

ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION



IDHHC Open House



2013 Annual Report
Fiscal Year
July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

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Patty Greene, Personnel Manager

Tonia Bogener, Legal Counsel

Brandie Belford, Executive Secretary

Brandy Hayes, Project Coordinator

Carol Christensen, Interpreter
Coordinator



Commissioner Orientation



Message from the Director . . .

I am proud to present the 2013 Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission's Annual Report. IDHHC works diligently to assure equality, respect, accessibility and independence for all individuals with a hearing loss. As a result, IDHHC has received the 2013 Deaf Illinois Award for Best Government Agency. IDHHC also received the award both in 2009 and 2011. (This award is presented only every two (2) years.)

At the beginning of 2013, IDHHC relocated its office to downtown Springfield. After settling into the new office space, IDHHC hosted an Open House for both the Commissioners and community to visit the office and staff.

IDHHC continues to be an exemplary model of communication access. IDHHC Commission Meetings can be viewed via the internet on our website. The meetings are fully accessible with both captioning and sign language interpreters.

On behalf of Illinois' deaf, hard of hearing and DeafBlind 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

The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission shall promote system change, community education and collaboration to advance effective communication access for all individuals with hearing loss in Illinois.

Mission Statement

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

IDHHC added a new resource where consumers can create an "Accommodation Card" online for free!! This card allows the user to indicate their preferred form of accommodation and contact information of a provider of their choice. Additionally, there is information to the Great Lakes ADA Center which provides information and technical assistance on the ADA funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, a division of the U.S. Department of Education.

IDHHC expanded its offerings of ASL information videos by including "Severe Weather Preparedness" developed in collaboration with Illinois Emergency Management Agency and "Active Patient, Health Living" developed in collaboration with Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center and Sinai Health System.

EVALUATION & MONITORING OF OUTSIDE PROGRAMS

IDHHC established the Support Services Providers (SSP) Task Force. The mission of the Task Force is to explore ways for Illinois to better serve the needs of its DeafBlind citizens. This diverse group of individuals utilizes a variety of different communication methods such as tactile interpreting, sign language interpreters, voice interpreters, pro-tactile and CART services. Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services has assisted with funding for the interpreting cost related to the Task Force.

The Governor's Office requested IDHHC's participation on the search and interview committee for the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) Superintendent position. Additionally, IDHHC assisted during ISD's review by the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf for the accreditation process.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Director Miller was interviewed for the Illinois Service Resource Center Deaf Role Model video. This video is used for students preparing to graduate and transition into the community.

IDHHC provided a workshop at the Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf on the differences between a licensed Deaf interpreter, Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) by the Registry of Interpreters and a Deaf advocate.

SSP Task Force Meeting



FY 14 Initiatives

- Promote education and awareness of the requirements for insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act.
- Coordinate a Deaf Self Advocacy Train-the-Trainer Workshop in Central and Northern Illinois.
- Increase collaboration with direct service providers to deaf, hard of hearing and DeafBlind consumers.
- Provide both a Spring and Fall Interpreter Conference which affords Sign Language Interpreters the opportunity to earn the required twenty (20) hours of professional development for licensure renewal.
- Host a 5 Year Strategic Planning Retreat for Commissioners to establish IDHHC's goals for the next strategic plan starting in Fiscal Year 2015.



Did you know that Marlee Beth Matlin is the only deaf performer to win the Academy Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role, which she won for Children of a Lesser God in 1986.

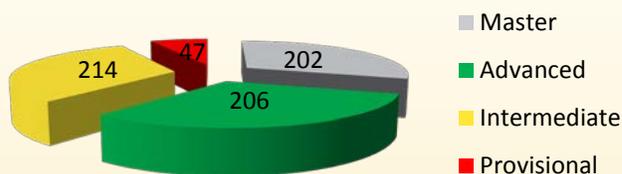
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Licensed Interpreters

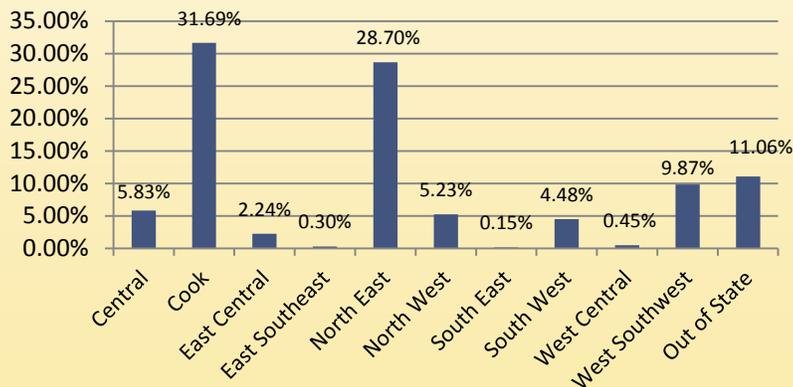
2013	668
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	New Licensees	Renewals	Proficiency Level Upgrade
2013	52	609	28

Licensed Interpreters by Proficiency Level



Licensed Interpreters by Region



With the start of interpreter licensure five (5) years ago, IDHHC has seen the number of licensed interpreters increase, the number of Provisional licenses decrease, IDHHC Interpreter Conference expanded to give the opportunity to earn the required twenty (20) hours of continuing education, and the addition of the mentoring program.

The Illinois Board of Interpreters plays an important role in making improvements to licensure and responding to interpreter and consumer concerns. The Board will have two vacancies (deaf consumer and licensed interpreter) at the end of 2014 and 2015. If you are interested, more information on how to apply can be found at

<http://www2.illinois.gov/idhhc/Pages/licensureboard.aspx>.



IDHHC Interpreter Conference

Illinois Board of Interpreters

Dana Craig, Chenoa

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Manhattan

Teri Hedding, Lombard

Karen Janssen, Lombard

Thomas Russell, Wood River

Sue Sanders, Peoria

Deborah Sampson, Glenview

Area Interpreter Training Programs

Columbia College, Chicago

Illinois Central College, East Peoria

John A. Logan College, Carterville

MacMurray College, Jacksonville

Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills

Quincy University, Quincy

Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville

St. Louis Community College, St. Louis, Missouri

Waubensee Community College, Aurora

William Rainey Harper College, Palatine