**PENNSYLVANIA**

# **PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

## Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Public Meeting held February 12, 2015

Commissioners Present:

Robert F. Powelson, Chairman

John F. Coleman, Jr., Vice Chairman

James H. Cawley

Pamela A. Witmer

Gladys M. Brown

Pennsylvania Telecommunications Relay M-00900239

Service Advisory Board

**OPINION AND ORDER**

**BY THE COMMISSION:**

The Pennsylvania Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) are communications services that offer persons who are hearing, deaf, and hearing or speech impaired, three ways to connect to the services using various means: Traditional Telephone Relay and Captioned Telephone Relay Services (CTRS). Users who access TRS by telephone simply dial 7-1-1 to connect to a skillfully-trained Communications Assistant, or CA, who follows a strict code of ethics and confidentiality for telephone TRS communications. The CA then relays messages to the other person. TRS is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

By Order entered May 29, 1990, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) established the Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Board (Board) for the purpose of reviewing the success of TRS in Pennsylvania. The Board was also assigned the task of identifying any additional improvements which might need to be implemented to ensure the continued success of the TRS program. The Board is comprised of representatives from the following: Hamilton Telecommunications,[[1]](#footnote-1) the Pennsylvania Telephone Association, the Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry’s Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, and from the community of persons who are, or who have experience with, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, or those with language and speech disorders. The Board meets quarterly in Harrisburg and functions as a user group providing guidance in such areas as problem solving and future enhancements. The set term of a TRS Board member is two years.

The present nominee for the TRS Board for a two-year term ending

February 12, 2017, is Leslie A. Kelly. Ms. Kelly has past experience as a member of the TRS Board and desires to re-apply for service as a board member based on her commitment to the cause of TRS. She has expressed her enjoyment to be a part of the TRS “team” and help those who need communications enhancements to have better access to using the telephone. Ms. Kelly is currently employed with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist Center for Independent Living of South Central Pennsylvania, based in Altoona, PA. Ms. Kelly’s expertise and input could prove to be beneficial to the TRS Board; **THEREFORE,**

**IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That the nomination of Leslie A. Kelly to the Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Board for a two-year term ending February 12, 2017, is approved.

2. That Ms. Leslie A. Kelly shall be served with a copy of this Opinion and Order.

**BY THE COMMISSION,**



Rosemary Chiavetta

Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: February 12, 2015

ORDER ENTERED: February 12, 2015

1. AT&T previously served in the capacity of the “traditional” relay services in Pennsylvania. AT&T no longer serves in this capacity and Hamilton Relay, Inc., affiliated company of Hamilton Telecommunications has assumed those responsibilities formerly performed by AT&T. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)