

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The sixty-third meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **August 15, 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 1:02 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	Yes	Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	No
Hershel Jackson	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	No	Anil Phadke	Yes
Amber Smock	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Public:

None

Meeting Minutes

Nancy Abbott moved to accept the May 9, 2013, minutes as presented; seconded by Emma Danielson . Motion passed.

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

Special Reports/Presentations:

Dr. Janice Smith-Warshaw, Superintendent
Illinois School for the Deaf

Dr. Smith-Warshaw is from Riverside, California and worked at the Riverside School for the Deaf in various administrative positions. She is thrilled to be the first Deaf woman ISD Superintendent. The vision for the future of ISD starts at the quantum level with the core of people who will help the students succeed and meet the academic needs of the twenty-first century. Additionally, communication must be successful both in American Sign Language and spoken English for their skill levels to meet reading and writing requirements at grade level. Students can be supported by Cued Speech and ASL to help with reading and English skills.

Students should have the opportunity to participate in sports. Ideally ISD students would travel throughout the Midwest and play against a variety of deaf schools and compete at the national level. The student life program should empower students to develop self-reliance, responsibility, determination, and leadership skills. This would expand to the local community in Jacksonville for students to develop work responsibility and experience with different employers and companies in the community.

ISD will collaborate with different deaf organizations such as Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf to help students learn how to advocate for their communication needs. It is important this influence spreads throughout the state. As ISD students transition to college they should know what services are available and importance of obtaining advance degrees. At the national level, ISD will be recognized for providing appropriate support and serving a variety of students, from those that are native signers to those that have residual hearing and spoken language skills.

ISD is collaborating with many different organizations to develop strategies on providing services and valuable partnerships. ISD is exploring having Laura Thomas, National Helen Keller Center, as a consultant to ensure students with low vision are receiving the necessary support. As the student population with multiple disability increases, ISD utilizes an admission review team to review and ensure that ISD is able to meet the specific needs of that student. In the future, ISD hopes to provide distance learning education to students in rural areas such as using video conferencing to teach sign language. Additionally, ISD Outreach program travels throughout the state to help provide support and training. ISD is exploring options for Deaf adults in the community to volunteer and be role models. ISD staff is trained in the Positive Behavior Intervention System and that staff and students are aware that “bullying” is a serious issue.

John Miller, IDHHC Director
IDHHC 5 year Strategic Plan

Director Miller presented an overview of IDHHC’s activities in relation to the 5 year Strategic Plan based upon on the initial four years. There is only one objective, related to the “train the trainers” materials, which IDHHC will be unable to complete by the end of next year. The Program Coordinator position has remained vacant for an extended period of time. That position is the only IDHHC staff which responsibilities are 100% focused on program items.

Chairperson’s Report:

None.

Director's Report:

- The number of individuals has not increased on the CART registry. While it is voluntary, IDHHC is looking for different ways to increase awareness. It is important for the CART providers to be aware of this registry.
- In order to fill the Program Coordinator position, IDHHC has abolished the Project Coordinator position. As a result, Brandy Hayes will be transferring into the Program Coordinator position effective September 1, 2013. There was no requirement to post the position because both positions are the same classification.
- Fiscal Year 2014 Budget (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) is an authorization to spend up to a specific amount of money. With the General Revenue, any amount that IDHHC does not spend does not carry over to the next year.
- Office of the Auditor General will complete its audit after the lapse period ends for Fiscal Year 2013. The final report should be issued towards the end of the year.
- Annual Interpreter Conference had 214 attendees along with staff and presenters. The feedback was very positive. The annual interpreter conference will be moved to the Fall to hopefully avoid conflicts with summer events such as graduation and improve opportunities for educational interpreters to attend. As there is not sufficient time to plan a full conference in Fall of 2013, IDHHC will host 2 mini-conferences; one in the spring and one in the Fall. It is anticipated that both will be held in Springfield, Illinois.
- Division of Mental Health has pursued a posting for the Statewide Deaf Services Coordinator for Mental Health. IDHHC is working with Division of Mental Health to help in the recruitment and development of interview questions.
- Illinois Association for the Deaf hosted its biennial Conference June 20-22, 2013, in Champaign, Illinois. IDHHC attended and provided support by approving professional development for Continuing Education credits and sponsoring a workshop with 2 Licensure Board members on interpreters in the medical setting.
- IDHHC was nominated for the Best Governmental Agency for the 2013 Deaf Illinois Awards.
- The Interpreter Licensure Mentorship Program is active. This is a new program and IDHHC has started approving applications for mentor/mentee relationships.
- The Board of Evaluations for Interpreters (BEI) is now accepted as a certification for educational interpreters under the Illinois State Board of Education. To anticipate the increased number of testing applicants, IDHHC is recruiting individuals to be trained as BEI raters. The training will be hosted in November 2013.
- Commission Retreat is being planned for September 23-24, 2013. Initially, the Governor's Mansion was reserved but a scheduling conflict developed. The new proposed location is the Illinois School for the Deaf. The proposed moderators are Dr. Janice Smith-Warshaw and Dennis O'Brien. IDHHC has invited guest speakers from the Office of Management and Budget and the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

Laura Thomas moved to recess from 3:00 – 3:10 p.m.; seconded by Hershel Jackson. Motion passed.

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

Anil Phadke moved to change the order of business and to proceed to the closed meeting item on the agenda; seconded by Laura Thomas. Motion passed.

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

Closed Meeting

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

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

Open Meeting resumed at 4:03 p.m.

New Business

Members discussed whether they should change the meeting date based on the fact that two (2) Commissioners have a conflict with the November 7, 2013, meeting date.

Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky moved to change FY14 meeting date from November 7, 2013, to November 21, 2013; seconded by Anil Phadke. Motion passed. .

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

Laura Thomas moved to schedule the IDHHC Commissioner retreat for September 23-24, 2013, at the Illinois School for the Deaf with Dr. Janice Smith-Warshaw and Dennis O'Brien as co-moderators; seconded by Nancy Abbott. Motion passed.

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

Open Discussion:

Members discussed revisiting the idea of IDHHC using Facebook and/or social media.

Announcements:

- Enhancing the DSAT Experience for DeafBlind Trainers and Consumers during August 2013, in Michigan;
- DeafBlind Retreat on June 10-14, 2013, in Jacksonville, Illinois;
- Deafhood 101 hosted by DCI, on September 15-21, 2013, in Chicago Illinois;
- Deaf Self Advocacy Training in Champaign, Illinois on October 3, 2013, and Moline, Illinois in either October or November 2013;
- Panel of experts calling for the development of the Deaf Interpreters Test meeting the end of August 2013, in Texas;
- Statewide Deaf Services Coordinators will be hosting a Health Care Forum on November 8, 2013, in Springfield, Illinois;
- Walk4Hearing by the Hearing Loss of Association of America’s on October 6, 2013, in Chicago, Illinois;
- We’re All E.A.R.S. Family Fun Walk by Guide by Your Side on October 13, 2013, in Springfield, Illinois;
- Deaf Awareness at the Baseball Game!, Chicago Cubs vs. St. Louis Cardinals on September 28, 2013, at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri;
- 2013 Deaf Illinois Awards Night on August 24, 2013, in Oak Park, Illinois; and
- Deaf Expo on November 2, 2013, at Harper Community College in Chicago, Illinois.

Nancy Abbott moved to adjourn at 4:30 p.m.; seconded by Emma Danielson. Motion passed.

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

(Signature in file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature in file)

Executive Secretary

Date