

June 23, 2023

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS BOARD OF INTERPRETERS

The Illinois Board of Interpreters held its regular meeting on Friday, June 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 10:35 AM.

Members Present

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	No
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes				

IDHHC Staff Present

Benro Ogunyipe, Director
Tonia Bogener, Legal Counsel

Public Present

None.

Approval of Minutes

Teri Hedding moved to accept the September 23, 2022, minutes as corrected; Seconded by Barbara Pawlica. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Ayanna Dowd	Yes
Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Chairperson Report

No report.

Interpreter Coordinator Report

Tonia Bogener presented the Interpreter Coordinator report:

- Introduction of two newly appointed board members: Ayanna Dowd and Amy Miller.
- Provided report on the Interpreter Licensure Statistics from year to date:
 - 812 Licensed Interpreters
 - 20 Provisional License Interpreters
 - 250 Intermediate Licensed Interpreters

- 308 Advanced Licensed Interpreters
 - 234 Master Licensed Interpreters
 - Licensed Interpreters by region:
 - Out of State: 236
 - Southern: 17
 - East Central: 18
 - West Central: 79
 - Northwest: 65
 - Northeast: 178
 - Cook County: 219
- Provided report on the FY22, FY23, and FY24 Interpreter Program and ISBE Grant Spending Authority and Expenditures. Professional development expenditures normally occur in the Summer. The primary expenditure is the personnel costs related to Interpreter Coordinator Position which is currently vacant.
- Provided report on the Illinois BEI Testing Applications year to date:
 - TEP
 - 35 Administered
 - Tests Scheduled – 3
 - Pending Applications – 3
 - Performance
 - 56 Administered
 - Tests Scheduled – 8
 - Pending Applications – 7
- Interpreter Coordinator Position
 - No qualified applicants received during posting.
 - Reviewing position requirements.
 - Working with CMS for flexibility of requirements related to licensure and BEI certification. Issue of equity, department of financial and professional regulation IDFPR mentioned. Relationship and communications between IDHHC and DHH community.

Amy Miller moved for a 10-minute break; Seconded by Teri Hedding. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Ayanna Dowd	Yes
Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Meeting recessed from 12:15pm – 12:36 PM.

- Review of reporting requirement under Section 47 Applicant convictions of the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007.

Teri Hedding moved for a 30-minute lunch break; Seconded by Hershella Ashford. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Ayanna Dowd	Yes
Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Meeting recessed from 12:45pm – 1:18 PM.

- Interpreter Licensure Complaints
 - IDHHC reviewing complaint procedures.
 - Future Goals:
 - Formalize Complaint process; and
 - Develop resource materials.
 - Education for community & interpreters
 - Available information and referrals
 - Requirements of Educational Interpreters
 - Current process will involve Director, Legal Counsel and Program Coordinator until Interpreter Coordinator position is filled.
 - 2023 Mandatory Training will be distributed earlier this year. The annual training will be completed online through OneNet.
- The 2023 free online summer workshops will be held in July and August. IDHHC has expanded the variety of topics and increased participants capacity. The BEI workshops will still be available but in condensed format. IDHHC is pursuing more workshops for licensed Deaf interpreters including separate training on becoming a Deaf interpreter.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- **Restoration Request (expired/inactive 5+ years)**

The Commission received a restoration request for an individual whose license has been expired more than 5 years. The applicant provided proof of current certification, evidence of licensure and practice in another jurisdiction, and proof of the required continuing education hours. IDHHC recommended the applicant have their license restored as all the requirements for restoration under Section 1515.120(b) has been met.

Teri Hedding moved to restore Interpreter A; Seconded by Ayanna Dowd. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Ayanna Dowd	Yes
Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

- **FY24 Meeting Dates**

Barbara Pawlica moved to accept the proposed FY24 meeting dates of September 29, 2023, February 2, 2024, and April 26, 2024. Seconded by Hershella Ashford. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Ayanna Dowd	Yes
Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Public Comments

None.

Open Discussion

• Educational Interpreters

Board members discussed the ongoing concerns regarding educational interpreter shortages, hiring of non-approved educational interpreters, and interpreter roles and responsibilities. IDHHC has discussed the issue with ISBE and continues to meet with the ISBE Liaison.

• Educational Interpreter Registry

The IDHHC Educational Interpreter registry is currently being re-evaluated and removed from IDHHC’s website. The registry was voluntary and very limited.

• IDHHC Licensed Interpreter Roster/Directory

Board members discussed on the importance of safety of our interpreters and concerns with listing the city with the directory information. Section 95 of the Interpreters for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007 requires the name of every licensee, type of certification, county, and form of contact. IDHHC will review the current directory format.

Laura Braucht moved for a 5-minute break; Seconded by Barbara Pawlica. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Ayanna Dowd	Yes
Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Meeting recessed from 3:37pm – 3:42 PM.

• IDHHC website

Director Ogunyipe showcased the new IDHHC website and improvements toward full access and effective communication. Feedback received from the board members.

Adjournment

Barbara Pawlica moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 PM; Seconded by Amy Miller. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Ayanna Dowd	Yes
Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

(Signature on file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature on file)

IDHHC Open Meetings Act Designee

Date