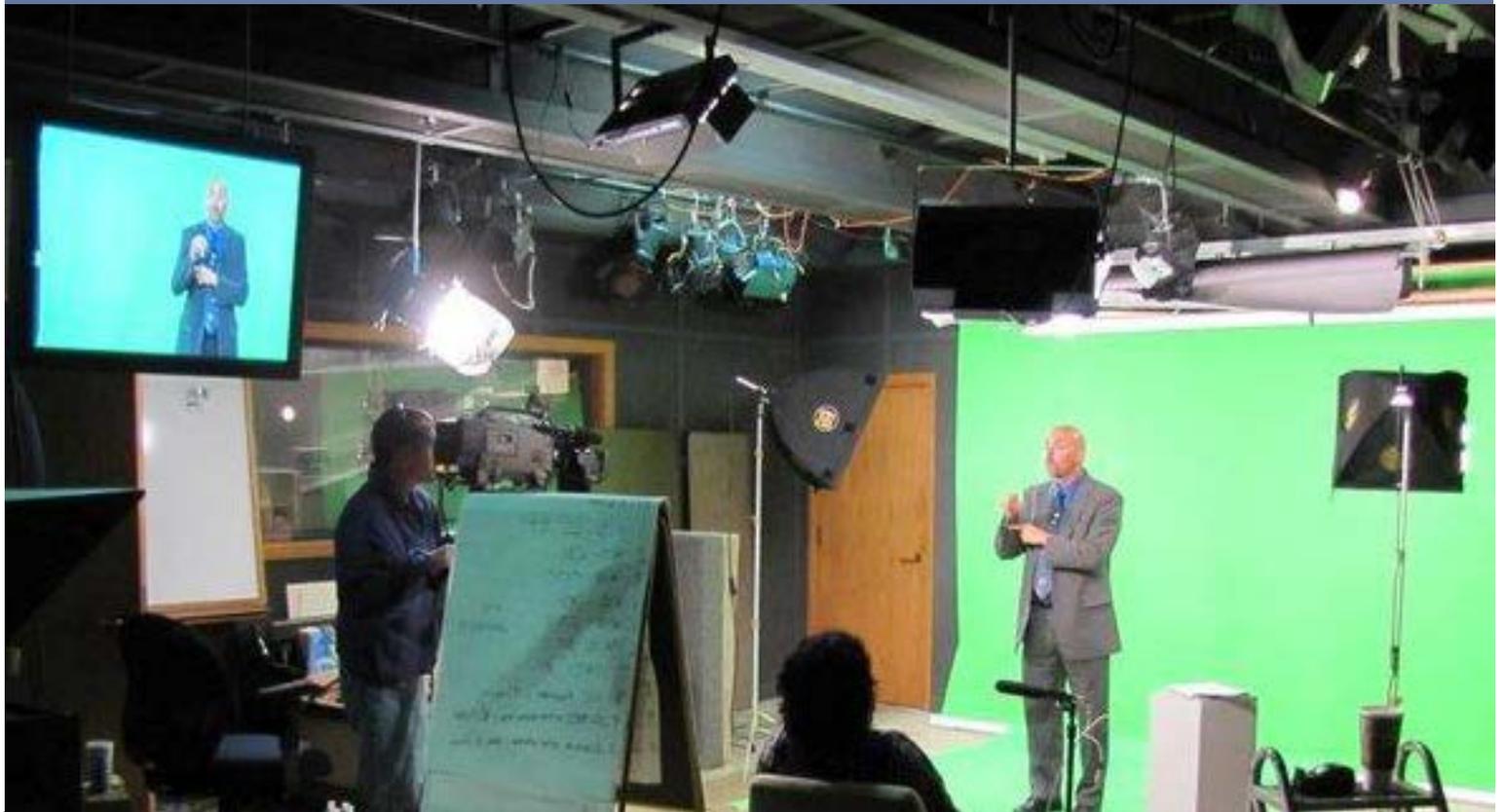


ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION



2011 Annual Report
Fiscal Year
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

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Commissioners

- Nancy Abbott, Albion
- Tina Childress, Urbana
- Joseph Culpepper, Bloomington
- Emma Danielson, Springfield
- Tamara Hogue, Jacksonville
- Hershel Jackson, Rock Island
- Mindy Joy Mayer, Wheeling
- Benro Ogunyipe, Calumet City
- Anil Phadke, Schaumburg
- Laura Thomas, East Moline

Staff

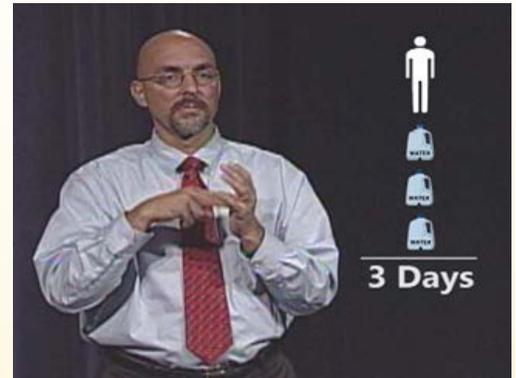
- John Miller, Director
- Janet Lambert, Assistant Director
- Patty Greene, Personnel Manager
- Tonia Bogener, Legal Counsel
- Brandie Belford, Executive Secretary
- Brandy Hayes, Project Coordinator
- Becki Combs, Interpreter Coordinator



Message from the Director . . .

I am proud to present the 2011 Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission Annual Report. IDHHC works diligently towards achieving its Value Statement to assure equality, respect, accessibility and independence for all individuals with a hearing loss.

In collaboration with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, IDHHC developed an emergency preparedness video in American Sign Language (ASL) and is fully captioned. This project will provide valuable information for deaf and hard of hearing families



to assist in preparing for a natural disaster. It is crucial for deaf and hard of hearing individuals whose native language is ASL to have equal access to such important information.

As the State of Illinois deals with these tough economic times, IDHHC continues to look for innovative solutions to continue to expand its services. IDHHC will expand upon its use of web-based strategies such as more ASL videos, on-line professional development for interpreters, and development of specialized presentations to be used by advocacy organizations in their local communities. Plus, you can watch the IDHHC Commission Meetings from the comfort of your home live via the internet on our website. The meetings are fully accessible with both captioning and sign language interpreters.

On behalf of Illinois' deaf and hard of hearing citizens, I thank you for your strong support of IDHHC. I encourage you to visit IDHHC's website at <http://www.idhhc.illinois.gov>.

Sincerely,

John Miller
Director

Established in 1997, IDHHC is an executive state agency that advocates on behalf of the interests of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

In partnership with IL Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), IDHHC developed an ASL and fully captioned video for deaf and hard of hearing individuals providing essential information on how to prepare for a natural disaster. This video is posted to both IDHHC and IEMA's websites.

IDHHC hosted the Communication Access Real-time Transcription (CART) Task Force. The goal of the Task Force is to explore ways of improving the quality and availability of CART services to the deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

EVALUATION & MONITORING OF OUTSIDE PROGRAMS

IDHHC provided recommendations to the Illinois State Board to accept the IL BEI Certification for educational interpreters. This would increase the number of interpreters qualified to work in both the educational and community settings.

The potential closures of Jacksonville Developmental Center and Mabley Developmental Center created an opportunity for IDHHC to work in collaboration with Department of Human Services, Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Governor's Office, to ensure that communication needs are adequately addressed when transitioning deaf and hard of hearing individuals from institutionalized care setting into a community care setting.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In collaboration with the Chicago Lighthouse, the Helen Keller National Center and the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, IDHHC works to provide hands-on training opportunities for consumers, and interpreters both new and experienced, on how to communicate with Deaf-blind individuals using a variety of communication modes. Topics include working with guide dogs and various interpreting techniques and strategies designed for deaf blind such as tracking and restrictive field of vision and tactile interpreting.

IDHHC continues to offer various trainings including "Bridging Language Differences & Preventing Communication Barriers" to state agencies for those who interact with deaf and hard of hearing consumers and/or coworkers.



FY 12 Initiatives

- Implementation of the Communication Access Real-time Transcription (CART) Task Force Recommendations including a registry for CART providers on IDHHC's website.
- Development of a sign language interpreter mentorship program under the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007 rules.
- Promote education and awareness of the importance of legislation mandating insurance coverage for hearing aids.
- Establish specialized training materials for use by various advocacy organizations on removing communication barriers and ensuring effective communication.
- Governor's Working Group focused on educational opportunities for deaf and/or blind children throughout the State.



Did you know that President Abraham Lincoln authorized the world's first college for the Deaf "Gallaudet" to award college degrees in 1864.

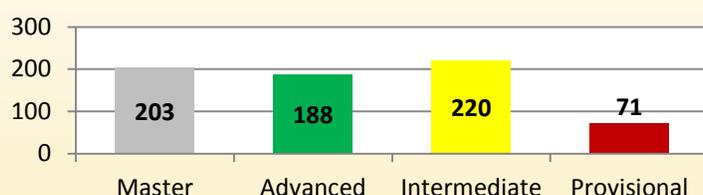
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Licensed Interpreters

2009	654
2010	667
2011	682

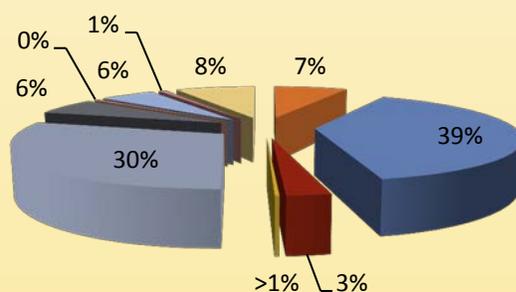
	New Licensees	Renewals	Proficiency Level Upgrade
2010	73	556	34
2011	81	601	25

Licensed Interpreters by Proficiency Level



Licensed Interpreters by Geographic Region

- Central
- Cook County
- East Central
- East Southeast
- Northeast
- Northwest
- Southeast
- Southwest
- West Central
- West Southwest



Illinois Board of Interpreters

Somone Bowman
Hazel Crest

Dana Craig
Chenoa

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel
Manhattan

Teri Hedding
Lombard

Karen Janssen
Lombard

Paul Menkis
Marion

Sue Sanders
Peoria

Area Interpreter Training Programs

Columbia College, Chicago

Illinois Central College, East Peoria

John A. Logan College, Carterville

MacMurray College, Jacksonville

Quincy University, Quincy

Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville

St. Louis Community College,
St. Louis, Missouri

Waubensee Community College,
Aurora

William Rainey Harper College,
Palatine

Shortly after the enactment of the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007, it became evident that there were insufficient testing opportunities within the State for interpreters. After an exhaustive search, the Interpreter Licensure Board recommended adopting the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) that was developed by the University of Arizona National Center for Interpretation Testing, Research and Policy and the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services – Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

In March 2011, IDHHC started offering the IL BEI as a certification option under the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007. Since its implementation, IDHHC has proctored over 140 written exams and 55 performance exams. Currently, the IL BEI is the only certification option being offered within the State of Illinois.