

COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES

April 24, 2020

Via ZOOM Video Conference

*Draft minutes to be approved at September 18, 2020 Council meeting*

**PARTICIPANTS:** Council Members: Joelynn Ball (Chairing) (Representing Interpreters), Kate Savage (Representing Audiologists), Steven Birkby (Representing an organization of deaf individuals), 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). Valerie Player (Representing parent of a deaf child), Excused: Emilie Banasiak (Representing an organization of hard of hearing persons),  
Ex Officio Members: Steven Snow, Doug Clapp, Brian Shakespeare, Betsy Duncan, Brian Darcy, Kelli Toohill, and Birgit Luebeck

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Sierra McIver, Lauren Seale, LaVona Andrew, Stefanie Saltern and Ray Lockary,

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2020 MEETING**

Valerie Player motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Jacob Robison seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting was unanimous by roll call vote.

**PERFECTION OF AGENDA:**

Kate Savage motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Gretchen Fors seconded the motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented was unanimous by roll call vote.

**OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There were no announcements.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:**

Steven Snow said CDHH office staff have been working in the office to ensure Idaho's Deaf and Hard of Hearing population has access to communication and information that is needed. Steven Snow said social distancing and sanitation protocol has been practiced while staff is in the office. Steven Snow said thank you to the staff of CDHH for working in the office during the pandemic.

### **Federal Legislation:**

Steven Snow said the Federal Legislature passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) act in March to provide some relief for businesses and individuals affected by the CoVid 19/Coronavirus pandemic.

### **State Legislation:**

Steven Snow said during the 2020 Idaho Legislative session, HB314 which changed the verbiage in Idaho legislation from “hearing impaired” to Deaf or Hard of Hearing, and SB1236 concerning Educational Interpreters interpreting in schools changed from “K thru 12” to “school aged” both passed unanimously in both the House and Senate.

### **Other CDHH Activities:**

Steven Snow said the CDHH offices has provided CoVID19/Coronavirus information on the CDHH website, has ensured Government press conferences have been accessible, and provided training to news outlets on how to utilize interpreters. Steven Snow said in addition, the Council has monitored Social media and schools to answer questions about distance learning for deaf or hard of hearing students. Steven Snow said CDHH provided a live Facebook question and answer session to answer questions to the community about the virus. Steven Snow said the Council conducted a survey among interpreters to access who would be available for emergency health care and other interpreting needs. Steven Snow said the Council created guidelines for health care facilities for working with interpreters. Steven Snow said CDHH partnered with the Idaho Hospital Association to disseminate the information.

### **Budget:**

Steven Snow said the Governor’s office has requested a 1% budget reduction for all agencies. Steven Snow said this would total \$3,100 from personnel costs and \$600 from operating. Steven Snow said the amount CDHH pays to Vocational Rehabilitation for indirect costs should cover the personnel cost of the reduction, therefore, CDHH will only have a reduction of \$600 in operating costs.

Steven Snow said the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee waived the 2% reduction requested to FY2021 thus CDHH’s budget was approved as requested.

### **Research:**

Steven Snow said Elizabeth Schniedewind, Ryan Lindsay and himself have researched health care access for deaf and hard of hearing individuals and wrote a paper that was published in the “*Disability and Health Journal*.” Steven Snow said the paper was submitted to the Journal of the American Medical Association for consideration for publication, however, he has not been informed whether the paper will be published in that periodical.

**Miscellaneous:**

Steven Snow said Vocational Rehabilitation has hired Marcus Johns as a Deaf Rehabilitation Specialist. Mr. Johns will start the position in August.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Legislative: Concurrent Resolution for Open Captions at Cinemas**

Steven Snow said during the next Legislative session the Council would like to propose a Concurrent Resolution to have open captions at cinemas. Steven Snow said a Concurrent Resolution is not a statute or law, just having the Legislature aware of the need for captions in cinemas.

Kate Savage motioned to approve CDHH presenting the proposal of a Concurrent Resolution for Open Captions in Cinemas at the next Legislative session. Jacob Robison seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Individual Award Nomination:**

Steven Snow said each year the Council presents an award to an individual who helps the Council fulfill its mission. The individual has expended time, talent and resources dedicated to the improvement of quality of life to Idahoans who are deaf or hard of hearing. This year, Paula Mason was nominated by Brian Darcy. There was discussion about how Paula Mason has gone above and beyond in her dedication to Idaho's deaf and hard of hearing students and families.

Valerie Player motioned the Individual Award be presented to Paula Mason. Jacob Robison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Organization Award Nomination:**

Steven Snow said each year the Council presents an award to an organization who helps the Council fulfill its mission. The organization has extended time, talent and resources dedicated to the improvement of quality of life to Idahoans who are deaf or hard of hearing. This year, Silverwood Theme Park/Silverwood Interpreters were nominated by Jacalyn Marosi. There was discussion about how the theme park has been providing interpreters and other services for deaf and hard of hearing persons visiting the park.

Jacob Robison motioned the Organizational Award be presented to Silverwood Theme Park/Silverwood Interpreters. Valerie Player seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

**Legislative Service Award:**

Steven Snow said previously the Council has recognized Representatives Kelley Packer and Ilana Rubel as individuals who have helped the Council fulfill the mission of CDHH. Steven Snow said

this year he would like CDHH to present a Legislative Service Award to Representative Melissa Wintrow. Steven Snow said Representative Wintrow has been an instrumental advocate for the Council. Steven Snow said Representative Wintrow caused the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) to approve funding for the Executive Interpreter position. Steven Snow said in addition, Representative Wintrow was the sponsor for HB314, has convinced JFAC to waive the 2% budget cutback and has been a very strong supporter of the Council and its mission.

Jacob Robison motioned to present Representative Melissa Wintrow with the Legislative Service Award. Valerie Player seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2022 Budget Request:**

Steven Snow said for FY2022, there will only one additional amount requested, which is a line item for an increase of \$9,000 for our leased office space per the lease agreement. Steven Snow said the breakdown for the budget is \$312,500 for personnel (3.5 FTE), \$70,200 for Operating and no funds requested for Capital outlay, making the total request for FY2022 \$382,700.

Jacob Robison motioned to present the budget request of \$382,700 to the Governor's office for FY2022. Kate Savage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2022 Priorities:**

Steven Snow presented priorities to be considered by the Council

- Law Enforcement/First Responder Training
- Telecommunication Access at County Jails
- Hearing Aids for Children Legislature loopholes
- Continue to monitor Interpreter Licensure

There was discussion concerning the priorities with Joelyne Ball thanking Steven Snow for presenting the priorities since the office is "on the front lines" of the resources the Council has to meet the needs of Idaho's deaf and hard of hearing population. Steven Snow said he and Sierra McIver have provided some training to law enforcement/first responders and would like to expand the training to other parts of the state. Gretchen Fors said she would continue working with legislators and others regarding hearing aids for children.

Kate Savage motioned that the Council's FY2022 priorities be as listed. Jacob Robison seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Set Dates for 2021 Council Meetings:**

Cindy Schreiner presented the following dates for upcoming Council meetings:

- Friday, September 18, 2020
- Thursday, November 13, 2020 (Teleconference)
- Thursday, January 21, 2021 (Meet and Greet)
- Friday, April 23, 2021

Kate Savage motioned to accept the dates for the Council meetings as presented. Jacob Robison seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Jacob Robison nominated Joelynn Ball to continue as Chairman, Kate Savage seconded the nomination, Joelynn Ball accepted the nomination, there was a roll call vote being unanimous. Joelynn Ball will continue as Chairman.

Jacob Robison nominated Steven Birkby to continue as Vice Chairman, Kate Savage seconded the nomination, Steven Birkby accepted the nomination, there was a roll call vote being unanimous. Steven Birkby will continue as Vice Chairman.

Kate Savage nominated Marva Kubalik to continue as a member of the Executive Committee, Jacob Robison seconded the nomination. Marva Kubalik accepted the nomination, there was a roll call vote, being unanimous. Marva Kubalik will continue as a member of the Executive Committee.

### **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:**

#### **Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind**

Brian Darcy said before the Covid19/Coronavirus pandemic shelter at home orders, the campus had 117 students. Brian Darcy said IESDB started a soft closure on March 16, 2020 with the school being closed for the rest of the year. Brian Darcy said the teachers and outreach staff are in contact with students and families providing support and educational materials through virtual means. Brian Darcy said there are no campus activities and graduation has been postponed. Brian Darcy said the remodeling of the school has continued and is proceeding.

#### **Vocational Rehabilitation:**

Doug Clapp said most of the Vocational Rehabilitation staff is working virtually from home. Doug Clapp said he is working in his office meeting with clients virtually. Doug Clapp said Vocational Rehabilitation has software installed so clients can use electronic signatures when needed.

### **Idaho Commission on Aging:**

Brigit Luebeck said she met with Sierra McIver in February and where she received information that she collected to be distributed through meal sites. Brigit Luebeck said the Idaho Commission on Aging received some money through the CARES act which will be used to provide meals for senior citizens.

### **Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licensure:**

Betsy Duncan said the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licensure is now the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses. (IDOPL). Betsy Duncan said currently the employees are working from home virtually. Betsy Duncan said currently there are 176 licensed American Sign Language Interpreters, with 11 permit holders, 1,026 licensed Speech/Language Pathologists and 138 licensed Audiologists.

### **PUC/Idaho TRS Administrator**

Kelli Toohill said Asia Johnson is the new account manager for Hamilton who will be working directly with Emilie Banasiak on updating services. Kelli Toohill said currently outreach is on hold, but Asia and Emilie are working on webinars to continue providing information to consumers. Kelli Toohill said the Federal Communications Commission has changed rules to allow Communication Assistants to work from home.

### **Idaho Sound Beginnings/Infant Toddler**

Brian Shakespeare had to leave the meeting early to attend another virtual meeting. Gretchen Fors and Valerie Player said they attended the Care Coordinator Training provided by Idaho Sound Beginnings.

### **Adjourn:**

Kate Savage motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jacob Robison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020