

# Advisory Council Minutes

**Meeting Date:** November 29, 2025

**Meeting Time:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Location:** Zoom

The meeting was called to order by the Facilitator, followed by introductions of all attendees: Galinda Goss-Kuehn, Rosalind Kia (CSC Project Coordinator), Tracey Kashiwa (CSC Program Support Specialist), Linda Lambrecht (Deaf representative for the Senior Citizen Community), Autumn Schaefer, and interpreters Keri Lee and Becky Hoopii.

## Updates and Reports

The Council reviewed action items from the previous meeting, beginning with efforts to broaden outreach beyond the CSC's existing networks.

## Deaf-Blind Community Outreach

CSC recently launched the **Deaf-Blind Lunch Bunch**, with the first gathering held on November 22, 2025. This catered event welcomed **16 Deaf-Blind participants, 2 family members, and 8 professionals** including service providers, support staff, and volunteers. The next gathering is scheduled for January 24, 2026 as a potluck. Staff conducted individualized outreach to collect lunch orders, communication preferences, and accessibility needs.

Tracey provided a brief recap of the event and meal service. Autumn shared feedback from participants, noting that some attendees experienced difficulty hearing and that improved microphone use and sound management will be needed moving forward. Participants were enthusiastic about the opportunity to connect, and many expressed gratitude for an event designed specifically for Deaf-Blind individuals rather than general blindness-focused events where Deaf-Blind participants often struggle to access auditory information.

The group discussed how CSC's event differed from Ho'opono, GDAH, and NFB gatherings, where Deaf-Blind attendees may be only a small percentage of the room and "make do" with limited access. In contrast, CSC's focus on microphone usage, environmental communication, and one-to-one support allowed more meaningful participation. Additional improvements identified included offering more visual descriptions, addressing needs of those who rely on text and print, and encouraging presenters to speak closer to the microphone to reduce echo. HAB's microphone protocols were highlighted as a model.

CSC is also planning a future event specifically for families of Deaf-Blind children. The current CSC count includes **48 Deaf-Blind children** statewide.

## Hard of Hearing Community Outreach

Hear4Hope has begun distributing CSC brochures to audiologists during their outreach efforts. Their support meetings continue at CSC on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 1–3 PM**. CSC is planning an additional evening session to provide more access for working adults.

## General Public and Community Awareness

CSC staff shared updates from outreach at the **October Transition Fair in Hilo**, participation in the **Wheel of Organizations**, and new relationships with audiologists.

The Council also reviewed plans to offer **three practical community workshops in 2026**, with topics including taxes, GE licensing and business basics, SSA navigation, SNAP, and other identified needs. CSC is currently coordinating with **Kokua Mau** to offer a workshop on Advance Directives, POLST, and End-of-Life decision-making.

Recruitment is underway to broaden Advisory Council representation. A flyer and Survey Monkey feedback form will be developed to support this.

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## Council Member Reports

### Autumn Schaefer

Autumn reported that she has begun working with Deaf-Blind clients and that CSC is receiving new consumers through her website and referrals from other organizations. The Deaf-Blind Lunch Bunch has increased visibility and sparked new interest from individuals seeking to improve access. Autumn expressed optimism about the growing community and the steps individuals are taking to reduce isolation.

### Linda Lambrecht

Linda shared that three Deaf seniors are currently struggling with accessibility needs. They lack videophones, flashing doorbells, and in some cases are unable to walk or use HandiVan. One individual relies entirely on adult children for food and appointments. Linda noted that previous church groups offered transportation to seniors and suggested similar assistance may help those wanting to attend Kokua Mau workshops. She recommended contacting Sorenson to explore videophone installation options.

### Linda Eriksson

Linda reported that the Big Island community continues to experience disconnection due to distance and fewer local events. Many seniors are isolated and would benefit from workshops addressing emergency preparedness, wills and trusts, and after-death planning. Roz brought up a previous suggestion by Galinda about the possibility of launching a

volunteer program to help clean, visit, and provide support to seniors in their homes.

## Galinda K. Goss-Kuehn

Galinda reported that **eight DVR clients** participated in the recent Employment Showcase. All clients completed Job Readiness from the ground up, and CSC created posters to highlight each participant. DVR continues to refer clients to CSC for Job Search and Job Readiness services. CSC will soon begin offering ASL to DVR staff using the **ASL at Work** curriculum.

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## CSC Announcements — Upcoming Events

- **December 2, 2025 (10 AM–12 PM)** — Deaf Santa at Pearlridge Mall
  - **December 6, 2025 (1–3 PM)** — Cochlear Implant Talk Story
  - **December 11, 2025 (11 AM–1 PM)** — SNAP Presentation and Sign-Up
  - **December 13, 2025 (9 AM–1 PM)** — Craft Fair
  - **January 7 – March 11, 2026 (Wednesdays, 5–6 PM)** — ASL for Beginners on Zoom
  - **January 24, 2026 (10 AM–12 PM)** — Deaf-Blind Lunch Bunch (Potluck)
  - **February 16–27, 2026 (Mon–Fri, 9 AM–4 PM)** — Tax Intakes, Round 1
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## Action Items and Next Steps

- Improve accessibility at the next Deaf-Blind Lunch Bunch (better mic use, visual descriptions, clearer emails).
  - Schedule an **evening event** for the Hard of Hearing community.
  - Continue outreach to audiologists and the general public.
  - Finalize the **Kokua Mau workshop** on Advance Directives and end-of-life planning.
  - Recruit new Advisory Council members using the flyer and SurveyMonkey form.
  - Explore support for Deaf seniors (videophone installation, doorbell alerts, possible transportation help).
  - Consider starting a **volunteer program** to visit and assist isolated seniors.
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## Next Advisory Council Meetings

- **January 17, 2026 (9 AM–12 PM)** — In-Person Advisory Council and Staff Meeting
- **March 7, 2026 (9 AM–11 AM)** — Zoom
- **May 16, 2026 (9 AM–11 AM)** — Zoo