

August 27, 2009

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, August 27, 2009, 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:

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

Members Present:

Dennis O’Brien	Tina Childress	Emma Danielson	Nancy Abbott
Marc Siegel	Benro Ogunyipe	Hershel Jackson	Tamara Hogue

Members Absent:

Joseph Culpepper	Lisa Sesko
Mindy Joy Mayer	

Staff Present:

John Miller	Janet Lambert	Brandie Belford	Brandy Hayes
-------------	---------------	-----------------	--------------

Interpreters:

Sheila Chapman	Marilyn Corlett
----------------	-----------------

CART:

Kathy Smith

Public:

None

Marc Siegel moved to accept the May 28, 2009 minutes as corrected. Seconded by Tina Childress. Motion passed.

Dennis O’Brien	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Emma Danielson	Abstain
Nancy Abbott	Abstain	Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Tamara Hogue	Abstain	Hershel Jackson	Yes		

Special Reports/Presentations:

Sign Language & Deaf Education Research in Central Illinois:

Dr. Jenny Singleton, from the University of Illinois Champaign, Department of Educational Psychology provided a presentation of Gallaudet University's Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2) Research Program. This research is funded by the National Science Foundation Science of Learning. The purpose of the research is to investigate how learning visually influences language acquisition, cognition and reading. The importance of this research addresses the language development and educational challenges that persist for deaf children, investigate whether being bilingual in ASL and English can improve educational and employment outcomes for Deaf Citizens and to validate the language and culture of the American Deaf Community.

IDHHC 5 Year Strategic Plan (January 1, 2005- June 30, 2009)

Director John Miller indicated that on June 30, 2009, IDHHC completed its first 5 Year Strategic Plan. IDHHC reported on all its objectives.

- I. Decreased barriers for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons to access programs and services.
 - By June 2009:
 - 5 State-funded programs will be evaluated and monitored to ensure accessibility
Reported - 21 State-funded programs
 - By June 2009:
 - 250 Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers will receive trainings on how to effectively advocate for communication access
Reported - 754 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumers
 - By June 2009:
 - 50 Outreach events will be provided to increase public awareness on communication needs of the deaf and hard of hearing and technologies utilized by this population
Reported - 161 Outreach events

- II. Increased number of Programs serving traditionally underserved populations
 - By June 2009:
 - 3 Programs will receive consultation on how to expand their services to include the traditionally underserved population
Reported - 5 Programs

III. Increased number of qualified interpreters statewide

- By June 2009:
 - 500 Interpreters will receive professional developmentReported - 880 Interpreters
- By June 2009;
 - 1,000 Interpreters will be licensed in Illinois.Reported - Interpreter Licensure required as of January 1, 2009
Reported - 634 Licensed Interpreters
- By June 2009:
 - 400 educational Interpreters will be registeredReported - 337 Educational Interpreters

IV. Increased number of parents of deaf and hard of hearing children involved in advocacy for their children in obtaining appropriate educational options

- By June 2009:
 - 30 families will have participated in Educational options trainingReported - 126 Families
- By June 2009:
 - 2,000 families with infants and toddlers recently diagnosed with hearing loss will receive information on enhancing their quality of lifeReported - 1,928 Families

V. Increased Public awareness on communication needs and technologies available

- By June 2009:
 - 1,000 public and private entities will receive information on communication accessReported - 52,677 public inquiries

VI. Increased number of IDHHC resources distributed to the public to address cultural sensitivity and awareness

- By June 2009:
 - 10,000 individuals will receive information regarding hearing loss through IDHHC various resourcesReported - 81,450 individuals

Chairperson Report:

Chairperson, Dennis O'Brien reported that a new law now makes texting while driving illegal. Commissioner Danielson clarified the law doesn't become effective until January 1, 2010. The Chair also updated the Commissioners and the community on the importance of contacting their legislators to support SB68 on Hearing Aid Insurance.

Director Report:

Director, John Miller reported on IDHHC's activities since the last meeting. IDHHC staff is currently working with the Auditor General's office on the audit period for Fiscal Year 2008 & 2009.

Reappointment of Commissioners

Director Miller congratulated Chairperson, Dennis O'Brien and Vice-Chair Tina Childress on their reappointment for a second term and welcomed our newest Commissioners, Tamara Hogue and Nancy Abbott. One additional new member, Joseph Culpepper was not able to attend this meeting but plans to be in attendance at the November meeting.

The following Commissioners' terms expire this November:

- Hershel Jackson
- Mindy Joy Mayer
- Benro Ogunyipe
- Lisa Sesko

Commissioners are eligible to apply for a second term but must complete the application process again, which can be done via the new website established by Governor Quinn at <http://www.appointments.illinois.gov>. If the Governor has not appointed new Commissioners by the November deadline, those Commissioners' whose terms have expired are expected to continue to serve until they have been reappointed or replaced.

IDHHC Budget

IDHHC budget for fiscal year 2010 is \$673,800 which was reduced by \$18,400 from FY2009. IDHHC is required to implement 12 furlough days for all non bargaining employees to be spread out over the next 12 months. The Commission licensure fund has been appropriated for \$135,000 for Fiscal Year 2010.

Licensed Interpreters

IDHHC has issued 634 sign language interpreter licenses this year.

- Master-187
- Advanced-139
- Intermediate-214
- Provisional-94

Director Miller noted that the number of provisional level license have decreased since the last report. Licensure has encouraged interpreters to improve their proficiency levels by updating their certificates/assessments. Thirty-nine (39) new licenses were issued since the last report.

IDHHC hosted the 4th Annual Interpreter Conference on May 29-30th. The conference was a success with almost 200 interpreters in attendance. A total of seven different workshops were provided with an emphasis on skill development. IDHHC's 5th Annual Conference is tentatively scheduled for April 30 - May 1 of 2010.

IDHHC staff is currently working on a new project to help business and services providers to assess whether communication access is being provided as required under the ADA. When finished, the "Communication Assessment Guide" will be available on IDHHC's website.

Statewide Deaf Finger Spelling Bee

IDHHC will host the 13th Annual Statewide Deaf Fingerspelling Bee competition on December 11, 2009, at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum. This event allows any student with hearing loss in the 5th thru 8th grade to compete in a spelling bee competition using Fingerspelling. This year students will have the opportunity to tour the Presidential Library prior to the competition.

Legislation

- HB725 encourages Universities and Colleges to recognize ASL classes as foreign language credit. This bill passed both the House and Senate. The Governor issued an amendatory veto which does not make substantive changes to the bill.

The following bills were signed into law by the Governor:

- SB1738 - Amends the Civil Code Procedure relating to privileged communication
- SB40 - Disabled Hiring Incentives Bill
- HB1035 - Disability History and Awareness Education
- HB655 - Creates the Employment & Economic Opportunity for Persons with Disabilities Task Force
- HB71 – Vehicle Code & Electronic Communication Devices
- HB72 – Vehicle Code – No Cell Phones in School Zone

The following bills have not been acted upon or are still in the Rules Committee

- SB29-Vehicle Code and Text Communication
- HB4043-Insurance Code For Cochlear Implants and post treatment services

Announcements:

Commissioner Marc Siegel announced the 3rd Annual Walk 4 Hearing Fundraiser will be held on October 18, 2009, at Lincoln Park, in Chicago IL. Marc would like to see the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, Commissioners & IDHHC involved at this event. At this time, \$20,450 in pledges has been received from local sponsors. The Walk 4 Hearing is having a kickoff event to be held at the Salvatore Restaurant in Chicago.

Adjournment:

*Chairperson Dennis O'Brien moved to adjourn at 2:32 pm. Emma Danielson seconded.
Motion Passed.*

Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Tina Childress	Yes	Emma Danielson	Yes
Nancy Abbott	Yes	Marc Siegel	Yes	Benro Ogunyipe	Yes
Tamara Hogue	Yes	Hershel Jackson	Yes		

(Signature in the file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature in the file)

Executive Secretary

Date