

August 26, 2022

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION

A quarterly meeting of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) was held on Friday, August 26, 2022, at IDHHC, 528 S. Fifth Street, Suite 209, Springfield, IL.

Call to Order

Chairperson Dennis O'Brien called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Commissioners Present

Tyrone Barnes	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Jean Draths	Yes
Michael Dubowe	Yes	David Frazier	Yes	John Jun	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Jennifer Sender	Yes
Kevin Smith	No				

IDHHC Staff

Benro Ogunyipe, Director

Patty Greene, Personnel Manager / Fiscal Officer

Dana Craig, Program Coordinator

Public

None.

Special Presentation

- **NCDHH's Strategic Plan**

John C. Wyvill, NCDHH Executive Director & President of NASADHH

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH)

National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH)

Mr. Wyvill presented via Webex to the Commissioners about the NCDHH and the process used in developing its strategic plan. The NCDHH has 5 offices and a total of 15 teammates. The NCDHH meets 4 times a year and consists of the following members: 3 Deaf; 3 Hard of Hearing; 3 at large. At least 5 members must be proficient in ASL.

In preparing for the strategic plan, NCDHH hosted listening sessions through zoom and survey the community about the priorities for the NCDHH. The surveys were available in both English and American Sign Language with the opportunity to submit video responses through a cloud-based storage application.

NCDHH simplified its mission and vision. A total of 6 goals were identified. It is important for the goals to have indicators to measure success and to align resources and priorities of the Commission. The top 3 issues included communication access in medical situations, education & shortage of qualified interpreters and employment of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

It is important to work on strategies to connect with people whether through townhalls, surveys, zoom, emails or blogs. Another option is quarterly stakeholder meetings to discuss items of mutual concerns. Out of the data collected, it is important to identify the demographics. For Nebraska, 95% of the consumers are hard of hearing west of Omaha with most Deaf consumers located in Omaha. Other states to look at include Arizona, Minnesota, Kentucky and N. Carolina.

- **SRC State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

Christina Pean, Statewide Coordinator of the Deaf

Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services

All states have VR in their rehabilitation program and many states have statewide coordinators for the Deaf. The 2021 State Model Plan for VR Services (national) was developed by the Deaf Professionals Network in conjunction with the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation. It created a model state plan to make recommendations for VR agencies – how to provide services to Deaf (includes all forms of hearing loss). It is currently in the process being approved by Rehabilitation Services Administrations (RSA)

DHS Mission Statement – to assist Illinois residents to achieve self-sufficiency, independence, and health to the maximum extent possible by providing integrated family-oriented services, promoting prevention and establishing measurable outcomes in partnership with communities.” There are 47 offices and 24 Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf (RCD) throughout Illinois. If no RCD is available in the region, the VR counselor is paired with the closest office with an RCD.

VR funding comes from the Rehabilitation Services Administration under the U.S. Department of Education with the state providing matching funds. To qualify for VR services, must have a disability that affects the ability to work, working in competitive, integrative settings – programs (sheltered workshops or day programs) for individuals with DD cannot support as a successful type of employment, and based on functional limits (not the decibel model of hearing loss). VR services may include job placement, job coaching, on-the-job training, supported employment, assistive technology, and devices, time-limited medical and/or psychological treatment.

DHS-DRS has partnered with the Illinois School for the Deaf evaluation center which provides assessments for deaf and hard of hearing students along with deaf and hard of hearing adults referred for assessments by VR counselors.

The statistics for employment and hearing loss shows there is a wide gap between hearing and non-hearing person when it comes to employment, regardless of gender and race. Currently, DHS-DRS has changed the Support Services Providers for the DeafBlind to co-navigator and hopes to use VR funds to serve those priorities. DHS-DRS is seeking feedback from the community on their services.

Break 2:50 – 3:00 pm

Approval Minutes

Lori Krakora moved to approve the minutes as read for the May 13, 2022; seconded by Joseph Culpepper. Motion passed.

Tyrone Barnes	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Jean Draths	Yes
Michael Dubowe	Yes	David Frazier	Yes	John Jun	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Jennifer Sender	Yes

IDHHC Chairperson Report

Chairperson O'Brien reported the following:

- Six new Commissioner have been appointed and provided a virtual orientation. Commission will host an in-person orientation in November.
- Commissioners will be developing a new Strategic Plan. It is important for Commissioners to decide what information and data will be needed moving forward.
- Performance Evaluation of the Director was completed by Chairperson and will be reviewed with Commissioners during closed meeting.

IDHHC Report

Director Ogunyipe provided the following updates:

- Conference room improvements include not only larger space but IT equipment to allow full accessibility and virtual presentations. The conference room is used for a variety of meetings including BEI testing.
- Since early 2021, a total of 6 new Commissioners has been appointed. 2 Commissioners serve on expired terms and 1 vacancy.
- IDHHC Legal Counsel will be sending information to complete the annual mandatory trainings including the Open Meetings Act.
- Commission is still undergoing the General Compliance Examination for FY 2020 & FY 2021 by the Illinois Auditor General.
- FY2023 Budget has a projected 7% increase to the Commission operating budget.
- Strategic Planning schedule
 - November 2022 – Open Discussion
 - March 2023 – Strategic Plan Meeting
 - May 2023 – Draft of 5-year Strategic Plan
 - July 2023 – 5-year Strategic Plan in effect
- Review of 2022 Professional Development opportunities
 - 17 Presenters/Instructors/Trainers
 - 252 Participants
- Attendance at the National Association of the Deaf Conference – June 30 – July 4, 2022
 - Attended NASADHH Policy Summit
 - Formula for Success – State Government Agencies
 - Colorado Commission's Access Needs for Rural Communities Interpreter Program

New Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Closed Session

Michael Dubowe moved to table the closed meeting minutes review pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21); seconded by Joseph Culpepper. Motion passed.

Tyrone Barnes	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Jean Draths	Yes
Michael Dubowe	Yes	David Frazier	Yes	John Jun	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Jennifer Sender	Yes

Lori Krakora moved to close the meeting for personnel matters pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); seconded by John Jun. Motion passed.

Tyrone Barnes	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Jean Draths	Yes
Michael Dubowe	Yes	David Frazier	Yes	John Jun	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Jennifer Sender	Yes

Recessed for closed meeting at 4:10 PM.

Lori Krakora moved to accept the Director's evaluation as prepared by Chairperson O'Brien as written in February 2022; seconded by David Frazier. Motion passed.

Tyrone Barnes	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Jean Draths	Yes
Michael Dubowe	Yes	David Frazier	Yes	John Jun	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Jennifer Sender	Yes

Open Discussion

Commissioners discussed the need to gather independent data for the needs assessment. It is important to get feedback from different regions. Commissioners wanted to see more data on the types of complaints and concerns received by staff. Discussed the possibility of increasing Commission visibility by hosting meetings in Chicago or exploring ideas of a satellite office.

Commissioners expressed concern with the upcoming meeting date and lack of quorum. Director will send out poll to reschedule.

Adjournment

John Jun moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:43 PM; seconded by Lori Krakora. Motion passed.

Tyrone Barnes	Yes	Joseph Culpepper	Yes	Jean Draths	Yes
Michael Dubowe	Yes	David Frazier	Yes	John Jun	Yes
Lori Krakora	Yes	Dennis O'Brien	Yes	Jennifer Sender	Yes

(Signature in file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature in file)

IDHHC Open Meetings Act Designee

Date