

September 29, 2023

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS LICENSURE BOARD OF INTERPRETERS

The Illinois Board of Interpreters held its regular meeting on Friday, September 29, 2023, 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	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	No	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes				

IDHHC Staff Present

Benro Ogunyipe, Director
Tonia Bogener, Legal Counsel

Public Present

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel.

Approval of Minutes

Hershella Ashford moved to accept the June 23, 2023, minutes as presented; Seconded by Teri Hedding. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Chairperson Report

No report.

Interpreter Coordinator Report

Tonia Bogener presented the Interpreter Coordinator report:

- Update on status of Interpreter Coordinator position. To increase qualified applicants the following changes were made to the job description:
 - Applicants are required to “qualify” instead of possess licensure at time of application; and
 - Includes a condition of employment for applicants to possess BEI Basic or higher within 18 months from date of hire.

- Provided report on the Interpreter Licensure Statistics from year to date:
 - 842 Licensed Interpreters
 - 24 Provisional License Interpreters
 - 262 Intermediate Licensed Interpreters
 - 313 Advanced Licensed Interpreters
 - 243 Master Licensed Interpreters
 - Licensed Interpreters by region:
 - Out of State: 252
 - Southern: 17
 - East Central: 17
 - West Central: 80
 - Northwest: 64
 - Northeast: 180
 - Cook County: 227
- Provided report on the 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
 - 79 Administered
 - Tests Scheduled – 19
 - Pending Applications – 2
 - Performance
 - 78 Administered
 - Tests Scheduled – 13
 - Pending Applications – 3

Teri Hedding moved to recess for lunch break; Seconded by Kimberly Berger. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

Meeting recessed from 1:01 PM – 1:58 PM.

Interpreter Coordinator Report continued:

- BEI Pass/Fail Rates
 - TEP
 - 56% Pass Rate
 - 44% Fail Rate
 - Basic
 - 58% Pass Rate
 - 42% Fail Rate
 - Advanced
 - 47% Pass Rate
 - 53% Fail Rate

- Reviewed the 2023 Mandatory Annual Training requirements.
- Reviewed the individual workshops and participant numbers provided online in July – August 2023. A total of 4 BEI preparation workshops were provided in a condensed format of 12 CE hours for performance and 6 CE hours for the Test of English Proficiency. An additional 20 workshops were provided ranging from 1.5 to 6 CE hours. In total, 104.5 CE hours and 614 participants.
- IDHHC is seeking input from the community in preparation for its 5-year strategic plan. Some of the current comments related to interpreters include:
 - Shortage of Interpreters – in both freelance and educational.
 - More respect for clients.
 - Lack of data related to availability of interpreters.
 - Accountability for interpreting agencies.
 - IDHHC interpreter website outdated and not user friendly.
 - Need for Deaf Interpreter training opportunities.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- **Election of 2024 Officers**

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

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Interpreter Training Program Coordinator
Moraine Valley Community College

- Expressed concerns related to educational interpreters. The referral agencies are offering students placement in the K-12 setting with only a provisional license. ITP instructors inform the students they are not qualified because they must be certified and receive ISBE approval. Unfortunately, the students are relying on information outside of the ITP and accepting jobs they are not qualified for.
- Several Interpreter Training Programs in Illinois have recently closed including Waubensee, Quincy, MacMurry and soon John A. Logan. A copy of the program review documentation required at Moraine Valley Community College was provided. The necessity of interpreter training programs is being dismissed due to the lack of data of community need and lack of educational requirements in obtaining a license.

Open Discussion

• Interpreter Data

Board members discussed the concern with the closure of Interpreter Training Programs in Illinois and the continued on-going interpreter shortages. Ideas to solicit data include requests to the interpreter referral agencies and specialized areas such as hospitals, courts, and law enforcement. Possibility of holding round-table discussions with ITPs. Director Ogunyipe stated he is in the process of meeting with the various ITPs to gain a better understanding of how IDHHC may be assistance. Tonia Bogener indicated IDHHC is still working to establish an interagency agreement with ISBE to gain data related to educational interpreters.

Adjournment

Hershella Ashford moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:09 PM; Seconded by Barbara Pawlica. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes	Barbara Pawlica	Yes

(Signature on file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature on file)

IDHHC Open Meetings Act Designee

Date