

November 13th, 2008

Springfield, Illinois

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The forty-seventh meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission was held on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at the University Illinois at Springfield, PAC (Public Affairs Center) Building, 1 University Plaza, Springfield, IL 62703.

Call to Order:

Dennis O'Brien, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at **1:00** p.m.

Members Present:

Tina Childress	Emma Danielson	Marc Siegel	Dennis O'Brien
Jenny Singleton	Tom Benziger	Hershel Jackson	Mindy Joy Mayer

Members Absent:

Benro Ogunyipe	Cliff Pearce	Lisa Sesko
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Interpreters:

Sheila Chapman	Marilyn Corlett
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CART:

Kathy Smith

Public:

Christy Pean

Staff Present:

John Miller	Janet Lambert	Patty Greene	Brandy Hayes
Brandie Belford			

Thomas Benziger made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Hershel Jackson Motion passed.

Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Emma Danielson	Yes	Jenny Singleton	Yes
Marc Siegel	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes	Tom Benziger	Yes
Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes		

Public Comments: None

Special Report/ Presentation:

Interpreter Licensure Status: The Commission is currently working with Joint Committee of Administrative Rules (JCAR) regarding comments received during the public comment period. The Commission received notice that Sorenson Video Relay Service in Illinois is requesting interpreters working in VRS centers be exempt from the licensure requirements. The Commission is scheduled for our second notice hearing on November 18, 2008. The intent of the law was to include all interpreters working in Illinois to be licensed regardless of the setting. (JCAR) will facilitate a meeting between the Commission and Sorenson representatives IDHHC's position remains that all interpreters in Illinois be Licensed regardless of whether or not they are working in a VRS center in Illinois.

Chairpersons Report:

Chair, Dennis O'Brien, reported that the Commission held their strategic planning retreat meeting in October to discuss the next 5 year strategic plan report. Information from the thirteen town halls were used to develop goals for the next five year strategic plan. The new strategic plan will be submitted for a vote to the full commissioners during the February commission meeting. Implementation of the plan will be effective from July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2014. As Chair, I received a request from Carrie Balian, mother of a deaf child, requesting to present to the Commission members, about the Guide by Your Side program that was developed by the National Hands and Voices Organization and is supported by the state Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) and the state chapter of Hands and Voices via Choices and she would like to be put on the agenda for the February meeting.

Director's Report:

Director Miller welcomed all members and the public to the first web broadcast of the Commission meeting. The Commission is pleased to provide this new service in order to allow an opportunity for the community to watch future commission meetings. The Commission would like to hear any feedback from the public about our web broadcast and how we can make it more accessible to all deaf and hard of hearing constituents in Illinois.

Budget: The Commission will be working with the Governor's Office of Management and Budget in preparation of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget needs for the agency.

Staffing:

I am pleased to introduce to the members and the public our newest staff person Brandy Hayes as the new Project Coordinator. Brandy, started working at the Commission on October 16, 2008 and we are very excited to have her join our team.

Interpreter Licensure Update:

The Commission has hired a contractual person, to provide additional support in preparation for processing of licensure applications. The Interpreter Coordinator position was posted but closed on October 17, 2008. The state announced a hiring freeze, therefore this position will remain on hold until further notice. In preparation for accepting payments for licensure fees the Commission has been working with the State Treasurer's office to establish the necessary accounts in accordance with the statute.

Commission Retreat:

As mentioned by Chair O'Brien the Commission hosted a five year strategic plan meeting and we want to thank the Director of Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Rebecca Rosenthal, who facilitated the discussion during the retreat, Rebecca was very helpful in guiding the Commissioners towards goals and objectives for the next five year strategic plan. It is our goal to submit a plan to the Commissioners for a vote during the February Commission meeting.

Annual Deaf Finger Spelling Bee:

The Annual Deaf Fingerspelling Bee will be held on April 24th, 2009. Please look for more details to follow on the IDHHC website.

Annual Interpreter Conference: The Commission will host the interpreter conference on May 29th and 30th. There will be more details given on our website regarding the conference.

Projects & Programs:

The Joint Task Force on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communication Options held their final meeting last week to vote on the final draft report that is to be submitted. At this time the Commission will be finalizing the report and sending it to the printers. The report will be provided to members of the general assembly and will be made available on our website.

Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services (DHS/DRS) and IDHHC are working on a collaborative effort to review the tools used to determine an employee's ability to communicate in sign language and the process for employees to receive manual communication pay with the State.

Illinois is currently preparing for the 2010 census count and agencies have been asked to participate in discussions regarding accessibility issues. The Governor's office held their first roll out meeting and we will continue to work with the committee on this important issue.

Trainings/Presentations:

IDHHC was invited to present a workshop on the Interpreter Licensure Rules during the annual conference held by the Illinois Registry of the Deaf (IRID) conference.

IDHHC presented during the Annual Deaf Awareness Day event held at the James R. Thompson Center (JRTC) regarding Communication Access. The audience was made up of deaf and hard of hearing high school students from the Chicago area.

Staff Professional Development:

Microsoft Office 2007

Committee Meetings/Networking:

- Deaf Awareness Day Planning Meeting(JRTC)
- Lt. Governor’s Office – Broadband Deployment Council Meeting
- Deaf Awareness Day (Decatur)
- Deaf Nation Expo
- DSSP Central Meeting
- DSSP North Meeting
- Michael Reese Health Trust – Project’s Peer Review – “Improving Access to Health & Mental Health Care for Chicago’s Deaf and the Community”
- ALDA Conference
- CHOICES meeting
- ISD Advisory
- ISHI Quarterly Meeting
- Deaf-Blind Awareness Day – Chicago Lighthouse
- IADB meeting

Future Activities Scheduled:

- Implementation of Interpreter Licensure
- South of 80 Parent Conference
- Preparing to host the Annual Statewide Deaf Fingerspelling Bee
- Finalizing plans for the Annual Conference
- Statewide Deaf Services Coordinator Quarterly Meeting
- DSSP North Meeting (December & February)
- Presenting to deaf and hard of hearing students for the ARMED program (June Prusak)
- South Holland – Presentation
- Attending the Illinois Cochlear Implant Chapter (ICIC) meeting – January 17th
- SILC Board Meeting

It is the time of year to request appointments to the Commission. The following member’s terms will expire on November 14, but they are eligible to serve another term Tom Benziger, Tina Childress, and Dennis O’Brien. Jenny Singleton has served two full terms and is not eligible to be appointed again, however all Commissioners will continue to serve until reappointed or replaced by the Governor’s office.

New Business: None

***Marc Siegel made a motion to close new business. Emma Danielson seconded by motion.
Motion Passed***

Dennis O’Brien	Yes	Emma Danielson	Yes	Jenny Singleton	Yes
Marc Siegel	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes	Tom Benziger	Yes
Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes		

Open Discussion:

Commissioner, Thomas Benziger, inquired about the materials that he had sent to IDHHC regarding ask some question during the Commission Retreat & discussion which was in depth about developing a handbook and know that is a big job but wondering if there was any feedback from the IDHHC’s office after sent the Table of Contents to see if any particular that might will help to kick that project off or do we need to wait till the Staff Retreat meeting to discuss that issue?

Director, John Miller, answered yes about received the Table of Contents and really thanks for sharing that. John has not had a time to sit down and analyze it. There have been many different things going on from the Retreat until now and have not really give it full consideration. John is going to kick it off during the Staff Retreat & discuss it with the staff that will help with develop a plan. Right now, John does not have the answer but definitely will use that as a resource.

Announcements:

Marc Siegel announced that the “Walk for Hearing Fundraiser” was held in October and over 300 walkers participated and over \$70,000 was raised. The plans are to host another “Walk4Hearing” event in 2009.

Mindy Joy Mayer, announced that there is a group setting up an “Ushers’ Gathering” similar to a walk to help increase awareness as well as fundraising for the research of Usher’s Syndrome.

Adjournment:

Emma Danielson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Dennis O’Brien. Motion passed.

Dennis O’Brien	Yes	Emma Danielson	Yes	Jenny Singleton	Yes
Marc Siegel	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes	Tom Benziger	Yes
Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes		

Adjourned -1:46 p.m.

(Signature in file)

Chairperson

Date

Executive Secretary

Date