

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The sixty-fifth meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **May 8, 2014**, 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	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Emma Danielson	No	Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	No
Hershel Jackson	No	Mindy Joy Mayer	No	Anil Phadke	Yes
Amber Smock	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Public:

Jacob Hickey

Meeting Minutes:

Nancy Abbott moved to accept the November 21, 2013, minutes as presented; seconded by Joseph Culpepper. Motion passed.

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

Special Reports/Presentations:

Patrick Hayes, Recovery Support Specialist
Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health

Mr. Hayes works in Region 4 which covers 23 counties and has 25 publicly funded mental health facilities. Mr. Hayes has struggled with mental illness since he was 15 years old. At age 16, he was diagnosed with schizophrenia and told there was no cure and he would struggle with it his entire life. During high school, he was hospitalized twice and told that he should consider moving to a residential living facility in Chicago. With the proper treatment, today he still has ups and downs and experiences difficult symptoms but enjoys his life. He enjoys working with families and those that have

mental illness showing them that recovery is possible with help. They must have hope because while there are tough times they are not permanent.

Research shows that education and friendship are keys to recovery and fighting the stigma of mental illness. Unfortunately, those suffering from mental illness are often isolated in hospitals or residential living facilities, which lead to self-esteem issues. In the United States, the recovery rates for those with mental illness are good with access to medication and counseling. However, recovery rates are slightly better in other countries because individuals with mental illness are treated within their communities and are not isolated or on their own.

During his treatment and recovery, Mr. Hayes was lucky to have a counselor that believed in a strength based and self-determination plan. He was to drive his own recovery and treatment by focusing on his strengths and what he wanted to achieve. Being involved with the National Alliance on Mental Illness was extremely important because peers have been there and understand what you are facing. While medications are part of the treatment for mental illness, it is also important to make healthy life style choices such as fitness. Today, while he experiences some symptoms, he is able to manage them and they don't hold him back.

The Illinois Recovery Movement focuses on using life experience to change services from within. It provides mutuality and is easier for those with mental illness to relate to. In the last 4 years, 9 agencies have switched to peer based services. There has also been a shift in the language to show that the illness is just part of the person and not the entire person.

In 2004, the Federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration held a national conference with 110 expert panelist consisting of mental heal professionals, families, consumers and researchers which identified 10 fundamental values: self-direction, individual and person centered plans, empowerment, holistic care, non-linear, strength based, peer support, respect, responsibility for self-care and hope.

The Division of Mental Health provides the following 3 recovery initiatives:

- Individual Placement and Support Program – helps individuals find the employment they want, not just merely finding any job.
- Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) – 8 week program designed by peers that focuses on long term recovery and stability to help manage illness and stay out of the hospital.
- Recovery Support Specialists – peer credentialing

Tonia R. Bogener, IDHHC Legal Counsel
IDHHC 5 year Strategic Plan (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019)

Ms. Bogener presented IDHHC's revised 5 year Strategic Plan starting July 1, 2014. This is only the second Strategic Plan since the inception of IDHHC in 1997. It is based

on the 2 day retreat held at the Illinois School for the Deaf in September of 2013. IDHHC has revised the format to include an introduction, background and history, core functions and the interpreter licensure statistics. The core functions simplify the mandates contained in the enacting statute. The plan also highlights the updated Mission and Value Statement.

The Commissioners established the 4 Goals. IDHHC staff using the information from the Commissioners and the 2 day retreat developed the individual objectives for each goal. Those objectives will then shape IDHHC's program initiatives for the next 5 years. Another major change will be the Performance Indicators. In the past, IDHHC has relied solely on numbers. Going forward, IDHHC hopes to include not only numbers but also result based indicators using training results, follow-up surveys and anecdotal evidence.

Public Comment:

Jacob Hickey a former DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services, employee and ASCME Council 31 Representative, outlined his concerns regarding lack of accommodation for state employees. He stated throughout his discipline and discharge he was not provided a sign language interpreter. Then when seeking unemployment he had to wait an additional 2 weeks for his hearing in order for an interpreter to be arranged. He has heard of deaf individuals waiting up to 2 months for an interpreter. It is important that IDHHC continues its outreach and education to other state agencies regarding the obligation for effective communication for deaf and hard of hearing employees.

Chairperson's Report:

IDHHC received a letter from Manako Yabe representing the Disabled Americans Wanting Work Now (DAWWN). The primary focus of the group is the lack of literacy is the primary barrier for individuals with disabilities finding employment. DAWWN is seeking IDHHC support in working with Department of Human Services to address this fundamental issue.

Director's Report: (Presented by Assistant Director Lambert)

- Congratulations to Chairperson Childress who won the 2014 Cheryl DeConde Johnson Award for Educational and Pediatric Audiology Achievement.
- Governor Quinn has reappointed Nancy Abbott and Joseph Culpepper for a second term as Commissioners.
- SSP Taskforce has tentatively established its FY15 meeting schedule. Tamara Ward recently resigned from the Task Force. IDHHC wants to thank Tamara for her excellent work. Director Miller has appointed Laura Ebersohl to fill the vacant position.
- The FY15 Budget is still being negotiated. One key component is whether the 2011 temporary income tax increase will become permanent. Without the additional income, IDHHC could face a 12.6% cut but other larger agencies such as DHS would have 25%

cut. This would drastically impact services at ISD which would have to reduce services and staff and become a day program.

- Annual IDHHC Interpreter Conference on March 21, 2014, was a great success with 266 attendees. The next Conference “Make Your Interpretation come Alive!” is scheduled for September 12-13, 2014. The key note speaker will be Austin Andrews.
- IDHHC hosted Deaf Self-Advocacy Train-the-Trainer in Springfield, Illinois on April 24-25, 2014. In hosting the training, IDHHC had a few concerns with the deaf only philosophy maintained by National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC) who developed the training with federal grant money. Primarily, all participants must not only be deaf or hard of hearing but also fluent in ASL. NCIEC does not allow any hearing individuals to participate or observe the training. This policy prevented IDHHC from granting an accommodation request to a hard of hearing individual which requested a hearing sign language interpreter as they were not fluent in ASL.
- IDHHC participated with the Illinois Service Resource Center in a meeting with Director Gregg of the Department of Children and Family Services about concerns with the vacant Statewide Deaf Services Coordinator position.
- Division of Mental Health requested IDHHC assist with the interview process to fill the position of Statewide Deaf Services Coordinator.
- During the North of I-80 Parent Conference and South of I-70 Parent Conference, IDHHC provided presentation on the ADA.
- In collaboration with the Illinois Department of Human Rights, IDHHC is currently developing a webinar on “Assistive Technology”.
- IDHHC and Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living developed an ASL video on the health care law -Affordable Care Act (ACA). The video was signed by Deloris Somers from JACIL who is a certified Deaf ACA Navigator. At this time, this is the first ASL video on the ACA that IDHHC is aware of.
- Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing recently announced the adoption of the BEI for its state certification test. IDHHC has reviewed the pending rules to assure that there will be reciprocity for those possessing the Illinois BEI certificate.
- Director Miller has reappointed Susan Sanders to a second term on the Interpreter Licensure Board. In addition, Lisa Caringer of Herrin, Illinois was appointed to her first term. Ms. Caringer replaced Karen Janssen who had completed 2 full terms. IDHHC thanks Ms. Janssen for service and commitment.
- IDHHC has confirmed the availability television studio at the University of Illinois at Springfield on the following dates August 14, 2014, November 6, 2014, February 19, 2015, and May 14, 2015 during FY15.

Nancy Abbott moved to recess from 3:28 – 3:45 p.m.; seconded by Anil Phadke. Motion passed.

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

Unfinished Business:

Chairperson Childress reported that IDHHC has started the process of developing a Facebook page. It is the goal to have the page ready starting in Fiscal Year 2015.

New Business:

Anil Phadke moved the FY15 meeting dates are August 14, 2014, November 6, 2014, February 19, 2015 and May 14, 2015; seconded by Nancy Abbott. Motion passed. .

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

Amber Smock moved to accept the IDHHC 5 Year Strategic Plan (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019) as presented; seconded by Laura Thomas. Motion passed. .

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

Tina Childress moved for IDHHC to write a formal letter to the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Center (NCIEC) requesting it to revise the current policy allowing for open participation during Deaf Self Advocacy Training; seconded by Laura Thomas.

Discussion: It is important to stress that IDHHC wants open participation to all Deaf and Hard of Hearing not only those fluent in ASL. Deaf and Deaf Blind will continue to teach the class.

Motion passed.

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

Open Discussion:

- On April 10, 2014, Phyllis Frelich passed away. She won the award for Best Actress in the Broadway play of Children of a Lesser God. She opened the way for Deaf to be part of the theatrical world.
- Congratulations to Benro Ogunyipe who was appointed by President Obama to the National Council on Disability.
- Tina Childress was featured in the book “Passionate Lives of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People” by Karen Putz.

Election of Officers:

Nomination for Vice-Chair – Amber Smock. There were no further nominations for vice-chair. All those in favor of electing Amber Smock as Vice-Chair:

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

Amber Smock is elected as Vice-Chair.

Nominations for Chair – Anil Phadke and Amber Smock.

All those in favor of electing Amber Smock as Chair:

Tina Childress	Yes	Amber Smock	Yes
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All those in favor of electing Anil Phadke as Chair:

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes
Anil Phadke	Yes	Laura Thomas	Yes		

Anil Phadke is elected as Chair.

Closed Meeting:

Tina Childress moved to close the meeting for personnel matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and c(21); seconded by Laura Thomas. Motion passed.

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

Nancy Abbott moved to open the meeting at 4:52 p.m.; seconded by Anil Phadke. Motion passed.

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

Tina Childress moved to accept the August 14, 2103, closed meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Joseph Culpepper . Motion passed.

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

Announcements:

- Schaumburg Township Field Trip to Tour Wrigley Field on June 10, 2014;
- 5th Annual DeafBlind Retreat at the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired on June 10-14, 2013, in Jacksonville, Illinois;
- Suzie Guimond is the new Region 5, Helen Keller National Center Representative;
- ISD Outreach Calendar has a listing of summer camps available at www.illinois.deaf.org;
- ISD celebrated its 175th Anniversary; and
- 150th anniversary of Gallaudet University's 150th anniversary celebration July 9-13, 2014.

Adjournment:

Laura Thomas moved to adjourn at 4:58 p.m.; seconded by Anil Phadke. Motion passed.

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

(Signature in file)

Chairperson Date

(Signature in file)

Executive Secretary Date