<Start of transcript> Transcript: "Hello Deaf, DeafBlind, Deaf Disabled, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened communities, my name is Di Cinney, and I’m the interim Director of Washington State Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH).

I am excited to announce that after a nationwide recruitment process, ALTSA: Aging and Long Term Support Administration (ALTSA) has hired Earnest Covington III to serve as the new Director for the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH).

Earnest was born and raised in Flint, Michigan and graduated from the Michigan School for the Deaf. Earnest has a bachelor’s degree in History from Michigan State University, and a master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Michigan. He also has a post-graduate certification in Human Resources Management from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.

From 1998 to 2014, Earnest held various roles at the Michigan School for the Deaf in Flint, Michigan, including supervisor, athletic director, disciplinarian, coach and others. From there, Earnest moved to West Virginia where he was the Executive Director of the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Charleston, West Virginia until 2019.

Earnest is currently the Executive Director at the Rhode Island Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Providence, Rhode Island. He will end his tenure there in June and start his new role here as Director of ODHH on July 5, 2022.

In addition to his years of experience, Earnest brings with him an energy that is going to benefit the deaf, deafblind, deafdisabled, hard of hearing and late deafened community. His forward-thinking approach and desire to serve others will help ensure that awareness, access, and support remain central in the work being done by ODHH.

This is an exciting time for ODHH. We look forward to officially introducing you all to Earnest when he starts in early July. I will remain serving as the interim director until Earnest takes over as director. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at diane.cinney@dshs.wa.gov. Thanks and have a great day. <End of transcript>