

ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION



**2008 Annual Report
Fiscal Year
July 1, 2007—June 30, 2008**



STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

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PAT QUINN
GOVERNOR

JOHN MILLER
DIRECTOR

To Governor Quinn and the People of Illinois:

In accordance with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission Act, I am pleased to submit the 2008 Annual Report on behalf of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC). This annual report reflects the activities of IDHHC from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

The partnerships that IDHHC builds with the deaf and hard of hearing communities, legislators, government agencies, service providers, organizations and private entities are essential to assuring equality, respect, accessibility and independence for all individuals with a hearing loss. Not only does this annual report reflect the many outreach efforts of IDHHC, but also the resources that are available to Illinois citizens to learn more about issues surrounding hearing loss or how to find a licensed interpreter in Illinois.

Although IDHHC is busy preparing for the start of Interpreter Licensure, IDHHC continues to look towards the future. It is time for IDHHC to establish the goals for the next five (5) year strategic plan. Who better to identify the needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, than the community itself. IDHHC hosted townhalls throughout the State to give the Community the opportunity to identify various concerns and barriers they face on a daily basis.

IDHHC has accomplished a great deal, but there is much more to do. On behalf of Illinois' one million deaf and hard of hearing citizens, I thank you for your strong support of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

John Miller
Director

IDHHC is About What?

VISION STATEMENT

All Illinois residents with a hearing loss will enjoy the benefits of a fully accessible society enabling each person to participate in and contribute to all aspects of life.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, as an executive agency of the state, shall advance the interests of all Illinois citizens with a hearing loss by advocating for systemic improvements, promoting cooperation and coordination among entities serving people who are deaf and hard of hearing, and disseminating information to eliminate negative stereotypes surrounding hearing loss.

VALUE STATEMENT

**Assuring Equality, Respect,
Accessibility and Independence for
All Individuals
with a Hearing Loss.**

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Get to Know IDHHC...

Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) is an executive state agency. With approximately one million individuals with a hearing loss in Illinois, IDHHC assists individuals to ensure communication access is being provided. However, the citizens IDHHC serves is not limited to those that are deaf,



deaf/blind and hard of hearing. IDHHC provides education and awareness to both private and public entities to understand hearing loss and its obligations to provide communication access; whether it is providing a sign language interpreter, Computer Assisted Real Time Captioning (CART) or some other form of auxiliary aid. In addition, IDHHC provides information and referral services, evaluation and monitoring of programs, review of legislation, and maintaining a roster of licensed interpreters throughout the State of Illinois.



With the passing of IDHHC's 10 year anniversary and the start of Interpreter Licensure, IDHHC Director and Assistant Director hit the road. IDHHC hosted thirteen (13) townhalls for community feedback. The purpose of the townhall was to identify the predominate areas of concern in the community. Continued areas of concern throughout the State

include educational issues such as placement and communication options in the classroom for children with hearing loss; communication access in medical and legal situations and ensuring appropriately qualified interpreter or other



appropriate auxiliary aides are provided; and lack of captioning at the movie theaters and on the internet. IDHHC will use the community concerns to develop its next five year strategic plan.

DID YOU KNOW...

- ◆ You could be receiving important up to date information on issues relating to hearing loss including important legislation.
- ◆ To sign up for IDHHC's Email Alert...send an email to dhh.webmaster@illinois.gov

Expanding Communication Access in Government Services



Andrew Velasquez III, IEMA Director
& John Miller, IDHHC Director

IDHHC and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency developed a partnership to coordinator communication access in the event of a natural disaster emergency. This will ensure Illinois citizens with a hearing loss will receive notification and direction how to prepare and respond in a natural disaster emergency.

The Joint Task Force on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Options is comprised of individuals with hearing loss, parents of individuals with hearing loss, members of the Illinois House of Representatives, and early intervention and educational professionals. This task force is charged with making “...a comprehensive and thorough review of education and services available to the deaf or hard of hearing children in Illinois...”



IDHHC provided recommendations to the Department of Central Management regarding its policy on sign language interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing applicants. As a result, CMS expanded the use of sign language interpreters upon request to interpret the entire test, not merely instructions and definitions.

IDHHC continued to serve on the Lt. Governor’s Broadband Council. The ultimate goal is to provide access to high speed internet to all Illinois Citizens. Affordable high speed internet is crucial to the deaf and hard of hearing community as it provides direct access to communication in American Sign Language through the use of Video Phones and Video Relay Services.



In preparation for the start of the legislative session, IDHHC was invited to provide training to the House & Senate legislative staff . The training focused on communication access at the Capitol for deaf and hard of hearing constituents.

11th Annual Statewide Deaf Fingerspelling Bee

The Statewide Deaf Fingerspelling Bee provides a unique opportunity for all deaf and hard of hearing children in the 5th through 8th grades. The Fingerspelling Bee provides a unique opportunity students to compete amongst their peers, encourages vocabulary building and language development. This is also an occasion for social interaction with each other and the deaf community. The students are judged by deaf and hard of hearing professionals throughout the state.



Students registering the morning of the event.

Over 150 people attended to show their support.



Deaf and Hard of Hearing students from across the state came to Springfield to compete. The students are required to provide the correct fingerspelling of a word using the American Sign Language alphabet.

THANK YOU

2008 Sponsors of the Statewide Deaf Fingerspelling Bee



2008 Statewide Deaf Fingerspelling Bee Judges

Benro Ogunyipe, Department of Human Services
 Kate Kubey, Mayor's Office of People with Disabilities
 Ryan Croke, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Congratulations to all Students!

All students received a T-shirt, medallion and a certificate for participating in the contest. The first place winners from each group also received a \$50 savings bond and a one year free membership to the Illinois Association of the Deaf. First, Second, and Third place winners were also awarded trophies.

Group A (5th & 6th Graders) Winners

1st Place - Jesse Cobb - Jefferson Elementary
2nd Place - Lauren Holtz - Blackwell Elementary
3rd Place - Jordan Manges - Illinois School for the Deaf

Winning Word: brochure

Group B (7th & 8th Graders) Winners

1st Place - Cayli Jo Bateman - Illinois School for the Deaf
2nd Place - Austin Bernal - Illinois School for the Deaf
3rd Place - Adanary DeLuna - Holy Trinity

Winning Word: deceive



SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS

Group A (5th & 6th graders) (7th & 8th graders)

Blackwell Elementary (Schaumburg)
Cissna Park Schools (Cissna Park)
the Deaf (Jacksonville)
Holy Trinity (Chicago)
Nathan Hale Middle School (Crestwood)

Group B

Holy Trinity (Chicago)
Illinois School for



Interpreter Licensure

The Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007 requires sign language interpreters to be licensed as of January 1, 2009, to continue providing interpreting services in Illinois. IDHHC's first step towards preparing for licensure was to appoint the Illinois Board of Interpreters for the Deaf. The Board is composed of 4 interpreters, 3 deaf or hard of hearing consumers and the IDHHC Interpreter Coordinator. The Board shall advise the Director in establishing guidelines for policies and procedures under the Act.



Front row: Karen Janssen, Becki Combs, Paul Menkis, Terri Hedding, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Dana Craig
Back row: Carole Clemens

The Board's first meeting was January 10, 2008, where they quickly went to work to develop recommendations for the Interpreter Licensure Rules. The Board reviewed other states with licensure or registration. Another area of focus was determining which certifications would be accepted for licensure.



The Board's primary concern was to ensure that Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers would receive qualified interpreters. In efforts to maximize the number of interpreters who would qualify for licensure and ensure quality services, the Board recommended a tiered license system — Master, Advanced, Intermediate and Provisional licenses.

Interpreter Licensure Draft Rules Townhall Meetings



IDHHC hosted Townhall meetings in Chicago, Springfield, and Carterville regarding the proposed rules for Interpreter Licensure. Over 150 deaf, hard of hearing, and interpreters attended the Townhall Meetings. The Community provided important feedback and comments regarding the proposed rules.

The public comments varied from the cost of licensure, appropriate interpreting assignments, certifications and allowable exemptions under the law. The Community was very supportive of licensing sign language interpreters and the proposed rules.



IDHHC provided all of the comments to the Interpreter Licensure Board for its review and consideration. The proposed rules were then formally published and presented to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules for approval.

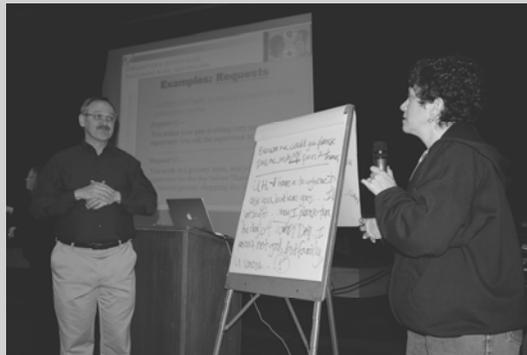
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
INTERPRETER LICENSURE GO TO:

[http://www.idhhc.state.il.us/
InterpreterLicensure.htm](http://www.idhhc.state.il.us/InterpreterLicensure.htm)

3rd Annual Conference

IDHHC'S conference brought the community together; not only those with a hearing loss, but also parents of children with a hearing loss, educational interpreters, community interpreters, teachers of the deaf and anyone interested in learning more about hearing loss. Conference attendees could choose from a variety of workshops throughout the weekend.

Interpreters had the opportunity to achieve higher levels of knowledge and improve their interpreting skills. The conference provided continuing education hours under both Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and ISBE.



What Participants had to Say...



Demystifying Cochlear Implants
By Tina Childress



What is ... DSCC & EI?
By Ginger Mullin

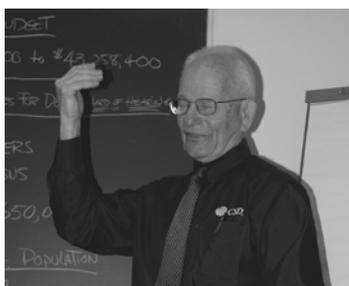


Experiencing the Journey
By IDHHC



Make a Difference: Become a Deaf Mentor
By Nancy Scott,

- ◆ IDHHC Always does a great job!
- ◆ Excellent sources and great presentation!
- ◆ I was thankful for all of the advice, Being new in this field - everyone was wonderfully helpful!
Thank you so much.
- ◆ I learned a lot really. I am student in an ITP program so seeing how to effectively demonstrate the NMM and the English into NMM was really helpful. Great!
- ◆ Very engaging presenter & information. Gave concrete examples that allowed us to relate to the material & do a deeper dive of it.
- ◆ It was all very good & interesting. The "direct" & "indirect" was extremely interesting & actually helped me in a situation I am



Together We Build
By Frank Turk



Discourse & Cognition:
Creating a Train of Thought
by Kevin Williams



Differences: Politeness in ASL & English
By Jack Hoza



History in the Deaf Community
By Jennifer Briggs



Closed Captioning & Digital TV
By Nick Ziemer

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR
NEXT CONFERENCE...
MAY 29 - 30, 2009

IDHHC Highlights



Director Miller and Rochelle Doss, President of Chicagoland Black Deaf Advocates, Inc.

- Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Late Deafened and Hard of Hearing consumers from children thru senior citizens received training on how to advocate for communication access and educate providers on their obligation to provide effective communication through auxiliary aides.
- Partnerships were developed not only with the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Late Deafened, Hard of Hearing consumers and parents of children with hearing loss but also legislators, state and local government agencies, service providers, and other organizations to promote communication access allowing citizens with hearing loss to enjoy the benefits of a fully accessible society.
- Participated on the Support Services Providers Taskforce to increase awareness of the communication needs of the underserved population of the deaf-blind.
- The Sign Language Interpreter Registry continues to receive the most hits on IDHHC's website. The registry provides certification and contact information both alphabetically and by region of the active Interpreters in Illinois. In addition, IDHHC is responsible for registering interpreters as required by the Interpreters for the Deaf Act.
- Monitors legislation which impacts the deaf and hard of hearing community. Hot topics continue to include hearing aid insurance, ASL as a foreign language credit in colleges and universities, sign language interpreters and funding to expand the universal new born screening programs.
- Additional resources available from IDHHC includes a comprehensive lending library, directories for government programs, publications such as the Parent's Manual, Education Taskforce Report, information on Sign Language Interpreter Licensure and IDHHC's website.



Deaf Nation Expo, Palatine, IL



General Revenue Fund (001) Summary



CODE		APPROPRIATIONS		ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	
		FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008
1120	Personal Services	\$ 395,200	\$ 333,800	\$ 372,694	\$ 332,050
1161	Retirement	\$ 45,500	\$ 56,000	\$ 42,752	\$ 55,971
1170	Social Security	\$ 30,200	\$ 25,200	\$ 27,455	\$ 25,134
	PS/PB Subtotal	\$ 470,900	\$ 415,000	\$ 442,901	\$ 413,155
1200	Contractual Services	\$ 85,100	\$ 95,200	\$ 84,850	\$ 94,258
1290	Travel	\$ 22,660	\$ 15,800	\$ 20,528	\$ 12,540
1300	Commodities	\$ 11,584	\$ 11,600	\$ 11,452	\$ 11,600
1302	Printing	\$ 4,924	\$ 6,900	\$ 4,829	\$ 6,109
1500	Equipment	\$ 9,551	\$ 11,700	\$ 8,693	\$ 11,074
1700	Telecommunications	\$ 19,958	\$ 21,700	\$ 19,544	\$ 19,162
1800	Operation of Auto	\$ 6,823	\$ 7,900	\$ 6,823	\$ 7,900
1900	Social Services Shared Svc.	\$ -	\$ 81,300	\$ -	\$ 81,297
1910	Expenses Related to the Operation of the Commission	\$ 36,800	\$ 36,800	\$ 30,581	\$ 30,680
	Subtotal	\$ 197,400	\$ 288,900	\$ 187,300	\$ 274,623
	AGENCY TOTAL	\$ 668,300	\$ 703,900	\$ 630,201	\$ 687,778

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Special Projects Fund (405) Summary

CODE	GRANT AMOUNT		GRANT ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	
	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008
1900	\$ 15,000	\$ 22,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 16,895

MEET IDHHC

COMMISSIONERS



From Left to Right: Marc Siegel, Hershel Jackson, Cliff Pearce, Lisa Sesko, Jenny Singleton, Tina Childress, Dennis O'Brien, Emma Danielson, Tom Benziger, and Benro Ogunyipe. Not Pictured: Mindy Joy Mayer

IDHHC STAFF



John Miller
Director



Janet Lambert
Assistant Director



Patty Greene
Personnel Manager

Tonia R. Bogener
Legal Counsel



Mary O'Brian
Program Coordinator



Brandie Belford
Executive Secretary



Brandy Hayes
Project Coordinator



Save These Dates



April 24, 2009

Annual Statewide Deaf Fingerspelling Bee



May 29—30, 2009

IDHHC Annual Conference

Sign up for IDHHC's Email Alert, please send email request to
dhh.webmaster@illinois.gov

Upon request, IDHHC provides presentations, trainings, and program review,
please send request to dhh.webmaster@illinois.gov

Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission



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