

**COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
September 13, 2019**

*Draft minutes to be approved at November 21, 2019 Council meeting
Note: Full Transcripts are available upon request*

PARTICIPANTS: Council Members: Steven Birkby (Chairing) (Representing an organization of deaf individuals), Kate Savage (Representing Audiologists), Emilie Banasiak (Representing an organization of hard of hearing persons), Gretchen Fors (Representing parent of a hard of hearing child), Jacob Robison (representing physicians) Marva Kubalik (Representing hard of hearing individual over the age of 60). Excused: Joelynn Ball (Representing Interpreters), Vacant position (Representing deaf individuals) Vacant position (Representing parent of a deaf child)

Ex Officio Members: Steven Snow, Brian Darcy, Renee Miner

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Sierra McIver, Lauren Seale, Lisa Doyon, LaVona Andrew, Representative Ilana Rubel, Weston Trexler, Randall Phillips, Daniel Brauneisen, Leah McElwee, Ashley Camp, June Flannery, Ray Lockary and Pedro Freitas

This meeting was live streamed to the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Idaho and to Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho.

INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order by Steven Birkby and introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 2019 MEETING

There was one correction in the minutes on page 2 “Whimmer to Wimmer”. Kate Savage motioned the minutes be approved as corrected. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PERFECTION OF AGENDA:

Jacob Robison motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed.

OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kate Savage said St. Luke’s Hospital is working to provide better access to Emergency and Intensive Care Services for deaf and hard of hearing patients. Kate Savage said the hospital is trying a variety of ways to provide access including signage and interpreter services.

Emilie Banasiak said Hamilton Relay has received a webinar license and will be providing webinars throughout the state regarding captions on telephones.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Steven Snow said he would like to change the format of the Board meetings to a half day instead of a full day with exception of the 3rd quarter meeting where budget items would be discussed.

Steven Snow said he would like feedback from the members as to whether this format would be acceptable.

Steven Snow introduced and acknowledged Lauren Seale as a new employee of the Council as Executive Interpreter. Steven Snow said he is now able to attend last minute meetings without needing to arrange for interpreter services which is an asset to the Council and allows more flexibility when meetings are requested.

Federal Legislation:

Senate Bill 719 currently in the Judicial Committee establishes guidelines for those individuals in a vulnerable population, including deaf and hard of hearing individuals cannot be held in solitary confinement unless they have committed certain actions that would deem it necessary. Steven Snow said the Council is still monitoring this legislation and will report any changes.

Senate Bill 2446 which is the *Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act*. Steven Snow said this bill was introduced by Senator Warren which would allow appropriate reimbursement to audiologist and secondly, allow direct access to audiologist without a referral from a physician. Steven Snow said the bill was read on the floor of the Senate and referred to the Finance Committee.

Resolution 2026: College Campus Resource and Education Act. This Resolution would enable documentation when persons with disabilities are crime victims to ensure that they are considered when emergency preparedness plans are developed. Steven Snow said this Resolution remains in the Education and Labor Committee. Steven Snow said the Council is monitoring this legislation and will report any changes.

State Legislation:

Steven Snow said the Council is going forward with state legislation to update the Council's statute and to change the language in state statutes from "*hearing impaired*" to "*deaf or hard of hearing*". Steven Snow said these changes have been submitted to the Department of Financial Management for analysis before they are presented to the Legislators, however, Steven Snow said the Governor's office has accepted both proposals.

Budget:

Steven Snow said the Council has been instructed by Governor Little's office to adjust our budget request for fiscal year 2020 by a 5% reduction due to an updated General Funds Revenue Forecast and to reassess our fiscal year 2021 budget request. Steven Snow said we will only request vital additions to our budget request for fiscal year 2021 and the Council will holdback approximately \$18,000 from the fiscal year 2020 budget until further notice from the Governor's office.

Council Activities:

Steven Snow said in July the Council moved the office from the Health and Welfare campus. Steven said the new office is much larger and will enable the Council to maximize functionality and will be able to provide a much higher quality of service and a better work environment for staff. Steven Snow said the new office space includes a conference room, training room and a video recording room. Steven Snow invited all members and attendees to the Open House scheduled for October 11, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Steven Snow said Sierra McIver redesigned the Council website. Sierra McIver gave a presentation on what the new website looks like and the changes that have been incorporated. Sierra McIver said the Council is developing and updating informational brochures.

Steven Snow said he will be meeting with Matt Wimmer regarding Medicaid Expansion and improving services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, including hearing aids and audiological services for adults.

Steven Snow said the Council sponsor a camp for deaf and hard of hearing teenagers. Steven Snow said because of the Council budget holdback, the Council will not be able to sponsor the camp this year, however, the Council will donate in kind services by providing staff and interpreter services.

Steven Snow said he will be meeting with Dylan Hobson, the Deputy Chief of Probation and Parole from the Department of Corrections to discuss policies and procedures that can ensure that parole officers are understanding and informed on how to communicate with deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Steven Snow said the Council is in the process of becoming a local test administrator for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf exam. Steven Snow said the Council has submitted the application. Steven Snow said with the Council's new office, there is space available to administer the exam.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD:

Steven Snow and Steven Birkby presented the Outstanding Agency/Organization/Business Award to Phillip Randall and Daniel Brauneisen of the Majestic Cinemas. Steven Snow said the Majestic Cinemas was presented the award for providing Open Captioned movies at the theater.

Phillip Randall thanked the Council for the award. Phillip Randall said the theater has been purchased and is being renovated. Phillip Randall said that Open Captioned movies will be started again soon and hopefully on Tuesday to allow deaf and hard of hearing to access the movies at a lower price.

Steven Snow and Steven Birkby presented the Outstanding Individual Award to Representative Ilana Rubel for her efforts in ensuring that hearing aids were covered by private insurance within Idaho. Representative Rubel said she received an enormous amount of help from the parents of children and from the deaf and hard of hearing community. Representative Rubel thanked the Council for the award.

PRESENTATION ABOUT HEARING AID INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN:

Weston Trexler from the Department of Insurance gave a presentation about the changes in hearing aid coverage for children. Weston Trexler explained the process of getting a rule changed in Legislation and how the process was successful in changing the rule for hearing aid coverage for children with private insurance. Weston Trexler said the change was effective July 1, 2019 and companies will start coverage on January 1, 2020 when policies are renewed. Weston Trexler said this regulation impacts individual and small group plans, not large employer or self-funded employers as they are outside of the regulations of the Insurance Department. Weston Trexler said other coverages such as Medicare or Medicaid would not be impacted.

ACTION ITEMS:

Steven Snow said in April, the Board approved a five line-item request for Fiscal Year 2021.

- Additional .25 FTE (10 hours for Sierra)
 - Salary \$10,700 (personnel)
 - Benefits \$5,300 (personnel)
- Office Lease
 - \$9,000 (operating)
- 1 Computer Replacement
 - \$810 (capital)
- New State Vehicle
 - \$23,800 (capital)
- Video Conferencing System
 - \$2,500 (capital)

Steven Snow said he is proposing to the Council to eliminate the line items for Computer replacement, new state vehicle and the video conferencing system. Steven Snow said the FY2021 budget request would decrease by \$25,000 and the new request would be \$394,610 which includes personnel, operating and capital expenses.

Jacob Robison motioned to approve the new FY2021 budget request. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IESDB)

Brian Darcy said the campus enrollment is 107 students. Brian Darcy said IESDB partnered with Vocational Rehabilitation, the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Department of Labor to provide the Work Readiness Camp which had around 35 participants.

Brian Darcy said the Director of Education, Gretchen Spooner, retired and Jana Hasco, (formerly Dunnigan) has been hired to be the Director of Education.

Brian Darcy said he now has two separate schools, a Deaf and Hard of Hearing school and a Blind and Visually Impaired school. Brian Darcy said Jana Hasco is the principal for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing school and Susan Cantwell and David Sparks are principals of the Blind and Visually Impaired school.

Brian Darcy said the girls' volleyball team is doing well this season, and he is excited about the athletic program.

Brian Darcy said the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IESDB) is now 10 years old. Brian Darcy said Steven Snow had a major impact on the creation of IESDB, with correspondence stating that statistically IESDB should be serving 3,000 students and now IESDB is service around 2,600 students and growing.

Brian Darcy introduced Ashley Camp as a new interpreter replacing Lauren Seale.

State Department of Education:

Renee Miner gave a Power Point presentation about resources that are available through the Department of Education provided through the Idaho Training Clearinghouse. Renee Miner said the resources are available for all teachers and have specific modules for different issues including Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Renee Miner said the Department of Education's goal is to make all the trainings accessible. Brian Darcy said the Idaho Training Clearinghouse has a specific section for Deaf Education.

ADJOURN:

Kate Savage motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gretchen Fors seconded the motion. The motion passed. Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting is a teleconference scheduled for November 21, 2019.