GovDelivery Introduction from ODHH New Director, Earnest Covington III. <Start of transcription>Good morning Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and Late Deafened and allies Washingtonians. I would like to introduce myself briefly. I am Black, Deaf, and Male with light blue shirt, navy blue tie and gray jacket. My name is Earnest Covington III. My sign name with fingerspelling of an E. I am honored to be appointed as the ODHH, Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Director. I was appointed on July 5th by Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALTSA) new Assistant Secretary, Bea Rector. I want to express my gratitude for ALTSA, ODHH, internal and external shareholders to be a part of the ODHH director search interview panel. I really appreciate and thank all of you. I would like to share with you about my brief biography. ASL, American Sign Language is my primary language. I have Deaf parents and I born and raised in Flint, Michigan. I graduated from highschool at Michigan School for the Deaf in Flint, Michigan. I went to Gallaudet University from 1997 to 2001 before I transferred to Michigan State University and graduated there with BA degree in History. I obtained Master of Public Administration degree from University of Michigan and Post Graduate degree in Human Resources Management from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. I would like to share with you about my work experience. I worked for Michigan School for the Deaf for 17 years. I was involved in different roles such as the teacher aide, coach, athletic director, disciplinarian, teacher, and other roles. My last role before I left was Director of MSD Staffing before I accepted the job in West Virginia as an Executive Director for West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) in 2014, and I worked there for 5 years. I accepted the same role as an Executive Director for Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RICDHH) after I left WVCDHH in 2019 and I was employed RICDHH from October 2019 to June 30th, 2022 before I got appointed as an ODHH Director on July 5th, 2022. My major goal as a ODHH Director is to adhere ALTSA’s mission statement is to transform lives by promoting choice, independence and safety through innovative services. Also, we will follow ALTSA’s vision statement that would focus on Seniors and people with disabilities with good health, independence, dignity, and control over the decisions that affect their lives. ODHH would share ALTSA’s values to focus on collaboration, respect, accountability, compassion, honesty and integrity, pursuit of excellence, open communication, diversity, and inclusion. I want to inform you that ODHH has five vacancy full time positions. We are looking for people who has a passion to make a difference for the state of Washington. If you're interested in applying for any of those positions or if you know anyone who might be interested to apply for ODHH's position. I encourage you to go ahead and apply. I need great people like you. I would like to share fun facts about me. I'm an avid swimmer. I enjoy sightseeing and visiting museums in downtown in WA. I am starting to pick up golfing as new hobby. Also, I used to play college football at Gallaudet University, and I was a first Black lifeguard ever there too. Thank you for reading the blog and watching this vlog. I am looking forward to connecting with all of you and it is important for myself to be represented all of you to focus on improve the better services for all of you.Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want to chat and my door will be always be open for all of you!! Thank you! Again, my name is Earnest Covington III. I'm the director of ODHH under DSHS/ALTSA. Thank you. <End of transcription>