

September 23, 2022

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS LICENSURE BOARD OF INTERPRETERS

The Illinois Board of Interpreters held its regular meeting on Friday, September 23, 2022, at the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, 528 S. Fifth Street, Suite 209, Springfield, IL.

Call to Order

Chairperson Laura Braucht called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

Members Present

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Donna Elliot	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Rachel Kruk	No
Barbara Pawlica	Yes				

IDHHC Staff Present

Benro Ogunyipe, Director
Tonia Bogener, Legal Counsel

Public Present

Hershel Jackson
Susan McBeth

Approval of Minutes

Hershella Ashford moved to accept the November 17, 2021, minutes as corrected; Seconded by Teri Hedding. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Donna Elliot	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Chairperson Report

Chairperson Braucht welcomed the Members back for in-person meetings after the COVID pandemic. The expanded IDHHC conference and new technology will provide additional uses for BEI Testing, presenters through Webex, and additional room for social distancing. It has been brought to her attention that schools have been hiring educational interpreters without the proper certifications which will be discussed during the open discussion.

Interpreter Coordinator Report

Tonia Bogener presented the Interpreter Coordinator report:

- Interpreter Coordinator Position
 - Position Requirements
 - Posted September 15, 2022, and Closes October 7, 2022.
- Board Member updates
 - Donna Elliot – this will be her last meeting.
 - Rachel Kruk – not seeking reappointment but will sever until replacement is made.
- The Commission reported Interpreter Licensure Statistics from year to date:
 - 2 Short Term Conditional
 - 14 Provisional License Interpreters
 - 235 Intermediate Licensed Interpreters
 - 249 Advanced Licensed Interpreters
 - 235 Master Licensed Interpreters
 - 144 Expired as of September 22, 2022
 - 4 Inactive (new) as of September 22, 2022
- FY21 and FY22 Interpreter Program Spending Authority and Expenditures were reported. Expenditures are normally in the Spring & Summer for workshops and trainings. Primary expenditure is related to the personnel costs related to Interpreter Coordinator Position currently vacant. FY23 Interpreter Program Spending Authority was reported with budget for the Interpreter Licensure Fund introduced in legislative.
- The Commission reported the status of Illinois BEI Rating. A total of six rating sessions (both Basic and Advanced Ratings) have been scheduled within the next few months and will be conducted in-person. The Commission anticipates this will address the backlog and return to the standard timely release of the results.
- The Commission reported Illinois BEI Testing Applications:
 - TEP
 - 35 Administered
 - Tests Scheduled – 14 and 6 waiting 2023 dates
 - Pending Applications – 3
 - Performance
 - 20 Administered
 - Tests Scheduled – 15 and 6 waiting 2023 dates
 - Pending Applications – 3
- The Commission sponsored a series of online professional development interpreter trainings and workshops June – August 2023 using the grant fund from the Illinois State Board of Education under a Special Education discretionary grant from the U.S. Department of Education.
 - 17 Presenters/Instructors
 - 252 Total Participants
 - 57 Total CE hours

Kimberly Berger moved for a 10-minute break; Seconded by Barbara Pawlica. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Donna Elliot	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Meeting recessed from 1:54 – 2:03 PM.

Old Business

None.

New Business

In Memory of Janet S. Lambert

The Commission has placed a plaque in the Conference Room with a picture of Janet Lambert in her memory. Members continued to discuss other ways to publicly remember Janet Lambert.

Hershella Ashford moved to have a message of memory of Janet Lambert placed on IDHHC's website; Seconded by Kimberly Berger. Motion passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Donna Elliot	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Restoration Request (expired/inactive 5+ years)

The Commission has received a restoration request for an individual whose license has been expired more than 5 years. The applicant has provided proof of current certification, evidence of licensure and practice in another jurisdiction, and proof of the required CEUs. IDHHC recommendation is the applicant has met the requirements for restoration under Section 1515.120(b).

Teri Hedding moved to restore Interpreter A; Seconded by Hershella Ashford. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Donna Elliot	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Election of 2023 Officers

The floor was open for nominations for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary.

Nomination for Chairperson was accepted from the floor for Laura Braucht. Laura Braucht accepted the nomination. Laura Braucht is elected Chairperson by acclamation.

Nomination for Vice Chairperson was accepted from the floor for Kimberly Berger. Kimberly Berger accepted the nomination. Kimberly Berger is elected Vice Chairperson by acclamation.

Nomination for Secretary was accepted from the floor for Barbara Pawlica. Barbara Pawlica accepted the nomination. Barbara Pawlica is elected Secretary by acclamation.

Public Comments

Susan McBeth from St. Louis, MO who teaches in the interpreting program at Southwestern Illinois College, inquired whether a Deaf individual who receives certification under the Texas BEI for the Deaf exam would qualify for licensure. Encouraged IDHHC to explore the opportunity for Deaf individuals to receive the BEI certification in Illinois.

Open Discussion

Licensure Interpreter Complaints

Tonia Bogener, IDHHC Legal Counsel, provided a summary of the complaints. Complaints are typically investigated by the Interpreter Coordinator. Due to COVID and vacancy of the Interpreter Coordinator position, the complaints have been inactive.

In the past, IDHHC staff has presented the individual complaints to the Board along with their recommendations. Members expressed concern with the transparency of the complaint process. Without an Interpreter Coordinator, IDHHC Legal Counsel controls too much of the decision making. Ms. Bogener explained the presentation of complaints to the Board is not standard procedure in other professions and brings up questions of Revolving Door requirements.

IL Interpreter Training/Preparation Programs

Director Ogunyipe indicated enrollment within ITP programs is a nationwide issue. IDHHC is collaborating with ISBE to increase the number of educational interpreters and provide professional development opportunities. Additionally, IDHHC has increased the availability of BEI Certification testing. Director Ogunyipe will inquire through the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing how they are addressing the issue.

Laura Braucht moved to table the open discussion on Educational Interpreter – ISBE Approval & Violations and Educational Interpreter Registry until the next meeting; Seconded by Kimberly Berger. Motion passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Donna Elliot	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Adjournment

Donna Elliot moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 PM; Seconded by Teri Hedding. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Donna Elliot	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

(Signature on file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature on file)

IDHHC Open Meetings Act Designee

Date

APPROVED