

May 14, 2015

Springfield, Illinois

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

The sixty-ninth meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **May 14, 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 1:03 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Public:**

|                           |                |               |                    |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Karen Aguilar             | Paula Chance   | Thomas Chance | Elizabeth Diaz     |
| Tifitri Esasri            | Jessica Miller | Mounir Naili  | Amy Richards, ISBE |
| Jessena Williams, DHS-DMH |                |               |                    |

Paula Chance, an Advocate for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing & DeafBlind, shared information:

- Senate Bill 220 passed out of the Senate after negotiating with the Unions to add sunset clause for 2017. The bill allows the hiring procedures for ISD and ISVI to be simplified.
- House Bill 2657 involving adding out of state credentials to be recognized by ISBE passed the House and on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading in the Senate.
- ISD Governance legislation is still being drafted. Working with Senator Manar, Senator McCann and Representative Davidsmeyer. The plan is to host community town halls, present during the IAD conference, and negotiated with the unions.

**Meeting Minutes:**

*Susan Dramin-Weiss moved to accept the March 11, 2015, minutes as presented; seconded by Laura Thomas. Motion passed.*

|                  |     |                    |     |                      |     |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Joseph Culpepper | Yes | Susan Dramin-Weiss | Yes | Tess Fuller-Sakolsky | Yes |
| Haydee Garcia    | Yes | Anil Phadke        | Yes | Amber Smock          | Yes |
| Deloris Summers  | Yes | Laura Thomas       | Yes |                      |     |

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

#### **Amy Richards, ISBE, Principal Consultant for Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Ms. Richards started in the position about three weeks ago. She is involved with services not only for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing including the DeafBlind but also those with vision loss.

IDHHC and ISBE have a wonderful partnership and will continue to collaborate on projects such as hosting webinar trainings for interpreters. Currently, she reviewing the rules and procedures related to educational interpreters to ensure the schools are hiring interpreters with the proper credentials and ISBE approval. ISBE is responsible for the granting approval and tracking system for educational interpreters. However, it's the schools responsibility to locate and hire educational interpreters.

Commissioners expressed concerns that educational interpreters not having enough preparation time, that deaf and hard of hearing teachers don't have sufficient sign proficiency to understand the students, and students with more than 1 language have additional challenges with finding qualified interpreters and the families often feel disconnected from the schools.

Ms. Richards indicates that ISBE does accept written complaints on what is happening in the classroom but it cannot just be about the personality of the interpreter. It is very difficult to address the sign proficiency of the deaf and hard of hearing teachers because there is no standardization and both MacMurray and ISU give different exams.

#### **IDHHC's Beta Website**

**Janet S. Lambert, IDHHC Assistant Director**

**Brandy Hayes, IDHHC Program Coordinator**

IDHHC has been in the process of preparing for the launching of a new website design. Several Information and Technology (IT) concerns had to be resolved first. IDHHC installed network cables installed in all offices for both computers and video phones, fiber optics to improve for network speed and connectivity, and expanded services with CMS.

The new website design is intended to have a more visual style, organization of information by intended user, improved navigation and accessibility. CMS is currently working on adding both the ability to change the font size and select different contrast. Screen shots of the new design were shown.

*Deloris Summers moved to recess for 10 minutes; seconded by Susan Dramin-Weiss. Motion passed.*

|                  |     |                    |     |                      |     |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Joseph Culpepper | Yes | Susan Dramin-Weiss | Yes | Tess Fuller-Sakolsky | Yes |
| Haydee Garcia    | Yes | Anil Phadke        | Yes | Amber Smock          | Yes |
| Deloris Summers  | Yes | Laura Thomas       | Yes |                      |     |

*Meeting was recessed at 2:29 p.m. and reconvened at 2:40 p.m.*

**Chairperson Report:**

- Chairperson Anil met Sherri Collins, Executive Director of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. It was a wonderful opportunity and he learned a lot.

**Director's Report:**

- IDHHC has a lot of potential and there is a still lot of things to accomplish. Often IDHHC must prioritize its activities to maximize its impact while working with the resources available.
- Currently, IDHHC has a staff member on an extended leave requiring the public to leave messages. Several times a day the sign mail is reviewed and referred to the appropriate staff.
- The Office of the Auditor General is currently conducting the required audit for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015. The final report will not be available until next spring. Various staff is required to assemble the various document and information requested.
- In March 2015, IDHHC was informed the Fiscal Year 2015 budget was being cut by 2.25% reducing it from \$650,000 to \$635,400. As IDHHC had staff on leave during FY15, it was able to absorb the cut in the personnel services without impacting services.
- Fiscal Year 2016 budget is not finalized. Governor Rauner proposed a maintenance budget of \$650,000 and \$200,000 for the Interpreter Licensure Fund; however this is not final and could be impacted by the AFSCME contract negotiations. Additionally, Executive Order 15-08 restricting travel and contracts is still in effect.
- SSP Task Force has scheduled their final meeting for May 21, 2015. As a result of Executive Order 15-08, the Department of Human Services is unable to continue its partnership to fund the expense associated with the SSP Task Force. The final report should be completed in August 2015.
- IDHHC partnered with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Great Lakes ADA Center Assistance to host a workshop at the SWODBA center. This workshop promoted self-advocacy within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community and education on the various services offered by each agency.

- On April 1, 2015, the Child Abuse Prevention Month kickoff was held at the Capitol Rotunda. Valerie Eyer, deaf child and current ISD student, made a very moving presentation. Both she and her brother were subjected to child abuse. She wrote a book “Why Did We Have to Say Goodbye” in memory of her brother who died as a result of the abuse. IDHHC attended along with Senator McCann to show its support.
- Due to scheduling conflicts, the Addiction Recovery of the Deaf (ARD) was unable to present to the Commission but sent information about its program which has been distributed.
- IDHHC is monitoring various legislation including HB 2657, SB 0220, HB 3822 (requiring wireless companies to contribute to ITAC), HR 180 (recognition of the importance of CART providers and court reporters) and IDHHC appropriations bills HB 4141 and SB 1981.
- The Interpreter Licensure Board has 2 upcoming vacancies. The Board has a total of 7 members, 4 must be licensed interpreters and 3 deaf or hard of hearing consumers. The two vacancies are for consumer members. It is important to spread the word and encourage people to apply.
- At this time, IDHHC has one Commissioner serving on an expired term. The Governor’s office has not made a new appointment.
- ISBE and IDHHC are currently working to increase opportunities for professional development and testing with the BEI for interpreters.

**New Business:**

*NONE.*

**Closed Meeting:**

*Susan Dramin-Weiss moved to close the meeting for personnel matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21); seconded by Amber Smock. Motion passed.*

|                  |     |                    |     |                      |     |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Joseph Culpepper | Yes | Susan Dramin-Weiss | Yes | Tess Fuller-Sakolsky | Yes |
| Haydee Garcia    | Yes | Anil Phadke        | Yes | Amber Smock          | Yes |
| Deloris Summers  | Yes | Laura Thomas       | Yes |                      |     |

Closed Meeting session started at 3:40 pm.

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

|                  |     |                    |     |                      |     |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Joseph Culpepper | Yes | Susan Dramin-Weiss | Yes | Tess Fuller-Sakolsky | Yes |
| Haydee Garcia    | Yes | Anil Phadke        | Yes | Amber Smock          | Yes |
| Deloris Summers  | Yes | Laura Thomas       | Yes |                      |     |

Open Meeting reconvened at 3:59 pm.

***Joseph Culpepper moved to accept the March 11, 2015, closed meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Laura Thomas. Motion passed.***

|                  |     |                    |     |                      |     |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Joseph Culpepper | Yes | Susan Dramin-Weiss | Yes | Tess Fuller-Sakolsky | Yes |
| Haydee Garcia    | Yes | Anil Phadke        | Yes | Amber Smock          | Yes |
| Deloris Summers  | Yes | Laura Thomas       | Yes |                      |     |

***Amber Smock moved to table the semi-annual review of the closed meeting minutes until the next meeting on November 13, 2015; seconded by Susan Dramin-Weiss. Motion passed.***

#### **Open Discussions**

- Commissioner Smock commended Director Miller for such a detailed report and the importance of the Commissioners reading the full written report in advance of the meeting.
- The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on Friday, May 8, 2015, that the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana is subject to federal disability discrimination law under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The lawsuit was filed by Megan Runnion, who is deaf and was 12 years old at the time. Megan was seeking to secure an American Sign Language interpreter for meetings of her Girl Scout troop.
- It is important to stay current on what other states are doing such as Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Minnesota with the DeafBlind community.

#### **Announcements**

- Illinois Association of the Deaf Biennial Conference on June 24-28, 2015 in Moline, Illinois.
- Movie Night: “The Deaf Club” at Swoboda Deaf Center on May 16, 2015 with shows at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

*Susan Dramin-Weiss moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:13 p.m.; seconded by Amber Smock. Motion passed.*

|                  |     |                    |     |                      |     |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Joseph Culpepper | Yes | Susan Dramin-Weiss | Yes | Tess Fuller-Sakolsky | Yes |
| Haydee Garcia    | Yes | Anil Phadke        | Yes | Amber Smock          | Yes |
| Deloris Summers  | Yes | Laura Thomas       | Yes |                      |     |

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

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

APPROVED