

May 28, 2009

Springfield, Illinois

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The forty-ninth meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission was held on Thursday, May 28, 2009, at the University of Illinois at Springfield, Public Affairs Center (PAC) Building, 1 University Plaza, Springfield, IL 62703 and broadcasted live via IDHHC's website.

Call to Order:

Dennis O'Brien, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Members Present:

Dennis O'Brien	Tina Childress	Mindy Joy Mayer	Lisa Sesko
Marc Siegel	Benro Ogunyipe	Jenny Singleton	Hershel Jackson

Members Absent:

Emma Danielson

Vacant Positions: Currently, the Commission has two vacancies.

Staff Present:

John Miller	Janet Lambert	Brandie Belford	Mary O'Brian
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Interpreters:

Sheila Chapman	Marilyn Corlett
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CART:

Kathy Smith

Public:

Christy Pean	Karen Graham
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Hershel Jackson moved to accept the February 19, 2009 minutes as corrected. Seconded by Tina Childress. Motion passed.

Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes
Lisa Sesko	Yes	Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Jenny Singleton	Abstain	Hershel Jackson	Yes		

Special Reports/Presentations:

Interpreter Development presented by Karen Graham

Karen Graham, from SignOn briefly described the organization and that it provides supervised/mentor type training opportunities for recent graduates of interpreter training programs. This organization is based out of Seattle, Washington but accepts interpreters from all over the country. The program is approximately 1 semester in length and provides post employment opportunities for the interpreters once they have completed the training. As an added incentive SignOn will pay the cost of the RID NIC exam for the interns.

5 Year Strategic Plan presented by Director Miller

Director John Miller presented the revised 5 Year Strategic Plan of the Commission outlining its goals and objectives. Upon approval, the Plan will go into effects as of July 1, 2009.

Break: 2:05 p.m.

Reconvened: 2:30 p.m.

Chairperson Report:

Chairperson, Dennis O'Brien reported that Tom Benziger has submitted his resignation from the Commission. On behalf of the Commission, Dennis and the Commissioners thank Tom Benziger for his years of service on the Commission.

Director Report:

Janet Lambert, Assistant Director, gave the Director's report.

Deaf Illinois Award

IDHHC was voted by the readers of Deaf Illinois News for the "Best Government Agency Award. On behalf of the Commission, staff and Commissioners, IDHHC thanks the community for their continued support.

Interpreter Coordinator position

At this time, the interview process has been completed but no decision on hiring has been determined.

FY 10 Budget

IDHHC met with the representatives from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget to discuss the proposed FY10 budget. The proposed FY10 budget is as follows:

- General Revenue Fund - \$ 744,300 (5.64% decrease from FY 09)
- Appropriation Expenditure authority of \$135,000 for the Interpreter Licensure Fund (35% increase from FY 09)
- Total Agency Fund - \$ 879,300 (1.07% decrease from FY 09)

Commissioners Term

The Director has contacted the Governor's office regarding the vacant positions and the reappointment of members who are eligible. The Governor's office has created a new online website for the appointment process and Director Miller will follow up with status of the appointments. The new website is www.illinois.gov/appointments

Interpreter Licensure

IDHHC held 15 workshops throughout the state to provide awareness on the Interpreter Licensure process and how consumers can file a complaint. A total of 481 people were in attendance at those community workshops.

To date IDHHC is pleased to report that as of May 21, 2009, we have 596 licensed interpreters. The following breakdown represents the proficiency levels of the interpreters currently licensed:

- Master – 178
- Advanced – 123
- Intermediate – 196
- Provisional – 99

Since February 1, 2009, we have received 73 new applications for the licensure.

Statewide Deaf Fingerspelling Bee

This year 6 schools participated and a total of 21 students competing. The event was broadcasted live via IDHHC's website allowing parents, family and schools to view the event and show support.

The winners for Group A (5th/6th Graders) were:

- 1st Place: Ariella Dramin (Winning Word: Sacrifice)
- 2nd Place: Ryan Glynn
- 3rd Place: Daniella Bernal

The winners for Group B (7th/8th Graders) were:

1st Place: Adanary Deluna (Winning Word: apartment)

2nd Place: Suzanne Krone

3rd Place: Amber Kelleher

Annual Conference:

IDHHC 4th Annual Interpreter Conference will be held May 29-30th. A record number of 160 Educational and Community based interpreters are expected to attend.

Legislative Updates:

- HB 725 – ASL Foreign Language Credit: Passed both house and senate chambers and is sitting at the Governor’s desk for his signature
- SB 1738 – Interpreter Privilege: Passed both house and senate chambers and is sitting on the Governor’s desk for his signature
- SB 68 – Hearing Aid Insurance Coverage: was assigned to a sub-committee in the Senate no further action at this time
- SB 40 – Disability Services Committee: Passed both house and senate chambers and is sitting at the Governor’s desk for his signature
- HB 1035 – Education – Disability History/Awareness – Passed both house and senate chambers and is sitting at the Governor’s desk for his signature.
- HB 655 – Task Force – Opp. For Disabled – Passed both house and senate chambers and sitting at the Governor’s desk for his signature.

IDHHC will report on the status of SB 29 and HB 4043 at the next meeting.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Effective July 1, 2009, the new rate will increase to 55 cents per mile.

FY 10 – Commission Meeting Date

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2009; however, there is a conflict with the UIS television studio. If the Commissioners would like to continue to broadcast the meetings live via the internet, the August 20th meeting date must be changed. The Commission suggests changing the August meeting date to August 27, 2009.

New Business:

Hershel Jackson moved to accept IDHHC proposed 5 Year Strategic Plan as presented. Lisa Sesko seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes
Lisa Sesko	Yes	Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Jenny Singleton	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes		

Tina Childress moved to change IDHHC Commission meeting scheduled for August 20, 2009 to August 27, 2009. Marc Siegel seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes
Lisa Sesko	Yes	Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Jenny Singleton	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes		

Open Discussion:

Guide By Your Side

Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of support for the GBYS program from the Commission. Assistant Director Janet Lambert explained the program is currently being promoted by an advocacy group. As a state agency, IDHHC cannot endorse one program over another. IDHHC continues to show support to a variety of organizations by participating and attending meetings and events related to issues concerning communication access for children.

Chairperson Dennis O'Brien assured that the Commission is committed to communication access for all individuals with hearing loss and will continue to work with these issues.

Hearing Aid Action

Chairperson Dennis O'Brien reported that the deadline for SB 68 is tomorrow, May 29th. Senator Cullerton met with a group regarding the bill and there was discussion on Senator Cullerton extending the deadline to the fall veto session. Chicago ABC7 broadcasted a news story about hearing aid insurance and the lack of coverage. The Hearing Aid Action group has received support from some audiologists and other organizations.

Announcements:

Marc Siegel announced that the annual Walk 4 Hearing Fundraiser will be held on October 18, 2009 at Lincoln Park, in Chicago II. Marc would like to see the Commission involved with this event. Tina Childress explained that exhibit booths are set up at the event and that maybe

IDHHC could have a booth and this would help to increase the Commission’s visibility at the event.

Jenny Singleton announced that International CODA organization will be hosting their conference for anyone who is hearing and has deaf parents and meets the 18 and over age requirement. The Conference will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado from July 9-12, 2009. For more information, the website address is www.coda-international.org

Dennis O’Brien announced that Illinois Association of the Deaf (IAD) will host their bi-annual conference in Bloomington, IL from June 11-13, 2009.

Benro Ogunyipe announced that the annual ADA Celebration will be held at the JRTC building downtown Chicago on July 15th and downtown Springfield on July 22nd. DHS will have exhibitors, workshops and a variety of performers at the event. For more information, please see this website, www.dhs.state.il.us

Mindy Joy Mayer announced that the Deaf-Blind 2nd annual retreat will be held at the Illinois School for Visually Impaired in Jacksonville, IL on June 17 – 20, 2009. This retreat brings deaf blind individuals, interpreters and others who want to work with deaf-blind individuals together. Mindy also announced the date for the 2010 retreat that will be held June 9-12, 2010 at the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired in Jacksonville.

Adjournment:

Chairperson Dennis O’Brien moved to adjourn. Mindy Joy Mayer seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Dennis O’Brien	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes
Lisa Sesko	Yes	Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Jenny Singleton	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes		

(Signature in file)

Chairperson	Date
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(Signature in file)

Executive Secretary	Date
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