



in times of disaster. IEMA also has eight (8) regional offices that have direct contact with units of local government. Another notable area of responsibility is preparing local government to respond to events surrounding the six (6) nuclear power plants in Illinois.

Through the Federal preparedness dollars received after the tragic events of 9-11, IEMA focused on developing focused response capabilities: Statewide Response Teams; state weapons of mass destruction; Illinois Medical Emergency Response team; and Fire Service Teams. With law enforcement developed local teams to provide security measures and responses similar to the state teams.

IEMA is not a first responder, its job is to coordinate and manage the disaster to mitigate and lessen the impact on the citizens. Public outreach is key to ensure that those people who are not part of the disaster don't become part of the disaster. Those not impacted by the disaster, those individuals should be self-sufficient; allowing first responders to focus on caring for the injured and those impacted by the disaster. It is critically important that all citizens take the steps to prepare for times of disaster.

When IDHHC approached IEMA about developing a disaster preparedness measures in American Sign Language, IEMA agreed this was a necessary addition in expanding the availability of the message for all citizens in Illinois. This is just one more step for all citizens in Illinois are able to develop their own preparedness steps in times of disaster. The core messages in the video includes making a preparedness kit allowing individuals and families to be self-sufficient for 72 hours, developing a family communication plan and emergency plan, training and sheltering. This project is one of the first of its kind. As it is not Illinois specific, this will be used by individuals not only in Illinois but throughout the country. The video will be posted on both IDHHC's website and at <http://www.ready.illinois.gov>. (The video was shown.)

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

- A moment of silence to remember Ron Sipek who passed on February 12, 2012. Ron served two terms as a Commissioner from 2002 – 2007. He graduated from ISD in 1970 and Gallaudet in 1975. Ron was very active in the Deaf community and will be missed.
- Attended the IDHHC presentation by John Miller on February 4<sup>th</sup> at JCCD in Jacksonville. It was a wonderful presentation but surprised how many people do not understand the role and the responsibilities of IDHHC. It is important to get information out to the community on IDHHC projects such as the one recently completed with IEMA.
- IDHHC encourages the public to attend meetings and/or send comments to the IDHHC. IDHHC is always looking for future Commissioners. Individuals can apply at [www.appointments.illinois.gov](http://www.appointments.illinois.gov).

## **Director's Report:**

- Four (4) Commissioners' terms expired November 14, 2011. Those Commissioners continue to service until reappointed or the Governor appoints a new Commissioner. The Governor's office has indicated that the applications are still under review and appointments will be made shortly.
- FY12 Budget Supplement was approved for additional appropriation of \$13,200.00 and increased spending authority of \$50,000 from the Interpreter Licensure Fund. Governor's Budget Address is next week. At that time, IDHHC will get a better idea of what to expect for the FY13 Budget.
- The CART Taskforce has completed its meetings and presented the Findings and Recommendations. There were a total of five (5) recommendations. The Findings and Recommendations are posted on IDHHC's website. A summary of the recommendations include establishing a voluntary CART registry on IDHHC's website; increasing awareness about CART services to consumers and service entities; increasing awareness in court reporting educators and students of the unique requirements of CART services; reconvening the Task Force to evaluate the growth of the CART profession over the next five (5) years; and in the future introduce legislation establishing State regulations for individual providing CART services in the future.
- It is exciting to see the finished product of the ASL emergency video which was produced in collaboration with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to address the needs to the deaf and hard of hearing community in preparing for natural disasters. Thank you to the Statewide Deaf Service Coordinators' for their feedback which lead to minor changes of the final product.
- The Governor's Office formed an advisory group regarding education in Illinois for deaf, hard of hearing and visually impaired children. Currently the work is focused on data collections comparing other states residential schools including how they are governed. This information will determine the next steps of the group will take.
- IDHHC along with Amber Smock, Access Living and Jill Sahakian, Director, Chicago Hearing Society, met with Senator Silverstein regarding legislation to provide insurance coverage for hearing aids.
- On February 4<sup>th</sup>, IDHHC presented an informational workshop in Jacksonville including its history, role, and future goals. About fifty (50) people were in attendance. Future possibilities include having a v-log with information about IDHHC's history to be posted continually on the website.
- For the past year, IDHHC has participated in the Governor's Employment and Economic Opportunity for People with Disabilities Task Force. The Task Force held an "Employment First" summit at the Governor's Mansion involving employment specialists, Department of Human Services including VR and DRS, and employment training groups, and various employment organizations to make recommendations to the Task Force addressing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Informational ASL Videos has been added to IDHHC's website. Right now there is a video from the Internal Revenue Service about the tax deadline. Next, the IEMA

Together We Prepare video will be added. Currently in development are various video about the Interpreter Licensure Act.

- Based on the Interpreter Licensure Board’s recommendation, IDHHC has started the administrative process through Joint Commission on Administrative Rules to amend the Interpreter Licensure Act rules to include a mentoring program.
- The IDHHC Annual Interpreter Conference will be hosted from May 18 – 20, 2012. It has expanded from a 2 day conference to 3 days. This allows IDHHC to offer interpreters up to 20 hours of continuing education at the conference. This is the minimum amount that interpreters must earn each year to renew their license. More information on the workshops is posted on IDHHC’s website.
- Chicago Lighthouse has sent IDHHC the information which the Chicago Lighthouse SSP Task Force has already developed. IDHHC is currently reviewing and waiting for confirmation of its FY13 budget before it convenes a new SSP Task Force.

***Tamara Hogue moved to recess for fifteen minutes. Seconded by Emma Danielson. Motion passed.***

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

*Recessed from 2:47 – 3:03 p.m.*

**New Business**

***Emma Danielson moved for IDHHC to establish a Facebook account. Seconded by Tamara Hogue. Motion failed.***

Discussion: Facebook offer a lot of opportunities to disseminate information about IDHHC. Currently, Central Management Services (CMS) has allowed individual agencies to make the decision whether to set-up a Facebook account. If approved, IDHHC would have to work with CMS to establish guidelines to ensure that information and postings are appropriately monitored.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	Abstain	Tamara Hogue	Abstain	Hershel Jackson	Abstain
Benro Ogunyipe	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes	Laura Thomas	Oppose

***Hershel Jackson moved for IDHHC to implement the finding and recommendations of the CART Task Force dated December 2011. Seconded by Anil Phadke. Motion passed.***

Discussion: All the recommendations are clearly presented. CART is a resource that is beneficial to consumers and currently being utilized.

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

**Open Discussion:**

Commissioners briefly discussed concerns in each of their areas including the language development of children with hearing loss, services for deaf-blind individuals, transportation for individuals with disabilities and accommodations for deaf-blind individuals, accessible smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, outreach to senior population, and yellowdotillinois.org.

**Election of Officers**

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

Nominations for Chair – Benro Ogunyipe and Tina Childress. There were no further nominations for chair. Election was conducted by ballot; Tina Childress is elected as Chair.

Nomination for Vice-Chair – Benro Ogunyipe. There were no further nominations for chair. Benro Ogunyipe is elected as Vice-Chair by acclamation.

Commissioner Abbott turned the meeting back over to Chairperson Childress.

**Closed Meeting**

***Tamara Hogue moved to close the meeting for personnel matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Seconded by Hershel Jackson. Motion passed.***

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

***Tamara Hogue moved to open the meeting at 4:27 p.m. Seconded by Nancy Abbott. Motion passed.***

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

**Announcements:**

- Helen Keller National Institute and the Chicago Lighthouse and VR has entered into a memorandum of understanding in Illinois to collaborate to ensure that Deaf-Blind individuals receive optimal services and information to meet their goals.
- The Federal Deaf – Blind Equipment Distribution program has determined that Illinois will receive \$333,000. The FCC is currently reviewing applications to determine who will administer the program. Chicago Lighthouse has applied.

*Tamara Hogue moved to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Emma Danielson seconded. Motion Passed.*

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

**(signature in file)**

Chairperson

Date

**(signature in file)**

Executive Secretary

Date