

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The fifty-fifth meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **February 10, 2011**, 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 1:04 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	No	Victoria Gustafson	Yes	Tamara Hogue	No
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Anil Phadke	Yes	Laura Thomas	No		

Staff Present:

John Miller	Janet Lambert	Brandie Belford
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Interpreters:

Sheila Chapman	Marilyn Corlett
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CART:

Kathy Smith

Public:

Leon Devriendt	Sheri Cook	Misti Harrison
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Nancy Abbott moved to accept the November 4, 2010, minutes as corrected. Seconded by Hershel Jackson. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Victoria Gustafson	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes
Benro Ogunyipe	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes		

Special Reports/Presentations:

Gallaudet University Regional Center (GURC) – Midwest Region

Director Sheri Cook presented on the selection of John A. Logan Community College (JALC) as the new Midwest Region GURC and the services that it offers.

- February 2010 there was a call from Gallaudet University to Community Colleges to apply to become the Midwest GURC. JALC sent in its application because it has Associate Degree program for Sign Language Interpreters, Online classes for Educational Interpreters and ASL/Deaf Studies Program. In October 2010, JALC was notified that it was selected. It received a 5 year renewable contract with a \$200,000 budget per year.
- The Midwest GURC serves 13 states. It has two (2) staff members, Director Sheri Cook and Misti Harrison, Coordinator. There are a total of six (6) GURC in the U.S. GURCs act as an outreach center, works in partnership with the College of Professional Studies and Outreach (CPSO) to provide workshops, distance learning and extension courses. Additionally, provides academic transition from high school to college with work study and professional development.
- Each GURC serves approximately 6,000 individuals including deaf, family with deaf members and professionals. There is no limit on age; serves from birth to adult. GURC address all communication options.
- Since becoming the Midwest Region GURC, it has hosted its open house, developed its website, provided several workshops, set up local sign classes, and social events for deaf and hard of hearing children to meet deaf and hard of hearing adults. A survey will be mailed shortly to help identify what are the current needs and the location of where services are need.

Recessed from 2:17 – 2:33 p.m.

Chairperson's Report:

Following the Open Discussion, elections will be held.

Director's Report:

- Two (2) new Commissioners have been appointed. Anil Phadke will serve the remainder of Julie Chavez's term who resigned. Laura Thomas will replace Marc Siegel whose term had expired. IDHHC thanks Marc for not only his commitment but also the time and energy he put forth during his term.
- At this time, no further reductions have been made to IDHHC's FY11 Budget. IDHHC is working with the Office of Management and Budget for the FY12 Budget.
- IDHHC attended the GURC Open House and the Inaugural Events for Governor Quinn. Current projects include Emergency Preparedness, Annual Interpreter Conference, and

website revisions. IDHHC participated in a panel presentation at SIU School of Medicine to discuss communication barriers and tips to remove those barriers. At the IRID Conference, IDHHC provided a presentation on the introduction of IL Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (IL BEI) certification for sign language interpreters.

- Interpreter Licensure
 - Becki Combs has recently joined IDHHC as the Interpreter Coordinator. Becki previously served on the Interpreter Licensure Board. Sue Sanders has been appointed to the Board for the remainder of Becki’s term.
 - The amendment to the Interpreter Licensure rules to include the IL BEI as an accepted certification for licensure has received no opposition to the amendment from JCAR. All that is left is to publish the adopted changes.
 - 590 Licensed Interpreters
 - 192 Master Proficiency Level
 - 156 Advanced Proficiency Level
 - 195 Intermediate Proficiency Level
 - 47 Provisional
- IDHHC sent out letters requesting those interested to send in letters of interest for appointment to the CART Taskforce. IDHHC is still looking for consumers who may be interested in serving on the Taskforce.
- Chicago Lighthouse has recently lost its funding for the Deaf-Blind programs. If anyone has any ideas for funding please let IDHHC know or contact them directly.

Open Discussion:

Commissioners discussed communication barriers recently encountered and how to educate government entities and/or service providers on communication needs. Instances included the need for sensitivity training and tips for removing communication barriers for city officials especially during meetings and receiving interpreting services for doctor’s appointments. IDHHC has developed a “*Communication Rights*” brochure specific for medical providers educating them on legal obligations for effective communication and Illinois Interpreter Licensure.

Statewide Independent Living Council has developed a statewide plan including a subcommittee to focus specifically on communication access in medical settings. There are two different tracks including education and training to medical professionals and advocacy training to consumers.

Elections:

Chairperson Childress turned meeting over to Commissioner Abbott to conduct elections.

Nominations for Chair – Tina Childress. There were no further nominations for chair. All those in favor of electing Tina Childress as Chair; Tina Childress is elected as Chair.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Victoria Gustafson	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes

Tina Childress & Benro Ogunyipe both abstained from voting.

Nomination for Vice-Chair – Benro Ogunyipe. There were no further nominations for chair. All those in favor of electing Benro Ogunyipe as Vice-Chair; Benro Ogunyipe is elected as Vice-Chair.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Victoria Gustafson	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes

Tina Childress & Benro Ogunyipe both abstained from voting.

Commissioner Abbott turned the meeting back over to Chairperson Childress.

Closed Meeting

Mindy Joy Mayer moved to closed the meeting for personnel matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Victoria Gustafson seconded. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Victoria Gustafson	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes
Benro Ogunyipe	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes		

Nancy Abbott moved to return to open meeting. Victoria Gustafson seconded. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Victoria Gustafson	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes
Benro Ogunyipe	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes		

Announcements:

- Illinois/Iowa CIL is working with the Senior Citizen Low Vision Expo that will be held in Moline, IL on May 26, 2011.
- The Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago is now providing open caption of live performance. (This is in addition to the Victory Garden Theatre who has provided open captioned performances in the past as well).

Adjourn:

Joseph Culpepper moved to adjourn at 3:04 p.m. Anil Phadke seconded. Motion Passed.

(Signature on file)

Chairperson Date

(Signature on file)

Executive Secretary Date