Fund, to

Sprint for the provision of Web CapTel service, a form

of Internet Protocol captioned telephone service, for

the period from January 1, 2014, through the date of the

order.

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The compensation at issue was withheld by the TRS Fund administrator, Rolka Loube, pending a determination as to whether the service was provided in compliance with the Commission's emergency call handling requirements.

The FCC found that there was no valid basis for a finding of noncompliance and directed Rolka Loube to release all compensation withheld and otherwise owed for the period specified. This order addresses the withholding of monies for Sprint's Web CapTel service only. The division -- or the bureau will address withholding of monies for Sprint's Wireless CapTel service at a later date.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Bates. At this time we'll go ahead and provide an overview of the Florida Public Service Commission's activities since our last meeting related to Relay, specifically FTRI's fiscal year 2015/2016 budget.

On May 18th, 2015, the Florida Public Service Commission issued Order No. PSC-15-0200 in

Docket No. 140029 which increased the monthly relay surcharge by one penny to offset FTRI's \$481,960 deficit due to increased relay provider costs, with the additional amount going to FTRI's remaining budget deficit.

It also increased the TRS surcharge to 12 cents per month for fiscal year 2015/2016 effective

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cents per month for fiscal year 2015/2016 effective July 1st, 2015, and required the incumbent local exchange companies, competitive local exchange companies, and shared tenant service providers to bill the 12-cent surcharge for the fiscal year effective July 1st, 2015, and required FTRI to reduce its proposed budget by \$164,284.

At this time we'll entertain any questions regarding the Public Service Commission's updates.

Next we'll go ahead and proceed with FTRI's presentation on their annual report, so, Mr. Forstall.

MR. FORSTALL: Thank you. Good afternoon. I do have a technical question. Does this light need to be on for me?

MR. WILLIAMS: It's on. It's -- everything is good. It's on now.

MR. FORSTALL: It's off right now.

MR. WILLIAMS: No. Okay. Is it -- the green light -- it's on now. It's on now.

MR. FORSTALL: It's on now? Can everyone hear 1 2 me on the phone? 3 I'll go ahead and proceed. Good afternoon. 4 MS. SCHOOLAR: This is Maggie. Yes. 5 MR. FORSTALL: Okay. Thanks. 6 7 MR. KOTTLER: This is Rick. I can hear you, James. 8 9 MR. FORSTALL: Do you want his on or off? 10 Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm going to be 11 12 presenting on the annual report of FTRI activities for 2014 and 2015. Our fiscal year begins July 1st 13 14 and it ends on June 30th. So during last year's period, we had -- the total number of client 15 services provided by FTRI for fiscal year 2014 and 16 17 '15 was 30,925. And as you can see on the graph, that the number of new services was at 43.3 percent 18 19 of the total services with the exchange being 20 36 percent. This represents all services throughout 21 the state, which includes the regional distribution 22 centers as well as the FTRI office. 23 I have -- the next slide is a graph illustrating the last four years of total client 24

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services. As you can see, we did see a decrease from

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prior years, and this is primarily due to the fact that more and more people are migrating towards other and newer technology, and since FTRI is limited to landline equipment and services only, we're not able to distribute other technologies such as wireless or IP Internet service equipment. So we will continue to see a decline because the population, as I said, is migrating to other technology.

And so even though the State of Florida may have nearly 3 million people who qualify as having a hearing loss, that pool of potential candidates or applicants continues to shrink.

The next slide is new client services. We do track the number of services categorized by new, exchanged, modified, returned, and follow-up, and last year we were able to serve 13,408 new clients, first-time new clients -- new clients. The category groups are deaf, which is 57; hard of hearing, 13,148; speech impaired, 85; and dual sensory impaired, 118.

The next slide shows the illustration of the last four years of new client services. We did see a decrease over prior years, however, 1.9 percent. So it was -- we tried to level it off. We did see a little bit of a stabilization, so.

The next slide is the number of equipment

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distributed. They were both new and refurbished equipment. The total number of equipment for the last year is 25,564 devices, and 94.8 percent of them were amplified telephones, which is the volume controlled phone for the hearing impaired.

Again, the next slide shows the last four years' activities of equipment distributed. Again, the decline, it kind of -- it lines up with the number of services provided. In years past, most people got two pieces of equipment, but lately because of new technology with the amplified phones most people are not getting the additional ringers, audible ringers because the phone itself has a loud enough ringer built in. So a lot of people in the years past used to get what we called a Category A and a Category B equipment.

A Category A would be a telephone -- a device that allows them to communicate on the phone system, and then the Category B with a ringer would be audible ringer. So that's how we classified them. But now we're seeing more and more people only getting a Category A piece of equipment.

The next slide is outreach. We conducted

1,112 outreach activities and in addition to

1,601 offsite distribution during last fiscal year. The

RDCs have -- over the last few years the RDCs have

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developed relationships with other service providers in their area whereby they would go out in the field and distribute equipment through other locations, so to speak, for instance, a senior center or a local library, allowing for residents in the area to be able to go to one of those what we call offsite distribution.

We found out years ago that right around 2008 when the economy started tanking or did tank, a lot of people were not traveling as much because they were trying to save on gasoline, et cetera, so they stayed home, so -- and they were not going to the centers where primarily they would go to a center to get all the services. And so we decided -- we encouraged the RDCs to start getting outside of the facilities, so to speak, so they can get closer to the community, and it really has paid off. It works much better. More and more centers are doing it, they're doing it more. That's why you can see the number of offsite distribution is much higher than outreach activities. But we do consider offsite distribution as part of outreach because when they do go out, they are promoting the program. And they might not be doing an official presentation or exhibit, but they are establishing a presence in the location, and when people do come in, they do see it. And if they hear about it, they will go ahead and get

the service. So we do consider that part of an outreach activity.

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The total outreach and distribution combined was 2,713. There was a dropoff last year, and primarily because outreach funds were depleted a little earlier than expected, so centers were not able to conduct additional outreach the last quarter of last fiscal year. However, it's my personal belief that had we had enough funding to continue outreach throughout the whole year, we would have surpassed the numbers that we had last year. So it was unfortunate, but we did run out of funds last year. We ran out late March, so we had April, May, June without any outreach or, I should say, minimal outreach activity; not nearly as much as we had done the year prior. So it is important that we do continue with outreach with the RDCs because they are in the particular areas, they know the areas very well, they have that relationship with other service providers and local agencies, so they do rely on those outreach dollars to reach out to the community.

The next slide shows just some of the other services that we were providing in addition to what I had mentioned earlier. We processed over 28,347 customer service calls. Those are people who call in for services through our main number or customer

care number, so we had many callers. And that's just the FTRI office. That does not include calls going into the regional distribution centers.

We also mailed out 831 applications to individuals who specifically requested that. We do have the applications available online; however, there are some people that do request us to mail a hard copy, and we do do that.

We also processed over 94,000 forms. Now when I say forms, that is — that could be anything from a new application — anything that requires a document to be processed that is tied or associated with the service comes to our office, so we actually are physically touching that document. And so we did over 94,000 of those.

Let's see. Other important facts. We continued extensive education and training and support to the regional distribution centers. We continued to place a high priority on protecting the integrity of the client information by making our database — enhancing our security in the database. We're constantly doing that. That's something we're always monitoring, making sure we always provide the latest updates to protect the client information, making sure that no one can hack into our system, et cetera. So we're constantly on

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that.

We also operated within budget requirements, and we received high marks from the external auditors for financial records and internal controls.

The next slide is just an example of some of the newspaper ads that we ran last year. And as you can see, the full color two-side insert ads. We had done this last year. We did it once before a summer -- a year ago and for a short period of time. And the results were really, really impressive, so we did it again. And although we were limited to how many RDCs we could deal with because it's so expensive, the newspapers are expensive to advertise in, so we had to pick a few to run it in certain areas. However, the centers will tell you that the insert ad has really produced good results because that is something that will go inside all the ads that you'll see in a regular Sunday newspaper or whatever the case may be. It's something they can pull out, and a it's full 8x11 in size, and it really has paid off. And we really enjoyed using that last year, and we're using it again this fall campaign and, again, the numbers are impressive. So that is something that we would love to be able to continue to do; however, the cost of running those ads are not cheap. So -- but it is effective.

The next slide is pictures of some banner ads that we put on the Internet website of some of our partners. The regional centers may put it on their site. And that's just another way of promoting the program through electronic website avenues. We also did some Facebook ads that we pushed out. We have someone that we work with that would create it and push it out for us.

We also -- the next slide shows the Twitter and Facebook memes which we have going on an ongoing basis, and we really -- again, we work with Clarity, one of our equipment vendors, to produce and push it out for us, and they're working with us. And it's been effective. We do get a lot of people that will repost it to their own website. So we do -- we will continue to do that. We are doing it again this year.

Quality assurance. FTRI maintains a quality assurance system to monitor the services, training, and equipment provided by contracted agencies, which are the regional distribution centers. Postcard questionnaires are mailed to a random selection of clients served by each regional distribution center or the FTRI office.

5,549 questionnaires were mailed during this fiscal year, and we received 1,752 responses for a nearly

31 percent return rate.

97 percent of the responses were positive.

Negative responses were resolved by either contacting the client directly or referring them to the local regional distribution center for followup.

In addition to that, we have an automated email system that sends out quality assurance surveys, and this is a system that we introduced a few years back, maybe three, probably three, maybe four years ago, that any time a client gets served, if they provide us with their email address, the system will automatically generate an email survey to them the next day. And so we get -- the response was 29.58 percent of the people that receive it respond.

And in addition to that, we have a follow-up survey that goes out to the same individuals that have email addresses asking them about the equipment. So we have a survey -- a service survey that questions them on the service that we provided, and then in 30 days we follow up and say, well, is the equipment working for you? How is the equipment working for you? So we do have that also.

The next slide is the National Deaf/Blind

Equipment Distribution Program otherwise known as the

iCanConnect program. During the last fiscal year we had

27 people assessed for the program. The number of

people trained were 34, and that number would include people who might require additional training. The number of equipment distributed was 64, and currently we had five contractors working for us last year throughout the state.

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And the next slide is the FTRI regional distribution center map. We had 25 during this last year. Actually in the last quarter we did lose three contractors. Three of them -- and they were the Deaf & Hearing Resources of West Palm Beach. actually dissolved due to financial reasons. Agency on Aging, a Tallahassee agency, they have agreed or decided not to continue with. And the CIL South Florida - Miami gave us notice this past month that they have reorganized or restructured their office and they will no longer be providing FTRI services in the Miami area. However, we do have another office in Miami, in both Miami and West Palm Beach. We already have another -- a secondary office there, so we are good -we are continuing to be providing services in those areas. At this point we have not decided whether we were going to open up an additional center or not. That's going to be down the road.

Okay. And that concludes my report. I'm open for any questions anyone may have.

MR. WILLIAMS: Are there any questions for Mr. Forstall?

MR. KOTTLER: Hey, James, this is Rick. One thing that you didn't talk about that you -- if you could take a couple of minutes because it's working really well, is the Application Request and the followup and that whole program that you all have started with the RDCs.

MR. FORSTALL: Sure. Thank you for reminding me, Rick.

The Application Request is a program that we introduced just this fiscal year. It's a process that we implemented whereby a client will contact FTRI either through a phone call or they may go online and request information from FTRI. We do have what we call a place where they -- a page on our website where they can go fill out information about themselves, and we will collect it in our database.

And what we do, we have -- internally we have the ability to mail the -- it depends on what they ask for too. You know, we give the clients options. Do you want to referred to the nearest regional distribution center or do you want us to mail you an application or do you want to print an

electronic application off online? And regardless of what they do, we honor their request.

But in addition to that, we -- if, for instance, if a client lives in Port St. Lucie, which is Rick's area, I will -- our team internally will assign that particular client to his center and it will show up on his dashboard, what we call it, because all the centers have access to our database and they're all customized so they cannot see anyone else's information. But we created it so, therefore, Rick and his staff can review a list of clients that had requested an application or any kind of information about the FTRI program. And they will follow up with the client to make sure that they do get served in some kind of fashion.

And if we find out that they might be calling or asking for assistance with their phone, then we take care of that internally through customer care. And if we find out that they do indeed need an exchange for whatever reason, we'll troubleshoot it. And if we find out that they do need to change their phone, we will refer them right back to the center where they got the phone originally to go back and get it exchanged. And we'll notate that in the client's file so the

centers, when they open it up, they'll see, oh, we're already approved for an exchange because we troubleshooted the phone.

But getting back to the application request, that's going to allow us to follow up with clients to make sure that if for some reason they contacted us, we want to make sure that we followed through with them and hopefully get them signed up to get a phone if they're qualified.

MR. WILLIAMS: Rick, did you have an additional question or follow-up?

MR. KOTTLER: No, that took care of it. Thanks.

MR. WILLIAMS: I have several questions. I think it would probably be easier if we could start like at the beginning of your presentation and I can kind of go through there. On the page that's titled "Total Client Services," can you explain a little more? I know you explained that the decline is due to migration to newer technologies and newer services. What -- and I know you look at things on a national level. Do you have anything you can share with us on what may be happening in other states or nationally? Is it consistent with what you're experiencing?

MR. FORSTALL: Absolutely. That's a good

question.

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Overall, the national trend is the same as what we're experiencing. However, there are several states that are moving forward with newer technology. And what they're seeing is -- because they introduced newer technology, they're seeing a resurrection of their numbers, so to speak, that are increasing because they're now offering services in technology that otherwise they wouldn't get due to the landline-based program.

Some of these programs or states are offering wireless devices. Some of them are offering accessories. An accessory is something that will work with a wireless device. It doesn't necessarily mean that a program will give you wireless. They might give you an accessory that allows you to hear clearly and -- clearer and louder when you plug in that accessory into your cell phone. And we're seeing more and more of that happening because cell phones aren't necessarily equipped to give that clear amplification to someone with a hearing loss. There's just a lot of complications that go into a small product, but the accessories help resolve that issue. So that's being offered in several states.

Also several state are offering Apple products, which is iPhones or iPads, and that's what some of the state programs that have a migrating in, they're keeping pace with the technology. So that's the direction they're moving in, and those states are seeing, you know, their numbers stabilizing or increasing. And that's -- I do have a map that kind of identifies it. I'll be happy to email it to you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. That would be good, and I can distribute it.

MR. FORSTALL: Now you'll see when I do -well, I've got 15 EDPs that have an iPad and iPhone
program, 15 states.

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

MR. FORSTALL: Two of those states -- no, in addition to that, two states have an iPad and iPhone program through the iCanConnect program, which means that we're one of them. We only gives iPads and iPhones to people who qualify through the National Deaf/Blind Program. Believe or not, that's probably one of the most popular products that we distribute through that particular group, and that's through the FCC.

Florida and Colorado are the only two states that I see on here that offer the Apple product through the iCanConnect program, and you'll

be able to see that identified with an icon on there.

Twenty-one states have implemented wireless programs. One is considering it. And the wireless accessories 17 states are offering.

Unfortunately, Florida, all we offer is the landline products at this time.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. If you could email that chart, that would be helpful, and I'll distribute it to the TASA members.

MR. KOTTLER: This is Rick. I have one more question, if I could.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Rick. Please.

MR. KOTTLER: Curtis, this is probably more towards you than James. Yeah. I understand, you know, I've read TASA and I understand the limitations of it being written in 1996 or whatever. What is it going to take, you know, and we've talked about this many times but it's always been kind of a gray area as to what we're going to need to do to change the way we do business and change into a more digital-oriented service provision. You know, are we going to have to really go back and change the legislation, or is this something that the Public Service Commission can do on its own?

MR. WILLIAMS: Rick, the Public Service

Commission, we operate under the authority of Chapter 1 427 regarding the relay service programs. So the 2 Commission doesn't have authority at this time to do 3 anything more than what we do, and that is to operate 4 the landline phones. So the next step would be 5 to address it through legislation. 6 7 MR. KOTTLER: Okay. That's what I wanted to know. Thanks. 8 9 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Are there any additional questions on that issue? James, if we can go to 10 total -- your slide, your presentation on total 11 12 equipment distributed. Yes, this is Curtis Williams. Did we 13 14 have someone -- did someone just join us on the phone for the meeting? Okay. 15 MR. FORSTALL: This slide? 16 17 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Well, total equipment distributed. Yes. That's the slide. 18 19 Can you -- first, can you explain a little 20 more -- I know you stated that in the past clients 21 received two pieces of equipment. Now, I guess, because 22 technology has changed it's kind of, all they really 23 need is one or that's the demand that you're seeing. 24 MR. FORSTALL: Exactly.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Can you explain a little more

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what the differences are again between the two pieces of equipment?

MR. FORSTALL: Sure. We had two categories of equipment. That's how we classify with FTRI. Category A includes amplified telephone, TTYs, speech -- outgoing speech amplified phone, anything that has -- gives the individual the ability to access the telecommunications system, which is the telephone line in our case, that would classify as Category A.

Category B is anything that has a ringer or -- either audible ringer or visual ringer, and those are really auxillary aids to assist a client with hearing the phone ring, whether they have a loud ringer or a visual ringer which can be plugged into a lamp and the lamp will flash when the phone rings. Those are the two categories that we offer, A and B.

And what we have seen over the years in Category B with the audible ringer, a lot of people were getting both a phone and a ringer, which they're eligible to do. However, because over the years the phone itself, the ringer in the phone itself got better, so they felt the ringer in the actual phone is loud enough where they might not need a second one.

In addition to that -- and people who, for instance, might live in a two-story house and if they're upstairs and the phone is downstairs, well, that ringer would be helpful for them to put upstairs because then they can hear it and then answer the phone.

So in years past, we counted that as two different pieces of equipment, and that was part of the total year. Now what we're seeing is more amplified phones going out and less Category B, for instance, going out. That's why you see the numbers offset like that.

MR. WILLIAMS: So how are you managing the inventory? Are you just simply ordering less Category A phones?

MR. FORSTALL: Exactly. We order as needed. Every two weeks we place an order. We don't --

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

MR. FORSTALL: Yeah. We don't -- we have an inventory in our office, but we keep that as for a backup emergency, for instance. If a center, for whatever reason, they may have forgotten to place an order, they missed an order deadline, well, if they have an emergency situation, then we can ship them phones from our office. But we order as needed, so every two

weeks the center will go online or place their orders, and we will review it, make sure that it meets up with what they need. We also know what they have in inventory. We have a reconciliation report that matches up. We do an audit every once in a while, so it needs to match up. When we go down there, we count it, et cetera.

And so we monitor, and if we see a center, maybe they place an order, an unusually high order, we'll question it. We'll say, well, why are you doing it? You're running newspaper ads, okay, that makes sense, so we'll bump it up a little bit.

Because we want to make sure that they don't run out of equipment. When an actual client comes in to get the equipment, we want to make sure they get it. So we monitor that very close, and I think the Deaf Service Center Association would tell you that we do a pretty good job of that. But, yeah, so all the equipment, only order as needed, so we never really have a huge stockpile of it.

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you. On the slide titled "Total Outreach Distribution," yes, the -- for the RDCs, do they use their own internal funds for outreach purposes or do you assist them through your budget on, you know, kind of partnering with them on

outreach activities?

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

MR. FORSTALL: That's a good question. We have an outreach budget designed specifically for the regional distribution centers to do outreach. We have an agreement -- we have two contracts; we've got one for the equipment side and one for the outreach side. And how it works is the center will apply online for funding for a certain event, whether it be a presentation or an exhibit, and we review it and make sure that in the past they did similar to this, how is it working, are the results or the return on investment worth it, so we review all that.

And a center, if they have an event, for instance, if they request an event or a funding for a particular event, we say, you know what, that's not something we want to fund. Based on previous history it didn't do very well, so we might decline funding it. But they can continue to do it, and if they do it, that's when they're using their own funds. And that is called -- we classify those events as a non-contractual outreach, which means that we're recording the activity and we're capturing the data but we're not funding it. So they do use some of their funds.

MR. FORSTALL: But I would say probably 99 percent of the outreach that the centers do are through us, are funded by FTRI.

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. On the slide "Newspaper Ads," the I think you indicated that cost is an issue. And I guess I -- or at least that's kind of how I interpreted what you presented, that that is something that you take into consideration.

MR. FORSTALL: Okay.

MR. WILLIAMS: But on those newspaper ads how do you measure the effectiveness of those ads? Do you ask your clients if they saw the ad or do they, you know, provide some type of information that you can measure on the effectiveness of those ads?

MR. FORSTALL: Yes. We have what we call a client survey. Each application that a client completes, there's a little box at the top that asks them "How did you hear about the program?" And that's been -- we've been doing that for years.

What we do with our database, we capture that information, and we can tell by looking at the client's survey how -- what works in a particular area for a particular RDC. We can break it down by services, by RDC, and referral source is what we call them.

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And right now we're running both the insert ad and another ad that looks very similar to the insert ad. And so -- and we have what we call an insert ad campaign and we have what we call an ROP (phonetic) ad campaign, and that's going on right now. And it is similar to what we did in the past.

When I first contacted the placement company and I told them I wanted to do more insert ads, okay, we tend to think they were more effective than just the regular ads. Well, when they came -- I told them this was my budget. When they came back, they told me to cover the whole state they would only be able to run an insert ad twice a year to cover everybody. I said, "That's not going to work for me." So we came back, we redesigned it.

So what we did was I had to hand pick probably ten to 12 regional distribution centers with smaller newspapers which would be less costly. So I did the insert ads with those centers, and the rest of the state I did what we call the ROP, and I can't tell you what it means right now. It just slipped me. But what it means is the newspaper decides where they place the ad. Okay? So they pick and choose where they're going to place it.

And that's to our disadvantage because we -- because we're not paying -- we're only paying a small amount for it, so we're at their discretion as to where they place the ads.

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But instead of just doing it twice a year, I've spread it out and it is working well. We're doing that this morning because I'm trying to plan for the spring campaign, so I'm reviewing the fall campaign to see the results so I can see how I'm going to do the spring campaign. I have to start now to start promoting in January. And probably what we're going to do is, if you notice on this particular add, the "Loud, Clear and Free" ad, it was produced by Clear Sound, one of our distributors — our vendors.

Clarity produce it, and they'll provide them at no cost to FTRI. So that's the partnership we have with them. And this has been very effective, so we want to continue to do that. And I'm going to request from the placement company, if we were to do, for instance, a full statewide insert ad, what would it cost FTRI? So next year's budget, I'll see how we can fit it in. But it's effective, and I think Rick will tell you that it's effective because

his RDC is one of them that has the insert ads. 1 So 2 I hope that answers your question. MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, it did. Just a follow-up. 3 So these are -- you're referring to print ads. 4 MR. FORSTALL: Okay. Correct. 5 MR. WILLIAMS: Are you also doing digital 6 7 newspaper ads or are these only in print editions? MR. FORSTALL: Some of the -- the IMS, the 8 9 placement company, Intersect Media Solutions, they're 10 out of Orlando or Lake Mary, I believe, what they do is 11 when they negotiate it, they'll get us some digital ads, and that's included in the price that we pay. So -- and 12 13 they'll use the same ads that we have. 14 MR. WILLIAMS: So this refers to both print 15 and digital? 16 MR. FORSTALL: This one is only for 17 newspapers. The one you'll see on the next page is the 18 banner ads and Facebook. And I'll have to get -- what I'll need to do is get more information on that for you. 19 20 But I know we've done that in the past with the digital 21 ads. The print ad for us, for our particular target 22 group works a whole lot better than digital ads. 23 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. 24 MR. KOTTLER: Curtis, this is Rick. Can I add 25 a little something here?

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MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, please.

MR. KOTTLER: Thank you. First of all, on the insert ads, when they're going out, you can look at my numbers and they almost double for a month because the population we're trying to reach, they read the newspaper. The other really good thing about these 7 inserts is people hold onto them. They might not call right away, and we'll hear from somebody a month down the road saying, you know, I've been looking at this

thing and I think I'm going to call you. So they

actually work better than an in print, in the newspaper

They get a whole lot more visual time as far as the

clients. So they're really potent right now as far as

reaching the client base that we're trying to get to.

MR. FORSTALL: Thank you, Rick. I was just going to say the same thing. And, you know, when you stop and think about it, the people are out there, you know. It's just finding a way to get to them, and we've found this to be successful. So we would love to be able to continue to do this on a broader scale

Right now I couldn't do it in major metropolitan areas like Tampa, Orlando, or Miami because I cannot afford it, so I have to go with the smaller community newspapers.

throughout the whole state.

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

And the next question relates to the slide, the iCanConnect. Yes. Can you just explain that program a little more and how FTRI operates in that program?

MR. FORSTALL: Okay. Sure. This is the

Federal Commission -- Communications Commission program.

They oversee this program. This is a result of the 21st

Century -- I'm looking at Jeff to help me out here -
21st Century Communication Access Act, CCAC, something

like that. Do you remember? Anyway, I'm trying to put

the blame on you because I can't remember.

MR. BRANCH: Good try.

MR. FORSTALL: But about five years ago this act was passed, and it covers captioning -- it covers a whole variety of things, but the deaf/blind program was one of the proceedings in that filing that got passed by Congress to provide equipment to the deaf/blind community.

\$10 million every year is pulled from the TRS Fund on the federal level to fund this program. And the FCC -- we're in the fourth-year of the program. We started the fourth year in July. The FCC did an inquiry of who would be interested in doing the program in each state. They only picked

one entity per state and FTRI was issued. We were highly recommended by Bob Casey to apply for it, so we did that.

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We -- what it does is -- it's really an interesting program, and it's really opened the doors for more people to get serve who are deaf/blind who would not have otherwise been served through the FTRI program. Now through the FTRI program we have what we call a deaf/blind communicator, which is a big, bulky device that allows a deaf/blind person to be able to communicate through the telephone using that device, and we just started doing that about maybe six or seven years ago when it first came out. And we did have interest in it, but that was all we had to offer and it had to be landline based.

So when this program became available, the number of deaf/blind clients applying for our program just went about to zero because they knew they could get what they want through this program. This program offers a variety and a wide, broader range of equipment. And we were very surprised to learn that more and more people want the iPad and not just because they're completely blind. The definition of deaf/blind is -- it's a little bit

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different or it covers more people, so to speak. More people qualify under that program for the disability; however, with the FCC there is an income requirement. So in FTRI we don't have an income requirement, but with the FCC program there is an income requirement.

And the qualification process is -- you've got to have more documentation to prove that you do have a vision loss and you do have a hearing loss, and so we've got two different people providing us with documentation or two different agencies verifying, certifying that the person is indeed deaf and blind.

And so what we do is when they apply, we review the application, and then when we -- okay -we find out this person meets all the qualifications, then we send an assessor, which the person can be both an assessor and trainer -- it's usually the same person, but a person will go out to the person's home and they will assess the needs of that person, okay, based on the braille level, different levels of -- functioning level of a person. And so they assess that person and then they'll say, "Okay. What is it that you are looking for to accomplish access to the telecommunications

system and through the Internet?" And they may come back with different options.

And so they come back -- we receive the paperwork back from the assessor with the recommendation of the equipment that the client is choosing. Okay. We place the order. We get approval from the FCC, place the order. The equipment is shipped sometimes directly to the client or sometimes directly to the trainer, who will then reschedule another visit to provide the equipment and train on all the equipment. And that's usually the process that we go through.

Clients are eligible to receive additional training should they need it. They're eligible to get — exchange the equipment if it breaks, and sometimes they're eligible to get more than one piece of equipment. It depends on the individual situation. And, again, when we get a request, we make sure that we go through the process of getting approval from the FCC because that's how we're reimbursed. And we don't want to buy something we know we're not going to get reimbursed for, so that's the process.

And then on top of that, FTRI gets a

15 percent administrative fee based on the purchase

amount. And the -- if we spend \$10,000 in one month, our 15 percent administrative fee is based on that \$10,000. So that's how we're reimbursed for the administrative fees.

MR. WILLIAMS: And I have one last question. We can proceed to the -- I guess your -- the last slide on the regional distribution centers.

You currently have 25 regional distribution centers, and you say that you lost three and that you were looking at others. But I just want to ask you, do you have a -- an ideal number of regional distribution centers that you would like to have, or are you constantly searching for more, and the more, the better?

MR. FORSTALL: Well, in the past we would add because we felt like there was a need for it.

Specifically in a metropolitan area that has a larger population, one center may not be sufficient, and so we've been doubling up in those areas.

So we have two in Tampa, two in Orlando, we had two in Miami until last month, we had two in West Palm Beach, and we have two in Fort Lauderdale. Those are the major metropolitan areas. We feel like the size of the population warrants having a second one in those years.

And to be honest with you, going forward we -- it depends on the budget, you know. If we can recommend the increase, well, we have to bump the budget up to cover the cost of services and equipment. But lately the budget hasn't really been warranting that, so I'm kind of sitting back at this point to see where the program goes from here. So it doesn't look like -- you know, based on the last budget it looks like we're going to be facing more budget cuts, and so I don't want to expand knowing that that's coming down the pike.

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you. That's it for my questions. Do we have any additional questions for Mr. Forstall? If not, we are ahead of schedule, and we're at the point in the meeting where it is time for us to take a break. So we'll go ahead and take about a 15-minute break at this time, and we will restart at 2:45. Thank you.

(Recess taken.)

We're going to go ahead and restart. At this time on the agenda we're scheduled to hear the presentation by Sprint Relay on the -- for their update, and Jeff Branch with Sprint will make that presentation.

MR. BRANCH: Thank you. Good afternoon. It's

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a pleasure to be here today. I want to discuss a little bit about our organization, kind of what we're doing.

Also I want to explain the updates, the new program and the new products, the TRS utilization, the CapTel utilization, quality reports, and the outreach services.

Marcelo Claure, he's the Sprint -- and he was explaining his philosophy, kind of what's going on in our organization. We're talking about the technology is really paramount to our customers' future, and technology for our customer, they're looking for solutions to technological conveniences and ways to connect and reach people and reach information. And so in our organization, we're also trying to create solutions and really give the people amazing experiences, deliver that to our customers.

We're also talking about the integrity. We want to treat other people exactly as how we would want to be treated. That's kind of -- we're wanting to follow that rule, having a good relationship with our customers, understand what they're looking for, and deliver what they need, the product or the service, whatever they need.

We're also challenged to really get rid of our old mind-set and look for new ways to connect and -- through outreach and through services, new things that

are happening out there, and we need to be aware of
what's going on that can help us achieve our goals as
we're trying to help our customers. That applies also
for relay services. We don't just leave our equipment
there or kind of sit idly by. We're always looking for
ways to increase and improve our services, our products,
our platforms to be able to really meet today's
technology and to be able to give the service and the
quality that our customers need. So that's one of what
Marcelo likes to explain to our department so that we
want to be able to connect with our customers. That's
kind of our main goal.

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The next slide, I wanted to discuss our utilization for the new products. The Relay Conference Captioning, you can see on the chart there we started that in March, and up till September you can see we've had -- the total minutes have been increasing. So that really shows that people are using RCC and it kind of -- they kind of get a taste of the new products and what it's like and how it work for some of them, either for an individual or for an organization. Captioning for the organization, they'll use the RCC for that. So it's interesting to see the numbers. You can really see that -- the numbers show they're using it.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, James.

MR. FORSTALL: Go back one slide. I like your hash tag move forward. Can we move forward the balances of the minutes not using RCC to the next month? Can we move the balance to not use the RCC month, month, month, month?

MR. BRANCH: Yeah. That's something that we would need to discuss with the rest of the state.

MR. FORSTALL: Okay.

MR. BRANCH: With -- yeah, the other interested parties, yeah, you would need to discuss that with them.

French Gate is the next slide. This shows the -- some of the uses there. French, the specific product for French Gate, we've had a lot of calls, inbound calls and outbound calls that have been completed. It's interesting to see the number there.

Some of these probably are people that will call and they'll -- just to see how it works and kind of get a feel for it. And then you can also see the session minutes there. The is -- the next slide is related to Spanish-to-English translation. And again you can see the usage numbers there. There are a lot of Spanish here in Florida, so you can see those numbers really are

representative of that.

The standard TRS utilization is on the next slide. The total session minutes of service, it's interesting, if you kind of see we're now -- it seems like we've kind of stabilized since March.

There's a little bit of fluctuation, but mostly if you look across you can see that it's pretty stable, so it's interesting to see that. It's important that we continue to support providing good quality service in the standard TRS utilization, and I think that it's good to see that it's been stable.

CapTel utilization is the next slide. You can see the session minutes there from March.

203,832, you can see that it's gone down now through September. And I think there are a couple of things that you can see here.

There's an open market competition that we have with CapTel, so we have Caption Call, we have Sorenson, that's like one of the things that -- other companies that are competing with that.

Also probably some of the calls would be individual customers that are tran -- that are being transferred from an analog to an IP. So they're transitioning from one technology to the other, so you can see some of that. That's one of the

decrease of the numbers there.

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The next slide explains the quality They -- it's on a monthly basis there. You can see the TRS and the CapTel, those are two separate graphs. You can see the agent tested numbers and you can see them by month, 99 in March and then you can see April through the rest of the months there. And then the average words per minute, we monitor that also to make sure that it's in compliance with our standards, the state standard requirements. And the agent less than 60 words per minute, you can see a couple of the numbers there. We monitor that to make sure that if they go less than 60, then we pull them off of that. And we'll offer more training to that individual to get them up to speed.

So you can see the verbatim accuracy, over 95 percent, and you can see that there's been an improvement throughout the months, so those are good The complaints, you'll see that there. There are two separate lines, complaints and commendations. It's interesting because at the beginning when we were transitioning some people would call and complain and we would have to address that to solve the individual complaints. And then

as time went on, it seemed like the complaints lessened and the service has improved. And that applies the same way to CapTel. You can see those numbers as well if you look down.

The next slide is our outreach. We have been given \$25,000 by FTRI to do the outreach, and that lists what we've -- what's been done with that budget. We have supported booths providing the CapTel advertisements and we've been working on the website to have information on the video assistance, like video assistance to speech. Some of the other sponsored events as well are listed there.

All right. That comes to the end of the presentation. I'm here if you have any questions.

MR. KOTTLER: This is Rick. I have a quick question, if I could.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Go ahead, Rick.

MR. KOTTLER: On slide 10 where it's talking about the captioning accuracy, if I understand CapTel right, the operator is actually repeating what the other person is saying into the computer and the computer is actually doing the captioning. What do you attribute the actual increase in performance to? Is it to the operator speaking clearly, more clearly into the computer, or are the computers actually improving as far

as the captioning that they're doing?

MR. BRANCH: Okay. That's a really good question. For the CapTel, it's the voice recognition software that they're using, and so what is happening is the caller is speaking and then the -- it activates the, you know -- the agent says exactly what they're saying and speaks into the computer, and the -- and then it recognizes the voice and it converts it into text. And so that's why you're seeing an increase in the words per minute because the computer is getting quicker in terms of recognizing the voice. It's the software.

MR. KOTTLER: Okay. I'm not talking about the increase in the words per minute. What I'm seeing is an increase in the actual accuracy, and I'm wondering why is it more accurate now than it was six months ago?

MR. SKJEVELAND: Jeff, this is Jim. If I can assist you in answering that question.

MR. BRANCH: Sure. Sure. Go ahead.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, go ahead, Jim.

MR. SKJEVELAND: Yes. What it is is there's more steps included, Rick, when we deal with the captioning. It's not simply voice recognition software. It is — the agent also has the opportunity to correct the voice recognition software before it's transmitted. So newer agents are still getting used to that, and with

their experience, that accuracy can improve. It starts 1 high and it can even get higher. So a lot of times 2 that's where you'll see that improved accuracy in that 3 as we have some newer agents that with time get better. 4 MR. KOTTLER: That answers my question totally 5 because I just couldn't see where that was coming from. 6 7 But I did not realize that your operators actually had a chance to correct the text before it went live. 8 9 thank you very much for your answer. 10 MR. SKJEVELAND: No problem. 11 MR. BRANCH: Thank you. Thank you, Jim. 12 13 can go back to page 5 -- or slide 5 on the Relay 14 15

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MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I have a question. If we Conference Captioning. Can you explain just a little more on the -- or do you know the types of users of the service at this point, the types of -- are they more individuals or organizations?

MR. BRANCH: You know, I'm not really -- I can't identify each individual organization who uses this service. What I've seen is I've gone to some organizations and I've seen them using the RCC combination, you know, both.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

MS. SCHOOLAR: And this is Maggie. If I could jump in here, Curtis.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Maggie.

MS. SCHOOLAR: We can provide you with a high level report of our usage, of the usage that you're seeing, if you would like. You know, it is always individuals that sign up for the service, but it may be, you know, particular companies that are having their employees sign up, it might be state employees, but we have to protect the confidentiality of the end-user, but we can certainly give you a breakdown of the usage as we're seeing it, if you would like.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. You mean -- yeah. I mean, you wouldn't need to provide us with any confidential information, I mean, but just -- you're saying just the more -- just general usage and not specific to the actual individual person or group?

MS. SCHOOLAR: This is Maggie. That's correct, Curtis. We could get you -- you know, we can just provide you with a more detailed report that could show you that we've had, you know, 50 different customers that are currently using the service. You know, 20 percent of them are government employees 80 percent are, you know, private enterprise, that kind of thing.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Yes. Yeah. That --

MS. SCHOOLAR: We can easily give you that

information.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. That would be helpful.

And it's not something that we would need on a regular basis but maybe -- well, we can discuss it in more detail, but just so we would have an idea of the users. So if you can just provide a report, provide that report, that would be helpful. And if we need additional reports we'll just make that request.

MS. SCHOOLAR: This is Maggie. We'd be happy to do that.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

James.

MR. FORSTALL: This is James. I had asked

Jeff a little earlier, and maybe this is a question for
you or for Maggie and Jim. The balances that are left
under the RCC, they're not able to be carried forward to
the next month; is that correct?

MR. SKJEVELAND: James, this is Jim. Those balances are for a year balance, so it's 15,000 minutes per year.

MR. FORSTALL: Oh, okay.

MR. SKJEVELAND: So we did a total for the contract year from, you know, the beginning of the contract year, which you see here started, you know, in March.

MR. FORSTALL: Right.

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MR. SKJEVELAND: So we'll carry from March to February and see how many minutes are used.

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MR. FORSTALL: Okay. Thank you. That helps.

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I thought that was 15,000 per month. Okay.

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James, to follow up, the discussion that we may have is

MR. SKJEVELAND: No. In a discussion that --

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-- to determine how to handle it, should we use all

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15,000 minutes a year?

not, thank you very much, Jeff.

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MR. BRANCH: That's right. That's right.

MR. WILLIAMS: So are there any additional

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Uh-huh.

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questions for Jeff on Sprint Relay's presentation? If

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And we'll proceed through the agenda. The

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next agenda item we have is the -- at this time we

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want to just go ahead and open up the floor to just

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general discussions, other topics. Anything that

point in the agenda, please feel free to do so.

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anyone may want to bring up for discussion at this

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MR. BATES: This is Jeff Bates. I do have one

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received a series of emails regarding garbled messages

question for Jeff of Sprint. A little while back we

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coming from relay -- via relay for an inmate at a

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correctional facility. I was wondering if you were able

to pinpoint what the problem was, if it was, you know, a 1 2

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misused key or what.

MR. BRANCH: Yes, I'll be happy to explain what happened with that incident. Yeah. We got a report from the inmate, you know, regarding this message coming through the Relay, and what happened was that the inmate, their TTY was not set up similarly to the others. And so we offered -- we recommended their settings, their TTY settings, we made recommendations to those settings. And once they set it up, you know, we had them run a test to see if that resolved the issue and indeed it did.

So it was the settings on the TDD and not -- it wasn't the way, you know, it should have been, you know, to provide, you know, the transmission of the relay service. And so once we did that, that resolved the issue. And it was a secure technology company that controls the, you know, the prison, the Internet in the prison, and so they, you know -- and so after that we contacted other facilities just to make sure that their settings were set up in a similar fashion, you know, as to provide access.

MR. BATES: Okay. Thank you.

MR. BRANCH: You're welcome.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Are there any other questions or any other topics that anyone would like to bring up?

MS. SCHOOLAR: This is Maggie Schoolar with Sprint. I would just go on record saying how wonderful it was to work with Bob Casey. And, you know, I know he's retired now and we didn't have an opportunity to say goodbye to him during this meeting, but he was definitely a very strong leader in our industry and caused a lot of great changes for the TRS and for Sprint in general, and we'll miss working with him and I hope he has a fabulous retirement. So I just wanted to put that on the record.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Maggie, and we'll make sure that Bob gets that compliment and your thoughts relayed to him.

Are there any other comments? Hearing none, at this time we'll go ahead and conclude today's meeting. And I just want to thank every one for participating. Thank you.

(Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.)

	00005			
1	STATE OF FLORIDA )			
2	: CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER COUNTY OF LEON )			
3				
4	I, LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR, Official Commission			
5	Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein			
6	stated.			
7	IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a true			
8				
9	transcription of my notes of said proceedings.			
10	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I			
11				
12	financially interested in the action.			
13	DATED THIS 9th day of November, 2015.			
14				
15	Ginda Boles			
16	LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR FPSC Official Hearings Reporter			
17	(850) 413-6734			
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# Welcome TASA Advisory Committee Meeting October 29, 2015

#### **AGENDA**

1:30	-1:45

Call to Order – Curtis Williams
Introductions – Curtis Williams
Reading of Meeting Notice – Pamela Page
Participant Appearances

**1:45 – 2:15** 

FCC & PSC Updates - Curtis Williams and Jeff Bates

**2:15 – 2:45** 

FTRI 2014/2015 Annual Report - James Forstall

2:45 - 3:00

Break

3:00 - 3:30

Sprint Relay Updates - Jeff Branch

- Implementation of Service
- Operational Update
- Outreach Plan

3:30 - 4:00

Other

4:00

Adjourn

# Initial meeting Notes

- A transcript will be made of today's meeting, and provided to all TASA Committee Members.
- Please silence your cell phones during today's meeting.
- Please state your name before speaking so we know who is making comments for the record.
- For Committee members who will be claiming travel costs, please make sure to fill out the travel reimbursement form.

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# FCC & PSC Updates since April 17, 2015 TASA Meeting

# FCC Number vs DA Number on Orders

- Decisions are issued in two different ways: by the authority of the entire Commission, with each Commissioner voting; or by authority delegated to the Bureaus and Offices of the Commission.
- If the decision is decided by the Commission, it is identified by an FCC number. The FCC number is comprised of two digits indicating the year, and a number of up to 3 digits indicating the sequence, such as FCC 08-138.
- If the decision is issued through authority delegated to the FCC Bureaus and Offices, it is identified by a DA number. The DA number is constructed similarly to an FCC number, with two initial digits indicating the year, and a number of up to 4 digits indicating the sequence such as DA 08-1476.

### Order DA 15-589 Released May 15, 2015

- In this Order, the FCC granted a temporary, limited waiver of the requirement for providers of Video Relay Service (VRS) to obtain from each new and existing user the last four digits of the user's Social Security number or a Tribal identification number as part of the VRS user registration process (Social Security Number Rule) in those instances where the user does not have a Social Security or Tribal identification number.
- The waiver of the Social Security Number Rule, granted for a limited period of time, became effective on May 15, 2015 and will remain in effect until the Commission takes final action on VRS registration procedures pursuant to its open rulemakings on VRS matters.

## Order DA 15-680 Released June 10, 2015

- By this Order, the FCC extended the previously granted waiver of the requirement that providers of Internet Protocol Relay (IP Relay) service handle 911 calls initiated by callers who have been registered but not verified by an IP Relay provider.
- The FCC concluded that the waiver extension is necessary to prevent the resumption of a harmful practice while the Commission considers how to address this issue on a permanent basis.
- The waiver, which expired on April 29, 2015, was extended retroactively to April 29, 2015, and will remain in effect until the Commission resolves whether to adopt a permanent prohibition against the handling of 911 calls from callers whose registration information has not been verified prior to placement of the call.

## Order DA 15-922 Released August 14, 2015

- The FCC directed that payment be made from the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Services Fund (TRS Fund) to Sprint for the provision of Web CapTel service, a form of Internet Protocol captioned telephone service (IP CTS), for the period from January 1, 2014, through the date of this Order.
- The compensation at issue was withheld by the TRS Fund administrator, Rolka Loube, pending a determination as to whether the service was provided in compliance with the Commission's emergency call handling requirements.
- The FCC found that there was no valid basis for a finding of noncompliance, and directed Rolka Loube to release all compensation withheld and otherwise owed for the period specified. This order addresses the withholding of monies for Sprint's Web CapTel service only. The Bureau will address withholding of monies for Sprint's Wireless CapTel service at a later date.

## PSC Updates

#### FTRI Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget

On May 18, 2015, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) issued Order No. PSC-15-0200-PAA-TP in Docket No. 140029-TP which:

- Increased the monthly relay surcharge by one penny to offset FTRI's \$481,960 deficit due to increased relay provider costs, with the additional amount to go to FTRI's remaining budget deficit
- Increased the TRS surcharge to \$0.12 per month for fiscal year 2015/2016, effective July 1, 2015.
- Required the incumbent local exchange companies, competitive local exchange companies, and shared tenant providers to bill the \$0.12 surcharge for fiscal year 2015/2016, effective July 1, 2015.
- Required FTRI to reduce its proposed budget by \$164,284.

## Questions or Comments?



# Next... Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.

James Forstall
Executive Director

# Florida Telecommunications FTRI Relay, Inc.

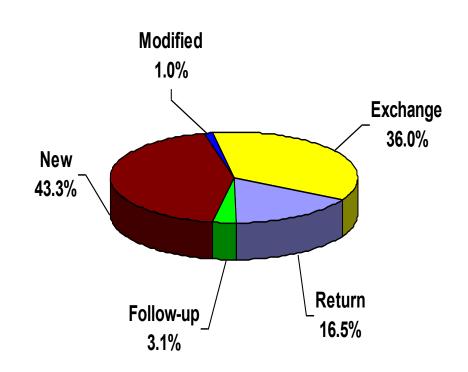
TASA Meeting October 29, 2015





#### Client Services

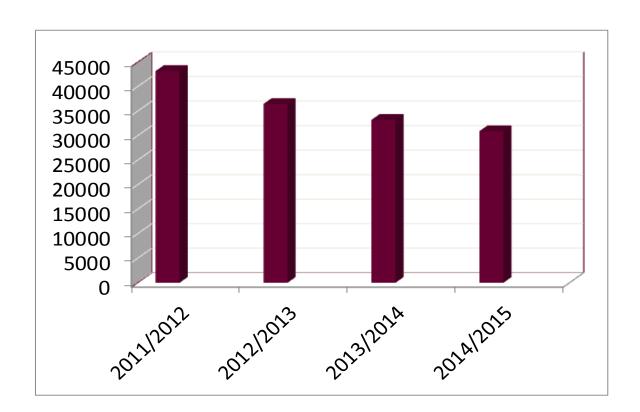
The total number of EDP services provided by FTRI for fiscal year 2014/2015 was 30,925.







#### **Total Client Services**



FY 11/12 - 43,179

FY 12/13 - 36,480

FY 13/14 - 33,222

FY 14/15 - 30,925





#### **New Client Services**

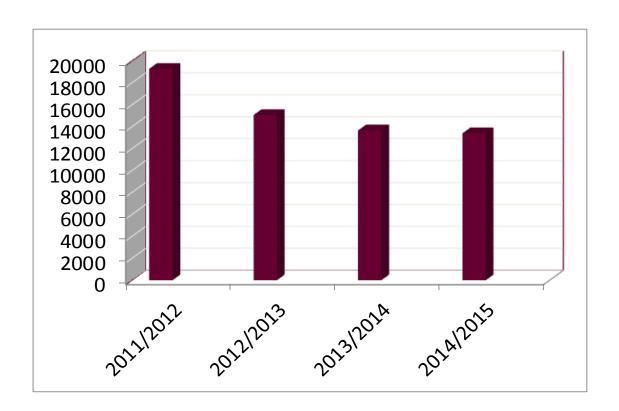
FTRI served **13,408** new clients during the reporting period. Clients certified as eligible for the FTRI program are classified into four distinct groups:

Group	New Clients
Deaf	57
Hard of Hearing	13,148
Speech Impaired	85
Dual Sensory Impaired	118
Total	13,408





### **New Client Services**



FY 11/12 - 19,287

FY 12/13 - 15,078

FY 13/14 - 13,671

FY 14/15 - 13,408

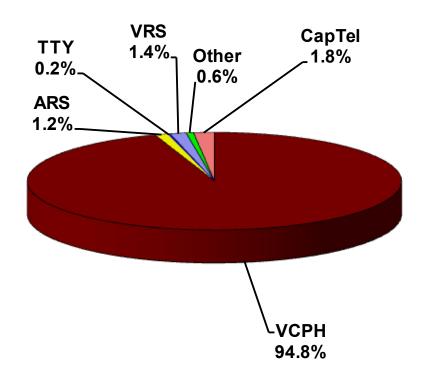
1.9% decrease over prior year





# Distributed Equipment

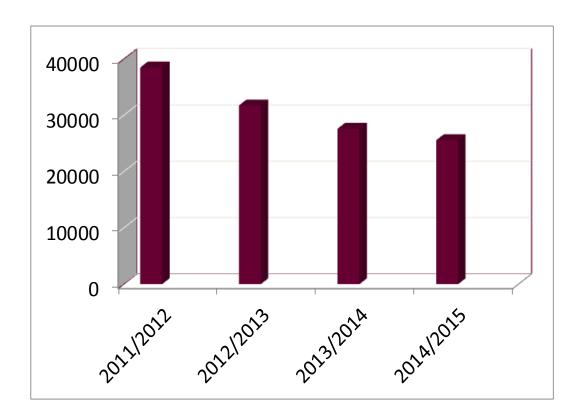
FTRI distributes both new and refurbished equipment. Equipment distributed during fiscal year 2014/2015 numbered **25,564** units.







# Total Equipment Distributed



FY 11/12 - 38,477

FY 12/13 - 31,726

FY 13/14 – 27,606

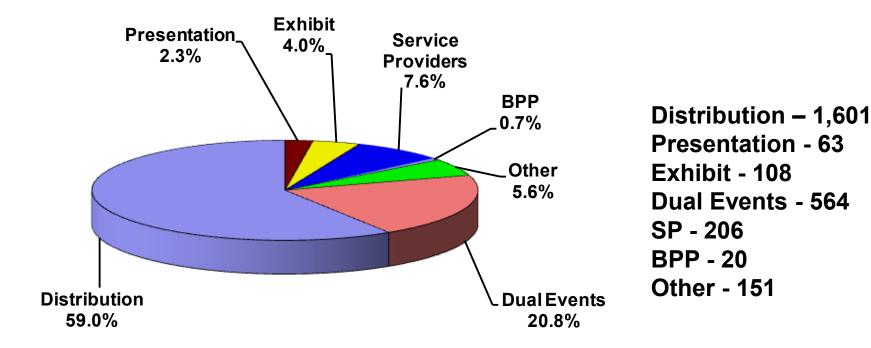
FY 14/15 - 25,564





### **Outreach**

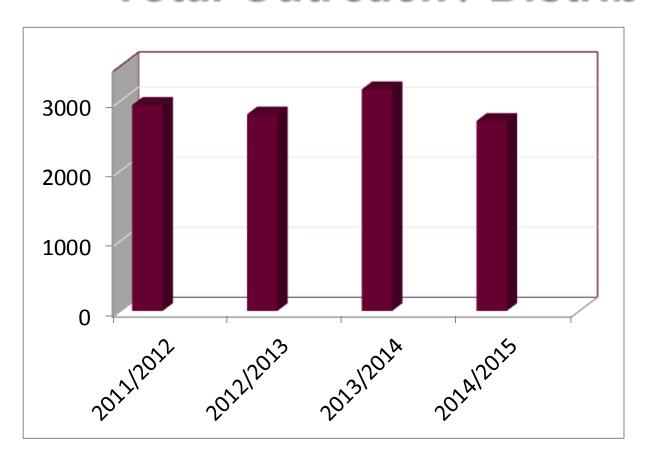
FTRI conducted 1,112 outreach activities and 1,601 off-site distribution during fiscal year 2014/2015.







#### Total Outreach / Distribution



FY 11/12 - 2,941

FY 12/13 - 2,807

FY 13/14 - 3,163

FY 14/15 - 2,713





#### Some of the other services provided...

- Processed 28,347 customer service calls
- Mailed 831 applications to individuals
- Processed more than 94,296 EDP forms

#### Other important facts...

- Continued extensive education, training and support for RDCs
- Continued to place a high priority on protecting the integrity of client information by making security enhancements to the system
- Operated within budget requirements
- Received high marks from the external auditors for financial records and internal controls









# Newspaper Ads





Full color 2-sided Insert Ad





#### Banner Ads



#### Facebook Ads





#### **Connecting People to People**



#### Twitter/FB Memes

















# Quality Assurance

FTRI maintains a quality assurance system to monitor the services, training, and equipment provided by contracted agencies.

Postcard questionnaires are mailed to a random selection of clients served by each Regional Distribution Center or the FTRI office. Five thousand five hundred and forty-nine (5,549) questionnaires were mailed during this fiscal year and FTRI received 1,752 responses for a nearly 31 percent return rate. Ninety-seven percent of the responses were positive. Negative responses are resolved by either contacting the client directly or referring to the RDC for follow-up.

Also, FTRI's automated email system sent quality assurance surveys to 4,036 new clients the subsequent day after receiving service and received 1,194 responses for a 29.58 percent response rate. Clients requesting follow-up were contacted by FTRI Customer Care.





## NDBEDP - iCanConnect

#### FY 2014/2015

Number of people assessed – 27

Number of people trained – 34

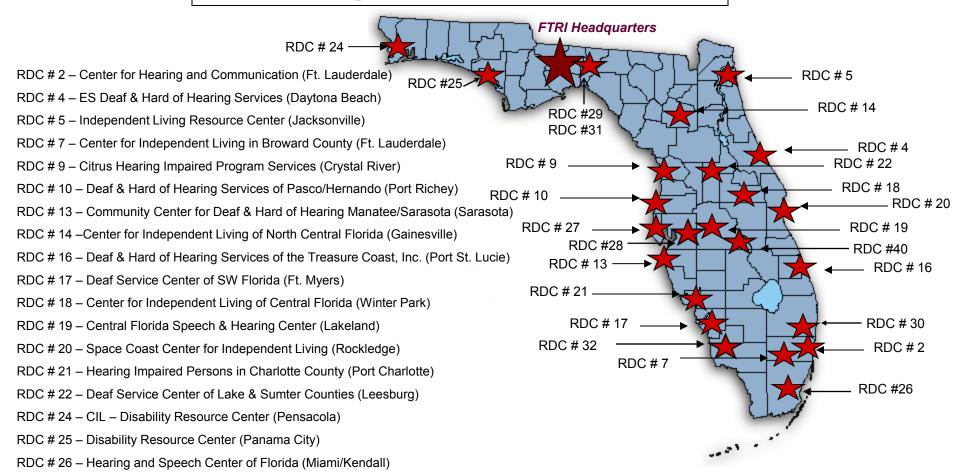
Number of equipment distributed – 64

Number of trainers FTRI contracts with – 5





#### FTRI Regional Distribution Centers



#### \*Hours of operation varies from RDC to RDC.

Since July 1st, 3 RDCs have ceased contracting with FTRI. (Deaf & Hearing Resources - West Palm Beach, Area Agency on Aging – Tallahassee, CIL South Florida – Miami)

#### RDC # 32 - CIL Gulf Coast (Fort Myers)

RDC # 28 – Self Reliance CIL (Tampa)

RDC # 29 – Ability 1st CIL (Tallahassee)

RDC # 31 – Big Bend Hospice (Wakulla)

RDC # 40 – Easter Seals of Florida (Orlando)

RDC # 27 – Family Center on Deafness (Largo)

RDC # 30 - Audiology with a Heart (West Palm Beach)

**Total of 25 RDCs** 



#### **Connecting People to People**



# Questions



# Florida TASA Meeting Jeff Branch, Customer Relations Manager

Florida Public Service Commission 10/29/15



# Agenda

Sprint

- #MoveForward
- Operational Update
- New Product Utilization
- TRS Utilization
- CapTel Utilization
- Quality Reports
- Outreach Services
- \$25,000 Budget Utilization



## #MoveForward



#### **A Sprint Philosophy**

- Technology is paramount to our customer's future.
- Creating awesome solutions that deliver amazing experiences
- Act with integrity and treat others exactly how we wish to be treated.
- We're here to challenge and disrupt the "Old" mindset; that's how we'll reach our goal of helping you Move Forward everyday.

Relay services don't stand idly by as the rest of the world charges forward. With Sprint, you're on a team that will charge your relay products to the forefront.

# Operational Update



- New Product Utilization
  - Relay Conference Captioning (RCC)
  - French Gate
  - Spanish to English Translation

# Relay Conference Caption (RCC)



	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
RCC INFORMATION							
Total RCC Minutes	0	120	960	975	1,155	1,110	1,065
RCC Usage to date	0	120	1,080	2,055	3,210	4,320	5,385
Balance of RCC minutes (15,000)	15,000	14,880	13,920	12,945	11,790	10,680	9,615
BILLING INFORMATION							

# French Gate



	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
FRENCH							
Inbound Calls	179	196	212	204	188	237	250
Outbound Calls Completed	0	0	4	0	1	0	3
Session Minutes	370.07	367.98	359.45	304.10	306.82	363.85	418.47

# Spanish to English Translation



	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
SPANISH							
Inbound Calls	5,154	4,572	4,711	5,167	5,459	5,013	5,639
Outbound Calls Completed	658	634	630	700	590	524	419
Session Minutes	8,618.13	8,582.70	8,277.43	9,557.73	8,870.42	7,606.63	6,993.35

# TRS Utilization



## Graph of minutes use

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
RELAY MINUTES OF USE							
Total Session Minutes of Service	119,323.98	113,029.30	115,955.12	120,573.52	120,210.28	117,307.60	119,490.85
Less Interstate Minutes	(7,719.45)	(6,355.10)	(4,679.80)	(6,842.67)	(7,402.28)	(7,845.45)	(7,471.30)
Less International Minutes	(66.97)	(32.63)	(28.32)	(94.80)	(21.08)	(14.17)	(41.72)
Less Interstate Toll-Free Minutes (51%)	(10,160.42)	(9,608.42)	(10,045.19)	(8,985.85)	(10,408.51)	(8,132.31)	(10,209.62)
Less Interstate Directory Assistance	(7.33)	(33.17)	(25.73)	(53.12)	(53.82)	(90.08)	(62.43)
Less 900 Minutes (51%)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Billable Traditional Minutes to State	101,369.81	96,999.98	101,176.08	104,597.08	102,324.59	101,225.59	101,705.78

# CapTel Utilization



#### Graph March 2015- September 2015

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
CAPTEL MINUTES OF USE							
Total CapTel Session Minutes	203,832.36	195,744.78	188,181.10	180,643.44	171,962.34	164,674.62	157,561.10
Less Interstate Minutes	(49,738.98)	(46,844.32)	(45,552.62)	(41,056.60)	(40,378.87)	(41,569.55)	(40,081.23)
Less International Minutes	(1,420.02)	(680.62)	(494.62)	(309.48)	(407.93)	(429.25)	(540.30)
Less Interstate Toll-Free Minutes (51%)	(12,733.19)	(12,685.40)	(10,455.21)	(10,572.56)	(9,284.41)	(9,098.17)	(17,009.07)
Less Interstate Directory Assistance Min	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Less In 2-Line Minutes (11%)	(1,025.46)	(967.17)	(847.04)	(724.13)	(687.20)	(735.09)	(6,527.23)
Less 900 Minutes (51%)	0.00	(0.16)	(0.20)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Billable Intrastate CapTel Minutes	138,914.71	134,567.11	130,831.41	127,980.67	121,203.93	112,842.56	93,403.27

# **Quality Reports**

Graph of TRS State report

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
TRS SERVICE QUALITY							
Agent Tested	99	83	90	76	84	77	86
Average Words per Minute	78.8	83.6	86.0	79.0	82.5	79.4	84.7
Agents less than 60 WPM	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Over 95% Verbatim Accuracy	97.3%	98.7%	97.3%	99.3%	100%	99.3%	98.0%
Complaints: TRS	1	1	2	0	0	0	1
Commendations: TRS	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
RELAY MINUTES OF USE							

Graph of CapTel State report

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
CAPTEL SERVICE QUALITY							
Agent Tested	145	144	148	143	142	141	146
Average WPM	151.8	151.8	142.2	149.0	1462	137.90	137.50
95% greater Captioning Accuracy	86.0%	79.4%	77.3%	83.3%	82.7%	90.6%	91.4%
Complaints: CapTel	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Commendations: CapTel	3	0	3	4	1	2	0

#MoveForward

# Outreach Report



## Outline of expenses of \$25K this year

Acitivity / Event Vendor	Expense	Activity Date
Hearing Impaired Person of Charlotte County, Inc	\$1,045.38	04/25/2015
USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute	\$195.00	05/20/2015
Opporunity Development Inc/ILRC Independent Living Resources Center of N.E. Florida	\$1,043.08	05/13/3015
10 iPads (\$629 each)	\$6,290.00	07/07/2015
CapTel Advertisement	\$380.00	07/15/2015
Customer Profile form and VA STS	\$237.50	07/30/2015
FAD event "Wet N Wild"	\$500.00	07/25/2015
ALS 2015 Jacksonville Hope and Help Symposium	\$250.00	10/01/2015
	\$9,940.96	Total Used to Date
	\$25,000	2015 Budget
	\$15,059.04	\$\$ Remaining

