

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The fifty-sixth meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **August 25, 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	Yes	Victoria Gustafson	No	Tamara Hogue	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Anil Phadke	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Public:

Eleanore Millick

Emma Danielson moved to accept the May 19, 2011, minutes as presented. Seconded by Tamara Hogue. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Abstained	Tina Childress	Yes	Tamara Hogue	Yes
Emma Danielson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		
Anil Phadke	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes		

Special Reports/Presentations:

Deaf-Blind Support Services Providers (SSP)

Commissioners Mindy Joy Mayer and Laura Thomas explained the role of a SSP and how SSP provide equal access for Deaf-Blind persons. The role of a SSP is to provide access to visual and auditory information such as environmental cues and written materials such as newspapers, signs, product information and menus. In addition, they can assist with videophone and VRS calls and assist with transportation. A SSP is not a personal care attendant or an interpreter. The SSP role is to remain neutral and not make decisions for the Deaf-Blind individual but strictly to share information.

Illinois does not have an SSP program. Only four (4) states: Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota and Utah have statewide programs. Several other SSP programs exist but are limited to its city or county residents. In 1999, Statewide Independent Living Council provided a grant for regional CIL training. In 2001, an Illinois SSP Task Force was set up at the Chicago

Lighthouse. In 2009, the Illinois Association of the Deaf-Blind was formed. This year will be the 4th Annual Illinois Deaf-Blind Retreat held in Jacksonville.

Currently, no funding source has been identified to establish an SSP Program. At this time, there is a need for collaborative partners to support this effort.

Tamara Hogue moved to recess for ten minutes. Seconded by Nancy Abbott. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Tamara Hogue	Yes
Emma Danielson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		
Anil Phadke	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes		

Recessed from 2:22 – 2:32 p.m.

IDHHC 5 Year Strategic Plan Update

Director Miller provided a report on IDHHC's activities under the 5 Year Strategic Plan. IDHHC's current 5 Year Strategic Plan is for July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014.

Chairperson's Report:

Commissioner Childress encouraged all of the Commissioners to go view IDHHC's website at <http://www.idhhc.illinois.gov>. Several IDHHC Commissioners' terms will be expiring this year. If you are eligible and want to be reappointed, you need to submit an application.

Director's Report:

- Four (4) Commissioners' terms will expire November 14, 2011, and Commissioner Victoria Gustafson resigned. Any current Commissioners or other individuals interested in serving should apply at www.appointments.illinois.gov.
- Mary Friel, Program Coordinator, resigned and is taking a position at the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- CART Taskforce had two (2) meetings in FY11. The third meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum. Future dates (up to 2 more meetings) will be scheduled in FY12.
- FY12 Budget
- Illinois Framework is a collaboration of state agencies to design a new health and human services information system. Town hall meetings are being held through the state.
- Interpreter Licensure
 - Working in collaboration with Illinois State Board of Education to incorporate the IL BEI in Educational Interpreter Rules.
 - Annual Conference will be May 18-20, 2012. It is expanded to three (3) days to provide opportunity to interpreters to earn all the required Continuing Education for licensure.
- Ethics Training will be distributed by the end of the year.

Open Discussion:

- Commissioner Childress expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of IDHHC setting up a Facebook page. Commissioners discussed the possible benefits of using of Facebook and to have it on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Commissioner Abbott questioned if there had been any difficulty with the online viewing because she had been unable to reconnect online after the break during the last meeting. There were no problems with the broadcast that IDHHC was aware of.

Announcements:

- Benro Ogunyipe was elected President of the National Black Deaf Advocates;
- Deaf Access Health Fair at Mount Sinai, Chicago, Illinois;
- Deaf Awareness Day at JRTC, Chicago, Illinois;
- Chicagoland Deaf Senior Citizens ASL Film – Versa Effect;
- World Day of Sign Language, Moline, Illinois;
- State of Illinois, Department of Human Services, Human Services Committee Public Hearings;
- Starkey Hearing Aid Foundation is giving free hearing aids to selected applicants between the age of 3 -22 years old;
- 2011 Association of Late Deafened Adults Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana;
- HLAA Walk for Hearing, Chicago, Illinois;
- Deaf Nation Expo at Harper College, Chicago, Illinois;

Nancy Abbott moved to adjourn at 3:53 p.m. Emma Danielson seconded. Motion Passed.

(Signature in file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature in file)

Executive Secretary

Date