

March 11, 2015

Springfield, Illinois

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION**

The sixty-eighth meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **March 11, 2015**, at the IDHHC’s Office, 528 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 209, Springfield, IL 62701.

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Phadke called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Susan Dramin-Weiss	Yes	Tess Fuller-Sakolsky	No
Haydee Garcia	Yes	Cindy Janovetz	Yes	Lori Krakora	Yes
Anil Phadke	Yes	Brenda Schmidt	No	Amber Smock	No
Deloris Summers	Yes	Laura Thomas	No		

**Public:**

Thomas Chance	Paula Chance	Jessena Williams	Marion Dramin
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Paula Chance, an Advocate for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & DeafBlind, shared information on House Bill 2657 proposing changes to the School Code to recognize educational certification and licensure earned outside of Illinois. This will increase the pool of applicants which can apply to teach at the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) and Illinois School for Visually Impaired (ISVI).

Additional legislation is forthcoming which involves exempting ISD and ISVI from certain hiring procedures allowing more flexibility and quacking hiring times. Both bills will be beneficial for the administration of ISD and ISVI.

**Meeting Minutes:**

*Susan Dramin-Weiss moved to accept the November 6, 2014, minutes as presented; seconded by Lori Krakora. Motion passed.*

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Susan Dramin-Weiss	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Cindy Janovetz	Yes	Lori Krakora	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Deloris Summers	Yes				

### **Special Reports/Presentations:**

None

### **Chairperson's Report:**

- The SWOBODA Deaf Center is a new facility in Dixon, Illinois. It is large and can be reserved for meetings, socials, and private parties. Chairperson Phadke encourages everyone to consider using the SWOBODA Deaf Center.
- Robert Grindrod recently passed. He was a great advocate and former IDHHC Commissioner. A moment of silence was taken in remembrance of Mr. Grindrod.

### **Director's Report:**

- Congratulations to Cindy Janovetz who was recently appointed as a Commissioner. Her term will expire November 2015. Both Anil Phadke and Haydee Garcia have been reappointed through November 2017. Laura Thomas is the only Commissioner currently serving with an expired term. The Commission applauds Hershel Jackson for all of his hard work over the last several years on the Commission and thanks him for his dedication and commitment.
- Several Commissioners recently participated in a 1 ½ day Orientation Training at the IDHHC office. A future training will be scheduled for those Commissioners who were unable to attend.
- IDHHC is on target with projected expenditures for its Fiscal Year 2015 Budget; however, Governor Bruce Rauner issued Executive Order 15-08 restricting travel and contracts. As a result, IDHHC terminated its contract with University of Illinois Springfield for video streaming of the quarterly meetings. Future Commission meetings will be held at the IDHHC's office. In addition, IDHHC relinquished the state vehicle to surplus. It is possible legislation will be passed allowing a sweep of state funds which may include the Interpreter Fund.
- The IDHHC Fiscal Year Budget for 2016 should remain at the Fiscal Year 2015 level; no increase or decrease. However, the Fiscal Year 2016 budget still must be approved by the legislators and Governor Bruce Rauner. Director Miller testified at both the House and Senate Appropriation Committee hearings.
- Governor Bruce Rauner presented the State budget address for Fiscal Year 2016. Due to the current fiscal crisis, IDHHC is concerned that services to Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind consumers could be impacted in several areas.
  - Early Intervention services face a 23 million dollars shortfall;
  - Illinois School for the Deaf currently has no reported budget cuts;

- Both the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and the Department of Children and Family Services have reported cuts but is not clear which services will be impacted.
- Center for Independent Living (CIL) may also experience reduction in state funding.
- The next SSP Task Force meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2015. IDHHC and Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) both share the expenses related to the Task Force. Due to the current budget restraints, it is uncertain if the May meeting will proceed. No Fiscal Year 2016 meetings have been scheduled at this time.
- IDHHC continues to collect pre and post evaluations from the Deaf Self Advocacy Trainings (DSAT) and the information is sent to the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers. DSAT Trainings are provided by those who attended the Deaf Self-Advocacy Train-the-Trainers workshops hosted by IDHHC.
- IDHHC welcomes Amy Richards as the new Statewide Deaf Services Consultant with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Ms. Richards will begin on April 16, 2015. Todd Williams resigned from the position to accept a different position within ISBE.
- In collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC), IDHHC hosted a Legal Training workshop for all Illinois licensed Sign Language Interpreters with either an Advanced or Master proficiency level. The AOIC has implemented a new Language Access Policy which includes a statewide directory of approved sign language interpreters for local courts. To be listed on this directory, interpreters must complete the AOIC training and necessary paperwork. IDHHC received positive feedback from the interpreters about the training.
- IDHHC is working to become a testing site for the TechUnit Cued Speech State Certification. This will allow individuals wanting to provide cued speech transliterating services to gain certification and eligible to apply for a license as required by the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007.
- The Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health (DMH) has announced the implementation of the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) program. The IPS program purpose is to assist and empower individuals with mental illness to obtain and maintain employment. DRS is also partnering with DMH on this project.

***Deloris Summers moved to recess for 10 minutes; seconded by Lori Krakora. Motion passed.***

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Susan Dramin-Weiss	No	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Cindy Janovetz	Yes	Lori Krakora	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Deloris Summers	Yes				

*Meeting was recessed at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened at 2:40 p.m.*

**Director’s Report Continued:**

- IDHHC staff met with a representative from the Speaker’s Office with the House of Representatives. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss IDHHC’s mission and the services available to the community, legislators and governmental entities. .
- IDHHC announced the appointment of William Lee and Shelley Williams to serve on the Interpreter Licensure Board. They replace Shelley Engstrom-Kestel and Dana Craig whose terms had expired and were not eligible for reappointment. IDHHC appreciates the support, dedication and years of service to both of them have shown to IDHHC and the Interpreter Licensure program. The Interpreter Licensure Board will have two additional openings at the end of 2015. Please encourage anyone who is interested in serving on the Interpreter Licensure Board to submit an application.
- In addition to the Court Interpreter training, IDHHC has also provided professional development opportunities for interpreters on the BEI Test Overview: What is the Test Testing and Interpreting in the Medical Setting

**New Business:**

*Susan Dramin-Weiss moved the Fiscal Year 2016 Commission meeting dates be scheduled for August 13, 2015, November 5, 2015, February 11, 2016, and May 12, 2016; seconded by Deloris Summers. Motion passed.*

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Susan Dramin-Weiss	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Cindy Janovetz	Yes	Lori Krakora	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Deloris Summers	Yes				

**Election of Officers:**

Chairperson Phadke opened the nomination for Chairperson.

Joseph Culpepper nominated Anil Phadke as Chairperson. Anil Phadke accepted the nomination. Susan Dramin-Weiss took the role of Chairperson during the election.

*With no other nominations for Chairperson, Anil Phadke is elected as Chairperson.*

Anil Phadke resumed the role of Chair

*Deloris Summers nominated Susan Dramin-Weiss as a Vice Chairperson. Susan Dramin-Weiss accepted the nomination. With no other nominations, Susan Dramin-Weiss is elected Vice-Chairperson.*

**Closed Meeting:**

Chairperson Phadke reported that Commissioners will not be meeting during closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)21 for the purpose of the semi-annual review of the closed meeting minutes.

*Susan Dramin-Weiss moved to close the meeting for personnel matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); seconded by Haydee Garcia. Motion passed.*

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Susan Dramin-Weiss	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Cindy Janovetz	Yes	Lori Krakora	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Deloris Summers	Yes				

Closed Meeting session started at 2:55 pm.

*Susan Dramin-Weiss moved to open the meeting to the public; seconded by Joseph Culpepper. Motion passed.*

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Susan Dramin-Weiss	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Cindy Janovetz	Yes	Lori Krakora	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Deloris Summers	Yes				

Open Meeting reconvened at 3:45 pm.

**Open Discussions**

- Lori Krakora suggested that the Commission consider hosting the next Commission meeting in Chicago at SWOBODA Deaf Center.

**Announcements**

- The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is hosting its board meeting in Chicago next month.
- On March 21, 2015, the Fox Valley Illinois Association of the Deaf is hosting the Deaf Doc. Tickets cost \$5 each.
- On March 28, 2015, the Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf (JCCD) is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Elk Club. The cost for each person is \$30.

**Adjournment:**

*Susan Dramin-Weiss moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:53 p.m.; seconded by Lori Krakora. Motion passed.*

Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Susan Dramin-Weiss	Yes	Haydee Garcia	Yes
Cindy Janovetz	Yes	Lori Krakora	Yes	Anil Phadke	Yes
Deloris Summers	Yes				

**(Signature in file)** \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**(Signature in file)** \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_