



IDHHC Director's Stakeholders Advisory Group
July 21, 2025, Meeting Summary

IDHHC Staff Present:

Benro T. Olives, Director; Will Lee, Interpreter Coordinator; Dana Craig, Program Coordinator and Tonia R. Bogener, Legal Counsel.

SAG Members Present:

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Moraine Valley Community College / Illinois Board of Interpreters; *Holly Gaydurgis*, College of DuPage; *Hershel Jackson*, Statewide Deaf Services Advocates; *Dawn Milka*, Illinois Supervisors of Programs for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals; *Dennis O'Brien*, IDHHC; *Susan Sanders*, Illinois Central College; *Julia Speakman*, IDHS, Division on Behavioral Health & Recovery; and *Tristan Wright*, Illinois Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

Public Attendees: 0

Director Olives gave a brief overview and tutorial of the Teams site and the various information documents available for collaboration and review. It's important for all members to give feedback to the various recommendations being submitted for consideration.

Interpreter Training Programs:

An important focus for the ITPs is to ensure the school administrators are properly educated about the issues. Most importantly is to ensure they understand this is not just a shortage in Illinois but nationwide.

Stakeholder Recommendations & Data Collection:

There are a total of 19 recommendations with 2 new ones related to Interpreter Licensure: post-secondary education and mentorship rules. Currently, Illinois licensure only requires a high school diploma or equivalent. Many ITPs have expressed difficulties obtaining program support when there is no requirement of a post-secondary education for licensure or BEI certification.

Other States:

IDHHC Program Coordinator has been researching proposals from other states. Information has been provided under the Resource folder.

Questions / Open Discussion:

While some concerns were expressed related to sharing income statistics, the below resources were provided.

- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/interpreters-and-translators.htm>
- <https://www.indeed.com/career/sign-language-interpreter/salaries/IL>
- <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Educational-Interpreter-Salary--in-Illinois>
- <https://data.bls.gov/oes/#/area/1700000>

It may be beneficial to identify the differences between freelance interpreters and agency employed interpreters and also specifics to rural interpreters.

Next Meeting: August 18, 2025 @ 3:00 PM