

August 26, 2010

Springfield, Illinois

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

The fifty-third meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Thursday, **August 26, 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:

Chairperson Tina Childress called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Members Present:

Tina Childress	Joseph Culpepper	Marc Siegel	Benro Ogunyipe
Mindy Joy Mayer	Tamara Hogue	Julie Chavez	Hershel Jackson
Nancy Abbott			

Members Absent:

Vicki Gustafson	Emma Danielson
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Staff Present:

John Miller	Janet Lambert	Brandie Belford	Brandy Hayes
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Interpreters:

Sheila Chapman	Marilyn Corlett
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CART:

Kathy Smith

Public:

Eleanore Millick	Leon Devriendt	Patty Kress	Teresa Moore
Trudy Snell			

Hershel Jackson moved to accept the May 20, 2010, minutes as corrected. Seconded by Tamara Hogue. Motion passed.

Hershel Jackson	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Nancy Abbott	Yes
Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Tamara Hogue	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Julie Chavez	Yes

Special Reports/Presentations:

Illinois Telecommunication Access Corporation

Director Miller invited Trudy Snell, Executive Director from the Illinois Telecommunication Access Corporation (ITAC) to present on ITAC programs.

- Legislature passed a law for land line telephones in which ITAC will receive monthly surcharges on every land line in the State of Illinois. ITAC gathers eight cents per month per line which will provide the money for the equipment to support the Illinois Relay System. There are two relay systems. One is the Captel Relay and the other standard is the TRS relay. The first TTY was issued in 1988, for deaf and hard of hearing persons to use in order to communicate with each other or through the Illinois relay system.
- In the fall of 2004, ITAC was responsible for the distribution of amplified phones and there are in existence 28,692 amplified phones.
- Deaf people have reduced the usage of TTY due to the current technology that has been developed, such as pagers and video phones distributed by various companies.

Five Year Strategic Plan (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2014)

Director Miller gave a progress report on the Five Year Strategic Plan. The Five Year Strategic Plan is posted on IDHHC's website.

IDHHC's FY 11 Budget:

Director Miller reported the budget was decreased by 28% with 18% of that in the operations of the agency alone. One of the biggest cuts is in travel impacting the number of events that IDHHC staff can attend. Additionally, IDHHC will not be hosting the State Wide Fingerspelling Bee or attending Deaf Awareness Day. The Governor's Office has implemented a voluntary furlough plan for union employees and a 24 mandatory furlough day plan for non-union employees.

Director Miller reminded Commissioners that as long as Illinois continues to face a fiscal crisis, IDHHC may still face more cuts in the future. Cuts are currently focused on IDHHC's budget from the General Revenue Fund and not the Interpreter Licensure Fund.

Chairperson's Report:

Chairperson Childress reported that Susan Dramin and Kate Kubey have expressed concerns about eliminating the Deaf Finger Spelling Bee. Both indicated that they preferred to see the cuts made to the broadcasting of Commission meetings.

There is a new federal law proposed which will give the Federal Commerce Commission the power to set regulations and rules for information available through the internet. Its intent is to ensure that all information is accessible to everyone including individuals with sensory disabilities. The Senate has passed the bill and it is currently in the House of Representatives.

Director's Report

Activities

Director Miller and Assistant Director Lambert provided a workshop at Schaumburg Township regarding Interpreter Licensure and the ADA. A new brochure on Understanding Communication Rights was distributed. This brochure is for consumers to give to medical services providers explaining their legal obligation to provide effective communication. It has a section for consumers to keep with information on how to file complaints with various agencies.

IDHHC staff is working in partnership with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to provide training to service providers that DCFS contracts with.

IDHHC is reviewing the Illinois State Police Communication Training for Emergency Dispatchers. IDHHC will be offering suggesting updating its training and incorporating the use of video phones.

CART Taskforce

IDHHC has developed a plan for establishing a CART Taskforce. Letters of invitations will be sent to key stakeholders to participate in the taskforce.

Illinois Board of Evaluation of Interpreters(BEI)

IDHHC is continuing to work on the procedures to implement the written and performance test of the Illinois BEI.

Interpreter Licensure

Licensed Interpreters:

- 195 Master
- 160 Advanced
- 215 Intermediate
- 66 Provisional

Amendments to the Interpreter Licensure Rules are being drafted to add the Illinois BEI to the list of acceptable certifications.

The Interpreter Coordinator position is ready to post. After the posting closes, IDHHC will request the eligibility list and schedule interviews.

Break: 2:45 pm

Reconvened: 3:00 pm

Open Discussion:

Chairperson Childress and Commissioner Siegel attended the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) conference in June 2010. There was good attendance and they plan on attending the conference again in June 2011 in Washington D.C.

Commissioner Jackson attended the Iowa Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing meeting. There were several questions regarding Illinois Interpreter Licensure. Iowa is currently looking at revising its Interpreter licensure laws and may use Illinois as a model.

Chairperson Childress stated that several individuals from out of state have contacted her regarding IDHHC's live broadcast of its meetings. Many are looking into improving their own system.

Commissioner Ogunyipe shared information about Access Chicago which is an event for people with disabilities to promote awareness. Access Chicago will be held every two years rather than annually due to budget constraints.

Announcements:

Chairperson Childress announced the following:

- Hearing Loss Association of America Walk for the hearing will be held on October 16, 2010 in Lincoln Park;
- Chairperson Childress will be attending the Association of Late Deafened Adults Conference in Colorado;
- Effective April 2011, Howard Rosenbloom, deaf Attorney in Illinois, was selected C.E.O of the National Association of the Deaf; and
- Miss Deaf Illinois, Rachel Mizuqe, was chosen as Miss Deaf America.

Commissioner Mayer announced the Deaf-Blind Awareness Day will be held at the Chicago Lighthouse on October 26, 2010. Karen Campbell, President of the Illinois Deaf Blind Association will be presenting at this event.

Commissioner Ogunyipe announced the Illinois Registry Interpreter of the Deaf Conference will be held in November in Bloomington, Illinois.

Adjournment:

Tamara Hogue moved to adjourn at 3:12 pm. Mindy Mayer seconded. Motion Passed.

Hershel Jackson	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Nancy Abbott	Yes
Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Tamara Hogue	Yes	Mindy Joy Mayer	Yes	Julie Chavez	Yes

(Signature in file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature in file)

Executive Secretary

Date

APPROVED