

August 21, 2008

Springfield, Illinois

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The forty-sixth meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission was held on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission office, 1630 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois.

Call to Order:

Dennis O'Brien, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Members Present:

Tina Childress	Lisa Sesko	Benro Ogunyipe	Marc Siegel	Dennis O'Brien
Jenny Singleton	Tom Benziger	Mindy Joy Mayer	Hershel Jackson	

Members Absent:

Cliff Pearce Emma Danielson

Interpreters:

Sheila Chapman Marilyn Corlett

Staff Present:

John Miller	Brandie Piper	Janet Lambert
Mary O'Brian	Patty Greene	Tonia Bogener

Approval of Minutes:

Hershel Jackson made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Marc Siegel Motion passed.

Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Lisa Sesko	Yes	Thomas Benziger	Yes
Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes
Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes	Jenny Singleton	Yes

Public Comments: None

Progress Report 5 Year Strategic Plan

Director Miller provided the Commission members with the year to date numbers for the fourth year of the five year strategic plan.

Decreased barriers for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons to access programs and services.

By December 2009, 5 State-funded programs will be evaluated and monitored to ensure accessibility.

Year-to-date

- 21 State-funded programs evaluated

FY 2008

- 7 State-funded programs

By December 2009, 250 Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers will receive trainings on how to effectively advocate for communication access.

Year-to-date

- 619 Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers

FY 2008

- 229 Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers

By December 2009, 50 Outreach events will be provided to increase public awareness on communication needs of the deaf and hard of hearing and technologies utilized by this population.

Year-to-date

- 152 Outreach events

Increased number of programs serving traditionally underserved populations.

By December 2009, 3 programs will receive consultation on how to expand their services to include traditionally underserved populations.

Year-to-date by FY 2008

- 5 programs

Increased number of qualified interpreters statewide.

By December 2009, 500 interpreters will receive professional development.

Year-to-date

- 450 Interpreters

FY 2008

- 127 Interpreters

By December 2009, 1,000 Interpreters will be licensed in Illinois.

Year-to-date

- No interpreters licensed.

FY 2008

- Interpreter Licensure not effective, however, we have 1,225 interpreters registered. (770 active)
- Interpreter Licensure will be required as of January 1, 2009.

By December 2009, 400 educational interpreters will be registered.

Year-to-date

- 323 educational interpreters voluntarily registered.

FY 2008

- 68 educational interpreters voluntarily registered.

Increased number of parents of deaf and hard of hearing children involved in advocacy for their children in obtaining appropriate education options.

By December 2009, 30 families will have participated in educational options training.

Year-to-date

- 106 families

FY 2008

- 25 families advocacy for education options

By December 2009, 2,000 families with infants and toddlers recently diagnosed with hearing loss will receive information to enhance their quality of life.

Year-to-date

- 1,543 families received information

FY 2008

- 219 Parent Manuals were distributed.

Increased public awareness on communication needs and technologies available.

By December 2009, 1,000 public and private entities will receive information on communication access.

Year-to-date

- 46,210 public inquiries addressed

FY 2008

- 8,510 public inquiries addressed

Increased number of IDHHC resources distributed to the public to address cultural sensitivity and awareness.

By December 2009, 10,000 individuals will receive information regarding hearing loss through IDHHC various resources.

Year-to-date

- 74,450 individuals

FY 2008

- Distributed 1,202 brochures
- Distributed 8,612 promotional items
- Website

Chairperson Report:

Dennis O'Brien shared with the members that mileage reimbursement has increased for fiscal year 2009 from .485 to .505.

Director's Report:

Director, John Miller, reported to the Commissioners that interviews have been completed for the vacant Project Coordinator position and we are waiting on approval to hire.

Budget:

The FY09 budget has been approved by the General Assembly and the Commission appropriation is same as FY08 budget with exception of addition \$100,000 for Interpreter Licensure. All out of state travel was cancelled due to the budget not being approved therefore Director Miller was unable to attend the National Association of the Deaf Conference that was held in Louisiana in July.

Interpreter Licensure Update:

- Interpreter Licensure JCAR updates –First notice ended on August 21, Licensure Board will meet on September 4 to review comments and discuss any revisions prior to second notice.
- The position for the Interpreter Coordinator has been submitted to CMS for review and approval to post.
- The Commission staff is currently working with various state agencies regarding the procedures on collecting and tracking of fees, development of necessary manual, brochures and office procedures continue.

Commissioner Updates:

- The Commission will host their commission retreat in Bloomington on October 22, 23, & 24th. The retreat will allow the Commissioners to develop the next 5 year strategic goals for the agency.
- At this time the Commission is working with several agencies to host future Commission meetings via live web broadcasting. Confirmation for the November 13, 2008 meeting will be announced if technical access can be provided via live captioning.

IDHHC Telephone Access: The Commission is pleased to announce that we will have direct telephone access for all incoming calls to the agency. Previously all calls were retrieved from our voice mail messaging system by our Executive Secretary. With the advancement of technology available thru video relay services and implementation of dedicated telephone numbers all Commission incoming calls are now routed thru the video relay service provider.

Future Programs & Projects:

- IDHHC will be co-sponsoring the Deaf Awareness Day at the James R. Thompson Center scheduled for September 17, 2008.
- The Department of Central Management Services is working with IDHHC to review and enhance the communication access policy during testing of the civil service exam.
- The Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation (DHS/DRS) and IDHHC are currently reviewing the manual communication bi-lingual program and the assessment that is used to determine the communication skills of future employees hired by DHS.
- The Education Communication Options Task Force continues to meet and will be developing the recommendations to submit the report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2008.

Trainings/Presentation:

- Elderly Service Officer Training
- 13 Commission Townhall in June 2008
- DSSP North Meeting: Interpreter Licensure Presentation
- Deaf-Blind Retreat: Self Advocacy-Empowerment Workshop

Staff Professional Development:

- Ethics training
- Procurement Training

Committee Meetings / Networking

- CHOICES Quarterly meeting
- Broadband Deployment Council Meeting
- Parent Infant Institute Information Fair
- Newborn Hearing Program: Learning Collaborative-Hinsdale
- Illinois Resource Service Center: Leadership Team
- ADA Celebration: Exhibit (Chicago & Springfield)
- Statewide Independent Living Council Board Meeting
- Illinois Association of the Deaf Board Meeting
- SSP Task Force

Future Activities Scheduled:

- Interpreter Licensure Implementation
- DHS/DRS – SDHH & IDHHC: SCPI
- Illinois Latino Association of the Deaf
- TCCI Business Meeting
- Deaf Awareness Day
- DSSP North and Central Meeting
- Commission Retreat
- ALDA Conference
- Deaf-Blind Awareness Day
- Deaf-Blind Retreat Planning Meeting
- IRID Conference
- Deaf Nation Expo
- CHOICES Meeting
- Education Communication Options Task Force Meeting

- ISD Bi-Annual Post Secondary Education Conference
- Newborn Hearing Screening Learning Collaborative
- Working on our Annual Report

We will have the following Commissioner’s terms expiring in November. Tom Benziger, Dennis O’Brien and Tina Childress are eligible to be reappointed for a second term. Jenny Singleton has completed two term appointments but will remain on the Commission under the sunset clause until a replacement has been appointed by the Governor’s Board Office and Commissions.

New Business:

Dennis O’Brien made a motion that IDHHC investigate the possibility of having surveys available on the website to track information about consumers wanting hearing aid insurance coverage. Seconded by Thomas Benziger Discussion followed MOTION PASSED

Dennis O’Brien	Yes	Lisa Sesko	Yes	Thomas Benziger	Abstain
Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes
Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes	Jenny Singleton	Yes

Tom Benziger made a motion to close new business Lisa Sesko seconded motion. Motion Passed.

Dennis O’Brien	Yes	Lisa Sesko	Yes	Thomas Benziger	Yes
Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes
Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes	Jenny Singleton	Yes

Break: 2:35 p.m.

Reconvened: 2:55 p.m.

Open Discussion:

- Dennis O’Brien shared with the members the activities of the Hearing Aid Action 2008 Organization. The goal of Hearing Aid Action 2008 is to introduce legislation to provide hearing aid insurance coverage for all Illinois residents. During the last legislative session HB5600 was proposed but failed to move out of committee. It is important for people who want to get involved or find out more information they can go to www.hearingaidaction.com
- Benro Ogunyipe shared with Commission members that interpreters in the Chicago area have discussed concerns regarding the leveling system and the proficiency levels of the proposed rules. Director Miller asked Benro to request anyone wanting to make comment on the proposed rule to make contact with Tonia Bogener, Legal Counsel with IDHHC to comply with the rules established by JCAR.

Announcements:

Marc Siegel shared with the Commission members that the upcoming Walk for Hearing has been received approximately \$16,000 from sponsors and they are still hoping to recruit more teams to walk for the event.

Adjournment:

Jenny Singleton made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Lisa Sesko. Motion passed.

Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Lisa Sesko	Yes	Thomas Benziger	Yes
Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes
Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes	Jenny Singleton	Yes

Adjourned -3:27 p.m.

(Signature in file)

Chairperson

Date

Executive Secretary

Date