

February 18, 2010

Springfield, Illinois

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The fiftieth meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **February 18, 2010**, 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:

Tina Childress, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Members Present:

Victoria Gustafson	Tina Childress	Emma Danielson	Joseph Culpepper
Marc Siegel	Benro Ogunyipe	Mindy Joy Mayer	Tamara Hogue

Members Absent:

Nancy Abbott Hershel Jackson

Staff Present:

John Miller	Janet Lambert	Brandie Belford	Brandy Hayes
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Interpreters:

Sheila Chapman Marilyn Corlett

CART:

Kathy Smith

Public:

Marilyn Harbison Charles Harbison

Emma Danielson moved to accept the August 27, 2009, minutes as corrected. Seconded by Tamara Hogue. Motion passed.

Vicki Gustafson	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Emma Danielson	Yes
Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Tamara Hogue	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes		

Special Reports/Presentations:

Current Status on ISD

Superintendent of the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) Mary Beth Lauderdale, gave a power point presentation along with handouts regarding the Look Book and Language, policies and the deaf education curriculum. The presentation covered the history and vision of the Illinois School for the Deaf that was established in 1839. Ms. Lauderdale explained ISD has been subject budget cuts and possible closure along with program cuts and layoffs, but continues to have an increase in student enrollment. ISD asks for the continued support from local legislators and the Governor's Office has received many letters of support from various organizations.

Interpreter Licensure and IDHHC Updates

Assistant Director, Janet Lambert, reported December 31, 2009, was the end the first year for interpreter licensure and the start of renewals. Currently, Illinois has a total of 594 licensed interpreters: 184 Master, 142 Advanced, 200 Intermediate and 68 with a Provisional license. The number of interpreters with provisional are decreasing showing that interpreters are increasing their skills and increasing their license proficiency levels. Since last Commission meeting, IDHHC received 53 new license applications along with 26 new upgrades. Ms. Lambert explained the process for upgrading a license and certifications accepted for licensure. In July- 2010, the ISAS test will no longer be available. IDHHC applauds CAIRS what they have done with testing.

Director Miller along with Janet Lambert and Becki Combs went to Texas under the recommendation of the Licensure Board to assess its interpreting testing system. The Licensure Board reviewed the information and decided that it was a valid and reliable comprehensive certification system which has also been evaluated by the University of Arizona National Center for interpreting testing, research and policy department. IDHHC's goal is to have testing implemented.

IDHHC received a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to be used for interpreter professional development. IDHHC sponsored a 2 day presentation in Hinsdale South. "Wake up the Kids" using features of ASL and using ASL in 4 subjects.

The Illinois Teacher's for Hearing Impaired (ITHI) will be hosting its annual conference on March 5-6, 2010, at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield and information is available on IDHHC's website.

IDHHC is working to sponsor a web broadcast in April 2010 from Nebraska's Boys Town for professional development of educational interpreters. It will be broadcast at the Center for Sight and Hearing. As more information is available, it will be posted to IDHHC's website.

IDHHC is hosting its annual conference on May 21- 22, 2010. The cost for one day is \$30.00 or \$55.00 for both days.

Chairperson Report:

Chair, Tina Childress reported as of January 1, 2010, it is illegal to text while driving or use of cell phone in school and construction zones. The Hearing Aid Insurance Coverage Bill has been introduced again but the Committee meeting scheduled for February 17, 2010, was postponed. Certificates of Appreciation for Dennis O'Brien and Lisa Sesko will be given to them at a later date and best wishes for both.

Director Report:

Director, John Miller reported on IDHHC's activities since the last meeting.

Director Miller reported on the live broadcast and our apologies to those who were watching when we had technical difficulties but is now up and running.

IDHHC Fiscal Year 2008 & 2009

IDHHC is required by law to work with the Auditor's to review IDHHC's operations to ensure compliance.

Commissioners

Director Miller announced the re-appointments of Hershel Jackson, Mindy Jo Mayer and Benro Ogunyipe. Director Miller welcomed new Commissioner Victoria Gustafson. IDHHC is still waiting on the Governor's Office to appoint a new Commissioner to replace Dennis O'Brien who resigned in order to accept a new position out of state.

IDHHC Budget

FY11 budget faces many challenges and IDHHC is working with the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) on the outcome.

Annual Conference

The conference will be held in Springfield on May 21- 22, 2010, at the Hilton. Commissioners are welcome to attend.

Statewide Deaf Finger Spelling Bee

This year's Finger-Spelling Bee was a success. It was broadcasted live on IDHHC's website and is posted on the website for viewing. A total of 7 schools participated this year. The winners were - Group A- Ariella Dramin and Group B - Jesse Cobb.

Communication Access and Self Assessment Guide

IDHHC is currently developing a tool for service providers to assess communication access and barriers within their programs. By the next meeting, the tool will be provided to the Commissioners for feedback prior to posting it to IDHHC's website.

Emergency Preparedness Group

IDHHC is developing a tip sheet for first responders to help prepare them in the event of a disaster & provide communication tips to use with deaf and hard of hearing victims.

Annual Report

IDHHC FY 09 Annual Report is nearly completely. Upon completion, it will be distributed to the Commissioners along with the Governor's Office.

Outreach

- Director Miller attended the Walk for the Hearing in Chicago. It was IDHHC's first year to attend this event.
- Director Miller provided a presentation in Chicago to the Mental Health Office to deaf professionals addressing Interpreter Licensure and how it impacts the medical field.
- Director Miller attended the Dental Conference in Springfield as a panel member regarding communication access with Dentists providing services to deaf children, deaf parents and should hearing children be used to interpret for deaf parents.
- Illinois Academy of Audiologist in Chicago – staff provided presentation.

Legislation

- SB2516 – Hearing Aid Insurance Coverage with no age restrictions; Committee hearing scheduled for February 17th was postponed.
- HB4924 – Cochlear Implants and Hearing Aids up to the age of 18; Committee hearing scheduled for February 23, 2010, at 4:00pm.

New Business

None

Open Discussion

Chairperson Childress commented on deaf friendly drive thru restaurants and that there is focus on expanding them. There is a website www.captionfish.com that list all movies that have open window captioning, rear window captioning or descriptive captioning.

Election of Officers

Emma Danielson lead the election requesting nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Marc Siegel nominated Tina Childress for Chair and Tina accepted. Joseph Culpepper nominated Hershel Jackson for Chair. Hershel was not present but stated that he would be interested. No other nominations were made. Voting was conducted and Tina Childress is elected as the new Chairperson. Victoria Gustafson nominated Hershel Jackson and Mindy Joy Mayer for Vice Chair. Mindy Joy Mayer nominated Benro Ogunyipe for Vice Chair. Voting was conducted and Benro Ogunyipe was elected as the new Vice Chair.

Closed Meeting

Emma Danielson moved to go into closed meeting pursuant Personnel 5ILCS 120/2C1 for the Director’s evaluation. Marc Siegel seconded. Closed meeting ended 3:30 pm

Open Meeting

Announcements:

Commissioner Marc Siegel announced the 3rd Annual Walk 4 Hearing Fundraiser was held on October 18, 2009, at Lincoln Park, in Chicago IL. Marc reported \$90,000.00 collected and this event raised the second highest amount in the nation. It was good to know that Director Miller and Emma Danielson attended this year and hopes to see them again next year.

Vice Chair Benro Ogunyipe announced that the statewide ADA Celebration will be held in Chicago at the James R. Thompson Center (JRTC) on July 22, 2010. It will be the 20th Anniversary of the ADA for DHS to hold this event. There will also be a ADA Celebration in Springfield and the information will be posted on DHS’s website.

Adjournment:

Victoria Gustafson moved to adjourn at 3:43 pm. Emma Danielson seconded. Motion Passed.

Vicki Gustafson	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Emma Danielson	Yes
Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Tamara Hogue	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes		

(Signature in file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature in file)

Executive Secretary

Date