

November 4, 2010

Springfield, Illinois

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION**

The fifty-fourth meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **November 4, 2010**, at the University of Illinois at Springfield, Public Affairs Center Building, 1 University Plaza, Springfield, IL 62703, and broadcasted live via IDHHC's website.

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Childress called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Tina Childress	Joseph Culpepper	Nancy Abbott	Benro Ogunyipe
Tamara Hogue	Hershel Jackson	Emma Danielson	

**Members Absent:**

Victoria Gustafson	Mindy Joy Mayer	Marc Siegel	Julie Chavez (Resigned)
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**Staff Present:**

John Miller	Janet Lambert	Brandie Belford	Brandy Hayes
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**Interpreters:**

Sheila Chapman	Marilyn Corlett
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**CART:**

Kathy Smith

**Public:**

Ingrid Halvorsen	Rob Kilbury	Margorie Elson	Todd Williams
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***Nancy Abbott moved to accept the August 26, 2010, minutes as corrected. Seconded by Joseph Culpepper. Motion passed.***

Hershel Jackson	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Nancy Abbott	Yes
Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Emma Danielson	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Tamara Hogue	Yes				

## **Special Reports/Presentations:**

### Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Rehabilitation Services

Director Rob Kilbury, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) provided an overview of the services under DRS and current issues with Illinois School for the Deaf.

- DRS administers several programs including Social Security determination, Vocational Rehabilitation Program and the Medicaid Waiver Program. Additionally, DHS has three residential schools for children with disabilities including the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) located in Jacksonville, IL.
- There have been concerns that ISD does not operate efficiently in matters involving procurement and personnel matters and if it would be better for ISD to be independent of DHS. This has been discussed by the Advisory Board along with legislation to possibly exempt ISD from the Illinois Procurement Code and Personnel Code. DHS continues to work with the ISD on a daily basis.
- DHS is greatly affected by the State's budgetary problems. Without new revenue funding, all programs will be impacted including Centers for Independent Living. DHS does have money for vocational training it receives through the Federal government.

### Illinois State Board of the Education

Todd Williams, Principal Consultant for Special Education Services for the Illinois State Board of Education oversees the deaf and hard of hearing, deaf-blind and vision programs. In addition, he is involved in the ISBE State Performance Plan and specifically with Indicator 13 which covers Secondary Transition Plans for students with disabilities graduating high school to ensure appropriate services are available.

One of the "hot topics" involves Educational Interpreters. ISBE put rules in place for Educational Interpreters in 2006. Those rules identify three (3) different levels: Initial, Standard and Master. ISBE does not issue Certifications but gives Educational Interpreter an "Approval of Certification" when provided the appropriate forms and proof of certification.

ISBE is working with IDHHC to make changes in the rules which will give ISBE more flexibility in approving qualified Educational Interpreters. This is an ongoing process including discussions on how to provide a registry of approved Educational Interpreters to assist parents and schools to identify qualified Educational Interpreters.

## Department of Human Services, Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Ingrid Halvorsen, Manager of Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing under the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), discussed how Vocational Rehabilitation services offered by DHS provides training and restoration to assist deaf and hard of hearing individuals find a good job and live independently, allowing individuals to be self-sufficient and no longer rely on SSI payments. In the past two (2) years, there has been a decrease in referrals for those who can benefit from the services. There are twenty-nine (29) Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. These counselors have knowledge relating to hearing loss, Deaf Culture and assistive devices. DHS is actively working to improve services to Deaf-Blind customers.

Despite the State's economic dilemma, funding is available for vocational rehabilitation services. The funding comes from the Federal Government, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and Social Security. Currently, DHS has two new initiatives which are good through September 2011 which is the end of the Federal Fiscal Year.

- Community College Initiative provides funding for individuals with disabilities to help with tuition and fees up to \$2500 for courses towards a Certification or Associates degree leading to an employment outcome.
- Employment Training Initiative provides funding to an employer to help train a new employee with a disability. This is not on the job training but funding to assist with needed accommodations.

### **Chairperson's Report:**

Chairperson Childress shared a recent experience which stressed the importance of educating parents of deaf and hard of hearing children on the need for effective communication access. A student had a seizure at school and was taken to the emergency room by ambulance. The educational interpreter stayed with the student. At the hospital, the educational interpreter informed the hospital that it needed to get a medical interpreter. The student was also requesting an interpreter. However, when the parents arrived, they informed the hospital their daughter did not need an interpreter. Chairperson Childress decided to contact the ADA hotline to see if the minor had independent rights under the ADA. As the child is a minor, the parents have the right to make the decision.

### **Director's Report**

- IDHHC's Budget – There have been no further cuts since report at last Commission meeting.
- Statewide Deaf Finger Spelling Bee – While IDHHC had to cut the event due to budget constraints, the Illinois Teachers for the Hard of Hearing / Deaf Individual (ITHI) will be assuming responsibility for the event starting during the school year of 2011-2012.

- Statewide Independent Living Council – As part of its State Plan involving communication access, a subcommittee was formed to focus on medical providers and hospitals. Director Miller was asked to chair the subcommittee. The subcommittee will work with Deaf Services Coordinators at the Centers for Independent Living and hospital representatives to educate about legal responsibilities for communication access under the Illinois Language Assistance Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- IDHHC’s Website – Staff is continuing to work with CMS to make it more user friendly. Plus, staff will be able to make additions and changes without going through CMS.
- V-log on Emergency Preparedness – In preparing the vlog, it became evident that IDHHC did not possess the video technology or expertise to develop a finished product. IDHHC is working with Illinois Emergency Management Agency and inquired about funding to produce a more professional looking product.
- CART Taskforce – Based on the Commissioners’ recommendation, IDHHC will convene a taskforce to look at issues in the CART profession including the possibility of licensure in the future. Due to budgetary constraints, the taskforce will consist of 5 members and meet twice in this fiscal year. IDHHC is requesting letters of interest for those wanting to participate in the taskforce.
- Interpreter Licensure
  - Licensure is operating smoothly and staff continues to share in responsibilities until the Interpreter Coordinator position is filled. IDHHC is currently setting interviews and hopes to have the position filled by the next Commission meeting.
  - Based on recommendations of the Interpreter Licensure Board, IDHHC contracted with Texas to provide the BEI in Illinois. IDHHC is announcing the start of testing tomorrow at the Illinois Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Conference.
  - The Interpreter Licensure Board will have vacancies at the end of the year. The application process is posted on IDHHC’s website.
- IDHHC Commissioners – There are three (3) Commissioners whose term expires November 14, 2010. Those individuals can reapply. In addition, Julie Chavez submitted her letter of resignation and will need to find a replacement for the remainder of her term until November 2011.

**New Business:**

***Tamara Hogue moved for IDHHC to discontinue hosting the Statewide Deaf Fingerspelling Bee due of budget constraints. Seconded by Emma Danielson.***

Discussion followed whether this would be temporary based on budget constraints or permanent that IDHHC is no longer hosting the event. It is up to ITHI if they want to take the event on permanently. IDHHC will continue to provide support to whoever is willing to host the event. It is unknown whether ITHI will expand the event to include high school students. Discussion closed.

***All in Favor: Unanimous. Motion passed.***

Hershel Jackson	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Nancy Abbott	Yes
Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Emma Danielson	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Tamara Hogue	Yes				

**Open Discussion:**

Is there any activity on the bill for hearing aid insurance? As the legislative session is wrapping up and it is the end of this session, any bills that have not passed will be dismissed. Once the new General Assembly starts in January 2011, then new bills will be introduced.

On November 18, 2010, the Department of Justice will be hosting a forum for public comments on the new proposed rules to the ADA. Some areas include access to the internet including video description, movies and access to the next generation of 911.

**Announcements:**

Chairperson Childress announced the following:

- Deaf Nation Expo that will be held in Chicago on November 6, 2010.
- The Chicago Walk4Hearing by the Hearing Loss Association of America was a wonderful success.
- In October 2010, Chairperson Childress attended the Association of Late -Deafened Adult Conference held in Colorado. Next year's conference will be held at Indianapolis on October 26 – 30, 2011.
- Hearing Loss Association of America will host its conference in Washington D.C. during June 2011.

**Adjournment:**

***Nancy Abbott moved to adjourn at 3:04 p.m. Tamara Hogue seconded. Motion Passed.***

Hershel Jackson	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Nancy Abbott	Yes
Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Emma Danielson	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Tamara Hogue	Yes				

**(Signature in file)**

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Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**(Signature in file)**

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Executive Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_