

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The sixty-seventh meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **November 6, 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 Phadke called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes
Anil Phadke	Yes	Brenda Schmidt	No	Amber Smock	No
Deloris Summers	No	Laura Thomas	No		

Public:

None

Meeting Minutes:

Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky moved to accept the May 8, 2014, minutes as presented; seconded by Nancy Abbott. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes
Anil Phadke	Yes				

Special Reports/Presentations:

Jessena Willams, Statewide Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health

The Statewide Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing position was mandated by legislation in the mid 1980’s. The position has been vacant for nearly a decade. As a result of advocacy by IDHHC, Division of Mental Health (DMH) and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, the position was filled and Ms. Williams started June 2, 2014.

The targeted population is anyone with a need for mental health services provided under the DMH. This includes all levels of hearing loss and can either be adults or children.

The Coordinator can work with the consumers, provider agency and/or state operated facilities to ensure that adequate and accessible mental health services are provided. The focus of the position will include: advocacy, awareness and education, and accessibility of services. DMH offers more than just counseling such as case management, psychiatric services, Individual and Placement Support, recovery services including Peer Support Specialists. In the Chicago area, DMH works with several community providers that have Deaf specific programs.

Ms. Williams is a licensed clinical social worker with Master's in Social Work degree from University of Illinois. Her experience includes providing services to the inpatient and forensic populations. Early in her education, she participated in a program at the Illinois School for the Deaf that allowed her to live and work on campus being exposed to Deaf culture and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. In addition, Ms. Williams has two (2) family members with hearing loss and ushers syndrome making her familiar with the challenges and accommodations needed for DeafBlind individuals.

Rebecca Patton, Statewide Deaf Services Coordinator
Department of Children and Family Services

Upon taking over the Deaf Services Coordinator position in June 2014, Ms. Patton has been working to ensure that DCFS staff aware the position is filled and the need to provide effective communication access. This has been essential as there are not adequate tracking systems in place to identify the current cases involving Deaf and Hard of Hearing children or parents.

Ms. Patton has a Bachelor's in Psychology/Sociology degree from Illinois College. She has been employed with the State since 1998 in many capacities. She worked at the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) for seven (7) years as both a dorm parent and educator aide. Additionally, she volunteers at church to provide interpreting services for Deaf members in attendance.

Child abuse is the mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caretaker, someone living in their home or someone who works with or around children. All that is necessary to make a hotline call is a child, caregiver and an incident that resulted in harm. An investigation is either unfounded or indicated. An unfounded report there is no credible evidence of abuse or neglect. An indicated report shows there is credible evidence of the alleged Services after an investigation can include substance abuse treatment, mental health evaluation and treatment, domestic violence education, anger management, parenting instructions and homemaking services.

As the Deaf Services Coordinator, Ms. Patton is working to ensure effective communication at all interviews or home visits using an appropriately licensed

interpreters, providing forensic training for interpreters involved in trauma or sexual abuse, and appropriately tracking cases with a Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind parent or child. Furthermore, additional Deaf cultural sensitivity training is being developed for all DCFS staff, implementing emergency interpreting services, and recruiting Deaf or Hard of Hearing foster parents or those fluent in American Sign Language.

Chairperson’s Report:

Today is the last meeting for both Tina Childress and Nancy Abbott. They have both completed their terms on the Commission. Although not with us today, both Emma Danielson and Mindy Joy Mayer have also completed their terms on the Commission. Thank you for your wonderful service to the Commission.

Nancy Abbott moved to recess from 2:35 – 2:50 p.m.; seconded by Joseph Culpepper. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes
Anil Phadke	Yes				

Director’s Report:

- Congratulations to our newly appointed Commissioners Brenda Schmidt term 11/2015, Deloris Summers term 11/2016, Lori Krakora term 11/2017, Susan Dramin Weiss term 11/2017. Any Commissioners with expired terms
- IDHHC is currently working with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in preparation of the FY 2016 budget. University of Illinois at Springfield has notified IDHHC that the cost for the live broadcast will be increasing in FY16. The yearly cost for 4 meetings was \$4,480 and will increase to \$7,656.
- IDHHC hosted its second Deaf Self-Advocacy Train-the-Trainer at Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education (ICRE) Wood in Chicago, Illinois on October 2-3, 2014. The goal is for those who were trained to host workshops in their communities within the next year. IDHHC will be collecting pre and post evaluations to compile a report to National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC).
- There has been a wonderful collaboration with both DMH and DCFS new coordinators. They have done a tremendous amount of work in a short time. Additional collaborations are listed in the written report.
- Things have slowed down with legislation. The written report shows which bills are still being watched.
- The Interpreter Licensure Board has two members whose terms have expired and not eligible for reappointment: Shelley Engstrom-Kestel and Dana Craig. IDHHC thanks them for the support and dedication they have had to the Interpreter Licensure program.

- IDHHC has received request from both the community and interpreters for clarifications about the process involved when IDHHC receives an interpreter complaint. IDHHC provided two workshops during the annual interpreter conference and also a community workshop at PACE in Champaign Urbana
- IDHHC Interpreter Conference on September 12-13, 2014, had a total of 151 participants. In comparison to the May 2014 Interpreter Conference, there was a larger number of educational interpreters in attendance. As a result, IDHHC will continue to host a September Interpreter Conference in the future.
- On March 13-15, 2014, IDHHC will be hosting a specialized workshop on Medical Interpreting.
- The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) has instituted a new Language Access Policy which includes American Sign Language Interpreters. This new policy will include a directory of “approved” interpreters, both foreign language and sign language interpreters. To be listed on this directory, interpreters must complete a mandatory training. IDHHC and AOIC will be hosting a specific training for Advanced and Master Licensed Sign Language Interpreters. The training will be free and have both Carla Mathers and June Prusak as trainers on January 10-11, 2015 in Bloomington, Illinois.
- Laura Thomas represented Illinois on the University of Arizona National Center for Interpretation (UA-NCI) and Department of Assistive Rehabilitative Services (DARS) on the “Deaf Interpreter Certification Project.” IDHHC is hopeful that this is something that can be brought to Illinois in the future.
- IDHHC enacting statute includes among the mandates to establish training standards for interpreters. Because IDHHC does not want to implement something that could potentially hurt interpreter training programs, it is necessary to consult with individuals that have expertise in this area. This is an item under new business.

New Business:

Nancy Abbott moved for IDHHC to establish a working group to evaluate potentially standards for interpreter training programs in Illinois; seconded by Hershel Jackson.

Discussion: Is there any other groups such as RID which have standards for interpreter training? Director Miller indicated Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT) has standards but they are very high and may not be feasible for Illinois programs.

Motion passed. (Video didn't show individual voting record).

Tina Childress moved for IDHHC to investigate different meeting locations starting in FY 2016; seconded by Haydee Garcia.

Discussion: The real question is about the increase cost of the live broadcast and whether to continue with the live broadcast. Data available indicates there are approximately 15 hits during live meeting. Live meetings are not the only way IDHHC reaches the public. Is this money better spent on IDHHC initiatives? Is it possible to videotape the meeting and post on IDHHC website without being live?

Motion passed. (Video didn't show individual voting record).

Tina Childress moved to rescind her previous motion; seconded by Joseph Culpepper.

Discussion: Commissioners were unclear with the previous motion if that represented a decision to end the live broadcast or to leave it in the FY16 budget and cut in other areas to adjust for the increased costs.

Motion passed. (Video didn't show individual voting record).

Nancy Abbott moved as amended for IDHHC to continue with the live broadcast and post the video for viewing following the meeting; seconded by Tina Childress. Motion passed (Video didn't show individual voting record).

Closed Meeting:

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

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes
Anil Phadke	Yes				

Nancy Abbott moved to accept the May 8, 2014, closed meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Hershel Jackson. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes
Anil Phadke	Yes				

Open Discussion:

- It is believed that recent comments related to the termination of relay services involves Purple no longer providing IP relay. IDHHC requested to research and clarify.

Announcements:

- Saturday, November 8th, Hearing Loss Association of America, Central Illinois Chapter, is hosting a Hearing Loss Educational Seminar, in Springfield, IL.
- On Saturday, April 18, 2015, IL Hands and Voices and Guide by Your Side is hosting a GALA - Silent Auction and Charity Dinner.
- IL/IA Center for Independent Living is hosting its Annual Holiday Festival for Children with Disabilities on December 13, 2014, from 11-3 at the CIL in Rock Island, IL.
- The 2015 World Deaf Magicians was a wonderful time. There were 28 different magicians from all over the world. The 2016 World Deaf Magic Show will be in Lithuania.
- Schaumburg Township website has a newsletter called “Deaf Line” were you can see the different upcoming events in the Chicago area.

Adjournment:

Nancy Abbott moved to adjourn at 4:28 p.m.; seconded by Tina Childress. Motion passed.

Nancy Abbott	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes
Theresa Fuller-Sakolsky	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes
Anil Phadke	Yes				

(Signature in file)

 Chairperson Date

(Signature in file)

 Executive Secretary Date