

July 15, 2024

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS LICENSURE BOARD OF INTERPRETERS

The Illinois Board of Interpreters held its regular meeting on Friday, July 15, 2024, 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 9:28 AM.

Members Present

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Desa Walls	Yes				

IDHHC Staff Present

Will Lee, Interpreter Coordinator
Benro Ogunyipe, Director
Tonia Bogener, Legal Counsel

Public Present

None.

Special Presentation

Dennis O'Brien, Commission Chairperson

IDHHC Strategic Plan

The Commissioners are aware of the national interpreter shortage and has made it a goal in its new 5-year Strategic Plan for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2029. There was talk of the Minnesota's Interpreting Forward 2030 Project and whether IDHHC could do something similar. The Board expressed concerns related to the barriers to Deaf Faculty and certified teachers, ITP curriculums doesn't support passing the certification test, only educational requirement to licensure is high school diploma, individuals of color do not have access to interpreter training programs and whether an expedited process similar to teacher certification can be explored.

Approval of Minutes

Concerns expressed original meeting minutes did not include reference to developing an on-going “parking lot” list to keep track of issues to address.

Teri Hedding moved to accept the corrected minutes for April 26, 2024; Seconded by Ayanna Dowd. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Desa Walls	Abstained				

Chairperson Report

No report.

Laura Braucht moved to recess for a ten-minute break; Seconded by Kimberly Berger. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Desa Walls	Yes				

Meeting recessed from 10:40 AM – 10:50 AM.

Interpreter Coordinator Report

Tonia Bogener presented the Interpreter Coordinator report:

- The new Interpreter Coordinator, Will Lee, started on June 17, 2024.
- Welcome to Desa Walls who was recently appointed to the Illinois Board for Interpreters. There are still two board members serving on expired terms. IDHHC will continue with recruitment for new members.
- The 2024 Interpreter Professional Development series is currently underway. The workshops are posted on the IDHHC website. A total of 5 BEI Prep Workshops including both Advanced and Master Performance Test and 19 other workshops including but not limited to health care interpreting and Legal Interpreting, Ethics, Deaf Flavor and Unity in the Community. Over 115 hours of continuing education provided including the BEI prep workshops.
- Provided report on the Interpreter Licensure Statistics from year to date:
 - 895 Licensed Interpreters
 - 25 Provisional License Interpreters
 - 244 Intermediate Licensed Interpreters
 - 358 Advanced Licensed Interpreters
 - 268 Master Licensed Interpreters
 - Licensed Interpreters by region:
 - Out of State: 327
 - Southern: 15
 - East Central: 17
 - West Central: 80

- Northwest: 63
 - Northeast: 176
 - Cook County: 218
- Provided report on the Illinois BEI Testing Applications year to date:
 - TEP
 - 65 Administered
 - Tests Scheduled – 28
 - Pending Applications – 2
 - Performance
 - 35 Administered
 - Tests Scheduled – 20
 - Pending Applications – 3
- Estimated expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for Fund 449. Currently, no expenditures for the ISBE Grant Fund 405 as the workshop sessions hosted from July -August. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for Fund 449 has been approved. The application is pending for the 2025-2026 ISBE Grant.
- IDHHC is experience an increase in out-of-state testers. This is likely due to Missouri and Wisconsin not testing while their BEI contract is in process of being renewed with Texas. IDHHC is working to renew the BEI Rating Contract with Texas to provide rating services for Master Level Exams or when the Illinois rating teams have a conflict of interest in rating a candidate.
- Will Lee, Interpreter Coordinator, is excited to join the team. His goals are to increase transparency regarding data and improve the overall functionality of the testing process.

Old Business

Although not on the agenda, Board members inquired on the status of providing Deaf Interpreter Training. IDHHC recognizes the need to host the training to increase the pool of Deaf Licensed Sign Language Interpreters.

New Business

- **Ad Hoc Committee(s)**

It was discussed with Legal Counsel if there was a way for Board Members to work together between meetings. Legal Counsel explained groups below the required number of individuals to trigger the OMA have been allowed in the past.

Laura Braucht moved to set-up an ad hoc committee to address Interpreter Training Program Shortages; Seconded by Teri Hedding. Motion Passed

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Desa Walls	Yes				

Laura Braucht moved to set-up an ad hoc committee to address Deaf Interpreter Training; Seconded by Hershella Ashford. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Desa Walls	Yes				

Laura Braucht moved to set-up an ad hoc committee to address Educational Interpreter regulations; Seconded by Ayanna Dowd. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Desa Walls	Yes				

Laura Braucht moved to set-up an ad hoc committee to address updates to the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007 and its rules; Seconded by Kimberly Berger. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Desa Walls	Yes				

Laura Braucht moved to change the above from an ad hoc committees to working groups; Seconded by Hershella Ashford. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Desa Walls	Yes				

The following members agreed to work on the following working groups:

Interpreter Training Program Shortages:	Amy Miller and Teri Hedding
Deaf Interpreter Training:	Hershella Ashford and Desa Walls
Education Interpreter Issues:	Laura Braucht and Ayanna Dowd
Interpreter Licensure Updates:	Kimberly Berger and Laura Braucht

Laura Braucht moved to recess for lunch; Seconded by Kimberly Berger. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Desa Walls	Yes				

Meeting recessed from 12:32 PM – 1:08 PM.

Public Comments

- Dennis O’Brien, IDHHC Chairperson

Discussed the need for more detailed Data for BEI testing including information on specific state candidates, and which tests are retakes. Since there the largest number of interpreters are in Cook County and Northeast region, it would be beneficial to open of satellite office. Would it be beneficial for data analysis position to liaison with legislature? Possible webinar with other states is something IDHHC can pursue.

Open Discussion

- **Professional Development Opportunities & Annual Interpreter Conference**

The summer series is available on IDHHC’s website including registration. The workshops are 100% online. Some members expressed the desire to hold in-person conference next year. Discussion followed about benefits in-person.

Announcement made that the ISD “August” conference may not occur this year.

- **Illinois ITP/IPP Programs**

Illinois now only has 4 in-person ITPs and 1 fully online.

- Columbia College Chicago
- Illinois Central College (Online only)
- Moraine Valley Community College
- Southwestern Illinois College
- College of DuPage

Adjournment

Kimberly Berger moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:34 PM; Seconded by Teri Hedding. Motion Passed.

Hershella Ashford	Yes	Laura Braucht	Yes	Kimberly Berger	Yes
Ayanna Dowd	Yes	Amy Miller	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Desa Walls	Yes				

(Signature on file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature on file)

IDHHC Open Meetings Act Designee

Date