

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The sixty first meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **February 7, 2013**, 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 1:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	Yes	Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Amber Smock	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Public:

Susan Weiss	Paula Chance	Tom Chance	Bob Griffith
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Public Comments:

Paula Chance, Chair of the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) Advisory Committee, discussed several recent developments at ISD which have received a lot of community comments and concerns. Those items include a claim of discrimination, unprofessional conduct in an Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting and the use of cued speech. The details of the discrimination claim and IEP really cannot be discussed due to privacy issues. The claim of discrimination has been investigated and the final decision will be handled by the Department of Human Rights and the Department of Human Services, Office of Civil Rights. Additionally, it is important to note that the use of cued speech is being used as a supplementary communication method and its use will continue to be evaluated by the ISD Language Plan Committee.

Meeting Minutes

Anil Phadke moved to accept the November 1, 2012, minutes as corrected; seconded by Mindy Joy Mayer . Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	Yes	Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Amber Smock	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Special Reports/Presentations:

Getting in the Hearing Loop

Linda S. Remensnyder, Au.D, Doctor of Audiology

This is one of the first times the Hearing Loss Association and the American Academy of Audiology have been in agreement; hearing aids are insufficient by themselves. Getting in the Hearing Loop is a joint project to increase awareness of the importance of looping businesses and places of gathering. Looping is a relatively simple project. It requires that copper wire is placed around the perimeter of a room either at floor or ceiling level connected to a loop driver. The loop driver controls the magnetic field.

Hearing loss is an epidemic and public health concern. People are living longer and out living their hearing. Many common medical conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiac disease predispose individuals to hearing loss. Plus, many medical treatments aimed to prolong an individual’s life can cause hearing loss. Recent studies have shown a correlation between hearing loss and dementia.

The use of FM systems and headsets are becoming outdated. The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act of 2008 focuses on use of the loop systems and not the use of FM systems or headsets. Loop provides greater access, universal frequency, inconspicuous, work in transient situations, no hygienic concerns and deliver personalized in-the-ear sound.

The belief that a hearing aid only is sufficient to provide audibility requirements is a total hyperbole (total exaggeration) marketed by hearing aid industry. Individuals must gain greater access to audible information through the use of amplified phones, televisions amplifies, hearing loops and patient empowerment. Hearing loops can help eliminate social isolation and frustration. It removes the background noises, reverberation, and distance between speaker and individual allowing them to more fully participate. Places being looped include churches, theaters, airports, subway, sports arena, and museums. Nearly all hearing aids including many older ones have t-coils required to use a loop.

Anil Phadke moved to recess from 2:15 – 2:30 p.m.; seconded by Nancy Abbott. Motion Passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	Yes	Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Amber Smock	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Chairperson’s Report:

None.

Director's Report:

- Welcome to Amber Smock the newest Commissioner who replaced Benro Ogunyipe.
- Applications are being accepted for the CART registry on IDHHC's website. Currently, only three (3) applications have been received. It is voluntary but it is important to encourage providers to registry to help establish the number of CART providers in Illinois.
- SSP Task Force concluded its second meeting and gathering information on other SSP programs in different states. DHS/DRS is working collaboratively with IDHHC to help defray the costs of the Task Force and to increase the number of meetings of the SSP Task Force. The next meeting is a two (2) day meeting scheduled for April 17-18, 2013.
- IDHHC has two (2) vacant positions: Interpreter Coordinator and Program Coordinator. Both positions were posted in December. However, IDHHC cannot request the candidate list due to a hiring freeze. Once the freeze is lifted, IDHHC will begin the interview process.
- Fiscal Year 2013 is about half over. No foreseeable problems with the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013 Budget. Fiscal Year 2014 Budget (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) is still being finalized but anticipate it will be the same as Fiscal Year 2013.
- On December 27, 2012, IDHHC relocated to new office location at 528 S. 5th Street, Springfield, IL (Edwards Building). An Open House was held on February 6, 2013. Annual interpreter conference planning is underway. The conference will be held from May 31 – June 2, 2013. The Conference will offer interpreters the opportunity to earn up to twenty (20) hours of Continuing Education.
- In collaboration with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), IDHHC is currently developing a new ASL video for "Severe Weather Preparedness." Additionally, IDHHC will be doing a ASL video on the Three C's: Cough, Cover and Contain.
- Illinois State Board of Education has submitted a proposed rule change and is currently accepting public comments during the First Notice. This is a large rule change and only a small section deals with Educational Interpreters.
- Another exciting new ASL video on Patient Activation is waiting for final approval. This video is targeted towards Deaf and Hard of Hearing people who wish to learn how to be an "active patient." This video was made as a part of a collaborative project by Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center and Sinai Health System in partnership with IDHHC and the Statewide Independent Living Council.
- Illinois Service Resource Center is developing a Deaf role model video which includes video clips to show students how Deaf people can be successful in various fields. Both IDHHC and Tina Childress are providing support for this project.
- IDHHC met with Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon to discuss communication access issues affecting deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind individuals. Lt. Governor Simon has a special interest in education and wanting to improve the process for Deaf teachers to obtain certification through the Illinois State Board of Education. IDHHC looks forward to working with the Lt. Governor's office on these issues.

- Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) contacted IDHHC to discuss the process it went through in implementing the BEI Certification test. IDHHC shared its experiences and referred MCDHH to Texas for more information on the validity and reliability of the test.
- Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) is currently preparing for accreditation review through the Conference of Education Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf. IDHHC will support ISD through this process.
- The annual renewal for sign language interpreter licenses is complete. IDHHC processed over 600 renewal applications. Joint Committee on Administrative Rules issued a certificate of no objection on the proposed mentoring rules. IDHHC will begin working on the implementation of the program.

New Business

Laura Thomas moved as amended that IDHHC write a letter of support to the Mayor of New York City for making the announcements regarding Hurricane Sandy fully accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens including appropriate carbon copies on the letter; seconded by Haydee Garcia. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	Yes	Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Amber Smock	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Open Discussion:

- No further discussion regarding recent activities at the Illinois School for the Deaf.
- Health care is rapidly changing in Illinois and need to ensure that deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind issues are fully considered and consumers are informed about the process.
- Insurance coverage for hearing aids continues to be an important issue for the deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Illinois. IDHHC continues to support and advocate for passage of legislation.

Election of Officers

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

Nominations for Chair – Tina Childress. As, there were no further nominations for chair, Tina Childress is elected as Chair.

Nomination for Vice-Chair – Amber Smock. As, there were no further nominations for vice-chair, Amber Smock is elected as Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Abbott turned the meeting back over to Chairperson Childress.

Closed Meeting

Nancy Abbott moved to close the meeting for personnel matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); seconded by Laura Thomas. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	Yes	Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Amber Smock	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Anil Phadke moved to open the meeting at 4:32 p.m.; seconded by Nancy Abbott. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	Yes	Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Amber Smock	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Announcements:

- The Illinois Teachers of Hard of Hearing and Deaf Individuals is hosting presenter CJ Jones Live, March 1, 2013, in Lisle, Illinois.
- Helen Keller National Center is hosting “Understanding Our Interpreter and Consumer Roles – Making It Work” presented by Sharon Neumann Solow and sponsored by Sorenson on April 6th, 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Moline, Illinois.
- Illinois Iowa Center for Independent Living 25th Anniversary and annual meeting is on March 25, 2013, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Rock Island, Illinois.

Joseph Culpepper moved to adjourn at 4:36 p.m.; seconded by Emma Danielson. Motion Passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	Yes	Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Amber Smock	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

(signature on file)

Chairperson Date

(signature on file)

Executive Secretary Date