

May 24, 2012

Springfield, Illinois

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The fifty-ninth meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **May 24, 2012**, 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 1:05 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|------------------|----|
| Nancy Abbott | No | Tina Childress | Yes | Joseph Culpepper | No |
| Emma Danielson | Yes | Hershel Jackson | Yes | Mindy Joy Mayer | No |
| Benro Ogunyipe | Yes | Anil Phadke | Yes | Laura Thomas | No |

Public:

None

Emma Danielson moved to accept the February 16, 2012, minutes as corrected. Seconded by Hershel Jackson. Motion passed.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Tina Childress | Yes | Emma Danielson | Yes | Hershel Jackson | Yes |
| Benro Ogunyipe | Yes | Anil Phadke | Yes | | |

Special Reports/Presentations:

Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health (Region 3 and Region 4)
Jordan Litvak, Executive Director

Mr. Litvak gave an overview of the mission of the Division of Mental Health and services available to consumers. It is the vision of the Division of Mental Health (DMH) that all persons with mental illnesses recover, and are able to participate fully in life in the community. DMH achieves this through interdependent relationships and effectively communicating that services must collaborate and be open minded to work for ever improving services. Recovery can mean different things for different people. Basically recovery is knowing who we are, and using our strengths to be all we are meant to be.

DMH oversees the funds from the state to the community mental health centers. The Community Health Centers provide direct services including mental health assessments, housing support, counseling, support groups, and crisis services. The goal is to teach consumers how to

do for themselves...not doing it for them. Additionally, Recovery Support Specialists are available to assist with consumer advocacy along with staff and community education. Recovery Support Specialists are individuals with personal experience and recovered from a mental illness. When a consumer is having problems accessing the services within their community, they should contact the Executive Director of the DMH in their region.

Additional services provided include employment support, housing support, “warm line” (not a crisis hotline but phone support), and connecting to natural supports outside of DMH. DMH is still reviewing the vacant position within DMH for the Deaf Services Coordinator.

Recessed from 2:22 – 2:39 p.m.

Office of Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
Elizabeth Gastelum, Associate General Counsel

Ms. Gastelum gave an overview of the issues surrounding education for deaf and hard of hearing children. Prior to becoming an attorney, Ms. Gastelum earned a dual teaching degree in deaf education and elementary education from Flagler College in St. Augustine Florida. She currently represents the Lt. Governor on the Working Group focusing on Education for Illinois’ Blind and Deaf students.

When looking at educational issues, it becomes very complicated as it involves the United States Constitution, Federal law, State Constitution and State law. It is not enough to read the law itself, you must also understand the resulting case law. Historically, discussions related to education for the deaf and hard of hearing focus on two issues. First, is communication and language; whether children should be taught through American Sign Language or the oral method? Second, focuses on the placement of children within the educational system; whether it is better to attend a residential school, mainstreamed in the public schools or through a Co-op with special education classrooms.

How do we educate children with hearing differences in state provided public education (K – 12)? To answer that, you must determine what state provided public education consists of by looking at the following questions: right or privilege; mandatory or voluntary for citizens; what is its purpose; and can two different kinds of education systems exist? To answer these questions we examine three U.S. Supreme Court cases – *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954); *San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez* (1973); and *Plyler v. Doe* (1982).

It is interesting to know that the purpose behind *Brown* was not the African American students seeking integration but looking for the equality of “quality of education.” The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that separate was not equal. Many in the Deaf community do not feel that applies to residential schools such as ISD because of the communication issues surrounding deaf education. Discussion of the cases will continue at the next Commission meeting.

Chairperson's Report:

- Smart 911 is something new and upcoming service that allows you to store critical care and emergency rescue information in advance of an emergency. This is a service that your city or municipality must sign up to participate. Karen Putz from Chicago recently wrote an article explaining the service.
- Illinois Attorney General's Office had a celebration in Chicago last month acknowledging the recent settlement agreement with movie theaters providing access for the deaf and hard of hearing. At the event, different assistive technology devices were demonstrated. It is important to ask your local theater what is available. Just because they are not advertising its availability does not mean they do not have it.

Director's Report:

- FY13 Commission Meeting dates tentatively reserved with UIS are August 16, 2012, November 1, 2012, February 7, 2013, and May 16, 2013.
- IDHHC has 2 vacant positions and 3 Commissioners' with expired terms. Those Commissioners will continue to serve until reappointed or the Governor appoints a new Commissioner. Tamara Hogue officially submitted her resignation effective May 11, 2012.
- Illinois Comptroller's Office has strongly encouraged everyone to sign up for direct deposit. This includes the Commissioners for reimbursement of travel expenses and loss wages. Individuals desiring to continue with paper checks will be charged a processing fee of \$2.50 per check.
- IDHHC's lease for its office space expires the end of December 2012. CMS is responsible for the bidding process and received 12 bids. At this time, no decisions have been made.
- IDHHC has received over 37,500 hits on its website to the emergency preparedness video "Together We Prepare." The video was developed in collaboration with Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). It has received national attention and many other states have requested permission to link to the video.
- A new video series target to the medical profession about communicating with individuals who are deaf is now available on IDHHC's website. The video series was developed in collaboration with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Communication Access Subcommittee.
- IDHHC's FY13 Budget has not been finalized. IDHHC proposed a General Revenue Budget of \$650,500 and Interpreter Licensure Fund of \$200,000. The Senate approved only \$613,300 in passage of SB2404. This still must be reviewed by the House and Governor.

- A target date of July 1, 2012, is set for the implementation of the CART directory recommended by the CART Taskforce. In addition to developing the required forms and training, IDHHC is also working on educational outreach materials.
- The SSP Task Force will be announced during the Deaf-Blind Retreat. Until the FY13 Budget is approved, IDHHC cannot determine the makeup of the Task Force or the number of meetings.
- IDHHC continues to serve on the Interagency Committee of Employees with Disabilities (ICED). During its annual ICED Awards, Benro Ogunyipe, Vice Chair of IDHHC was awarded “State Employee of the Year.”
- The IDHHC Annual Interpreter Conference had a total of 252 participants. The Conference was held Friday – Sunday and provided interpreters with the opportunity to earn 20 Continuing Education hours which fulfills the licensure renewal requirements. IDHHC received lots of positive feedback from interpreters. During the Conference, Ryan Croke, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor’s Office, presented Paul Menkis with a public service award for his contribution both to the Deaf community and the interpreting profession. Ryan Croke also gave heartfelt thanks to the interpreting community for its professionalism and the difference it has made in his life.

New Business

Hershel Jackson moved to accept the following FY13 meeting dates: August 16, 2012; November 1, 2012; and February 7, 2013. Seconded by Emma Danielson. Motion passed. .

Discussion: At this time, only 3 of the 4 dates were being approved. It is possible that the May 16, 2013, date will be in conflict with outside training for several of the Commissioners.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Tina Childress | Yes | Emma Danielson | Yes | Hershel Jackson | Yes |
| Benro Ogunyipe | Yes | Anil Phadke | Yes | | |

Open Discussion:

None.

Announcements:

- 14th World of Deaf Magicians Festival will be held in Schaumburg, Illinois;
- Summer camp listings on ISD’s website under Outreach Events;
- Tina Childress will be presenting at the Hearing Loss Association of America Conference June 21-24, 2012 in Providence, Rhode Island; and
- Association of Late Deafened Adults Conference, October 18 -20, 2012 in Columbia, S. Carolina.

Tina Childress moved to adjourn at 3:59 p.m. Emma Danielson seconded. Motion Passed.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Tina Childress | Yes | Emma Danielson | Yes | Hershel Jackson | Yes |
| Benro Ogunyipe | Yes | Anil Phadke | Yes | | |

(Signature in file) _____
Chairperson _____ Date _____

(Signature in file) _____
Executive Secretary _____ Date _____

APPROVED