

ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION



standard American

deaf individuals
needed to maximize
s for all parties.



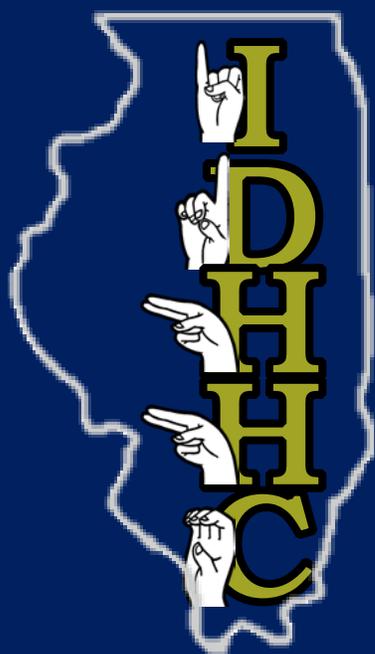
Sign Language....

Due to the number of deaf individuals
involved, the CDI is needed to maximize
communication access for all parties.



Court Orientation Legal Training

2015 Annual Report Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015



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Vacant, Interpreter Coordinator



Message from the Director . . .

In presenting the 2015 Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission's Annual Report, I am proud of the accomplishments and partnerships continues develop with services providers and the community.

IDHHC forged new partnerships with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Administration of the Illinois Courts (AOIC). IDHHC joined AOIC in providing a free two day legal training to Illinois Licensed Interpreter qualified to work in the court system. Completion of this training enabled sign language interpreters to register with the AOIC approved interpreter directory which is available to all the courts in Illinois.

Additionally, IDHHC welcomed FIVE new Commissioners during 2015!!! IDHHC appreciates the support, dedication, and services of both the current and former IDHHC Commissioners.

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

In collaboration with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and ADA Great Lakes Technical Assistance Center, IDHHC coordinated an event to promote self-advocacy within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community and empower individuals to seek assistance from the Illinois EEOC offices regarding employment discrimination and communication barriers in the work setting.

IDHHC provided a presentation and booth during the November 2014 Hearing Loss of America Conference in Springfield, IL. IDHHC presented information on its CART directory and other resources available on its website.

EVALUATION & MONITORING OF OUTSIDE PROGRAMS

The Administration of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) requested IDHHC's assistance in reviewing its new Language Access Policy. As part of its recommendations, IDHHC and AOIC hosted a specialized legal Illinois Advanced and Master licensed sign language interpreters with nationally renowned presenter Carla M. Mathers, Esquire, SC: L and June Prusak, CDI. The training was conducted over 2 days and 115 interpreters attended.

IDHHC coordinated a presentation to the Information Technology Departments of the Illinois Central Management Services and Secretary of State with major Video Relay Services providers to highlight the various services available for use deaf or hard of hearing by state employee which utilize American Sign Language as their primary language.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

IDHHC was invited as a trainer during the FAN (Functional Assessment Needs) Fair for Will and Grundy County. It was attended by over 100 Emergency Responders and Public Health employees. IDHHC provided six (6) presentations, promoting Deaf awareness and providing resources to Emergency First Responders and how they can provide appropriate services to the hearing loss community in the event of an emergency disaster.

IDHHC presented "Navigating Communication Access – for Patients who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing" to Social Workers at their statewide conference, hosted by Memorial Medical Center to achieve their "Cultural Competency" education requirements.



FY 16 Initiatives

- Develop a quarterly IDHHC Newsletter to be distributed electronically.
- Provide training to increase the number and quality of Deaf Sign Language Interpreters in Illinois.
- Create awareness and certification opportunities for licensed sign language interpreters providing cued speech translating services.
- Develop guidance and support to community service providers to decrease communication barriers.
- Reconvene the CART Taskforce for a 5 year review of its recommendations.



According to the Modern Language Association, American Sign Language is third most common foreign language studied in U.S. Colleges. Enrollment increased 19% between 2009 and 2013.

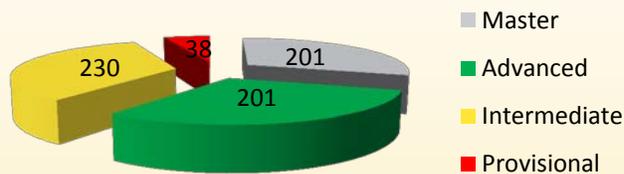
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Licensed Interpreters

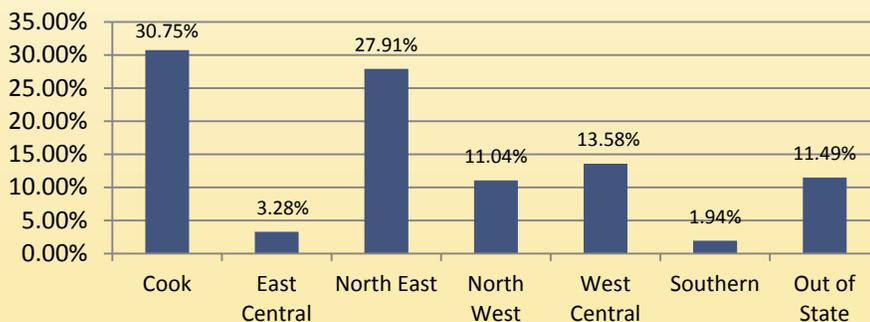
2015	670
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	New Licensees	Renewals	Proficiency Level Upgrade
2015	50	556	16

Licensed Interpreters by Proficiency Level



Licensed Interpreters by Region



Illinois Board of Interpreters

Lisa Caringer, Herrin
 Teri Hedding, Lombard
 William Lee, Chicago
 Thomas Russell, Wood River
 Deborah Sampson, Glenview
 Susan Sanders, Peoria
 Shelley Williams, Champaign

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