

COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
April 23,2021
Via ZOOM Video Conference

PARTICIPANTS: Council Members: Joelynn Ball (Chairing) (Representing Interpreters), Kate Savage (Representing Audiologists), Steven Birkby (Representing an organization of deaf individuals), Jacob Robison (representing physicians) Marva Kubalik (Representing hard of hearing individual over the age of 60). Valerie Player (Representing parent of a deaf child), Emilie Banasiak (Representing an organization of hard of hearing persons),
Excused: Gretchen Fors (Representing parent of a hard of hearing child), Sonny Cabbage (Representing a deaf individual)
Ex Officio Members: Steven Snow, Charlie Silva, Brian Darcy, Doug Clapp, Julie Eavenson, and Kelli Toohill

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Sierra McIver, Lauren Seale, LaVona Andrew, Melissa Bair, Caitlin Quiroz, and Ray Lockary

INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order by Joelynn Ball and introductions were made. Joelynn said Marva Kubalik will be retiring and leaving the Council to move out of state. Joelynn thanked Marva for her service to the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2021 MEETING

Jacob Robison moved to approve the minutes as presented. Valerie Player seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PERFECTION OF AGENDA:

Emilie Banasiak moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jacob Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Federal Legislation:

Steven Snow said Senate Bill 813 along with House of Representatives Bill 1959 known as Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, H.R. 1959, S. 813 has been introduced in Congress. Steven Snow said the bill would amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require a state to identify, evaluate, and provide special education and related services to children who have visual or hearing disabilities (or both) and are, or may be, classified in another disability category. A state must ensure that it has enough qualified personnel to serve children who have such disabilities and that a full continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of disabled children for special education and related services. Steven Snow said American Sign Language is specifically identified as a language which provides deaf children the opportunity to learn in their native language. Steven Snow encouraged the members of

the Council to review the legislation and contact their Senators and Representatives and urge them to vote for the legislation. Steven Snow said the Council will monitor any other legislation that would pertain to deaf or hard of hearing issues.

State Legislation:

Steven Snow said the Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 102 in which the Legislature urges the activation of closed captioning on television monitors located in public venues during hours when the venue is open to the public. Steven Snow thanked Valerie Player and Senator Jeff Agenbroad for bringing the legislation to the Legislature.

Steven Snow said the budget request for the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing passed and was signed by the Governor. Steven Snow said the budget included restoration of the 5% holdback previously mandated by the Governor.

Other CDHH Activities:

Covid 19 Vaccination Clinics:

Steven Snow said the Council has partnered with St. Alphonsus Hospital to provide Covid 19 vaccination clinics for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. Steven Snow said there have been 2 clinics so far providing American Sign Language interpreters accessible on site. The clinics have been held where Gordmans was in the Village Shopping Mall. Steven Snow said there are other clinics planned to include one on April 29, 2021 partnering with Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind (IESDB) and South-Central Health District in the Magic Valley. Steven Snow said staff and students of IESDB will be vaccinated during the morning hours with the afternoon open to the general population.

Connect Direct:

Steven Snow said he has been in contact with Communication Services for the Deaf to start the conversation about providing direct access to American Sign Language communication for individuals who call with questions about the Covid 19 vaccinations. Steven Snow said he has met with the 2-1-1 helpline and with Health and Welfare about providing ASL communication. Steven Snow said the process is just being talked about but looks promising.

Statewide Open Captioned Movies:

Steven Snow said the Council has partnered with different cinemas around the state to provide open captions for movies. Steven Snow said the latest moving with open captions provided is *Godzilla vs Kong*. Steven Snow said other movies will be captioned in the future.

Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA):

Steven Snow said the paper written with Elizabeth Schniedewind and published by the JAMA has received great reviews nationally. Steven Snow said a publication about dental care issues also published the paper noting the difficulty deaf individuals have in accessing dental care.

Presentations:

Steven Snow said he and Sierra McIver have given several workshops and trainings including:

- Idaho Care Givers Conference where the theme was resiliency and was attended virtually by about 400 participants
- Idaho State University/Department of Education where Steven Snow was Keynote speaker regarding the research paper co-written with Elizabeth Schniedewind
- Idaho State University Doctoral Colloquium where Steven Snow was a speaker for graduating medical students
- Micron where Steven Snow and Sierra McIver gave a workshop on deaf employees
- Supreme Court – Steven Snow said the Language Access Committee finally approved Rule 52 by the administrative panel regarding interpreting in the Court.

ACTION ITEMS:

Election of Officers:

For the Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Steven Birkby conducted the nominations and vote.

Kate Savage nominated Joelynn Ball to continue as Chairperson, Steven Birkby seconded the nomination, Joelynn Ball accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimous. Joelynn Ball will continue as Chairperson.

Joelynn Ball resumed conducting the meeting.

Emilie Banasiak nominated Steven Birkby to continue as Vice Chairman, Kate Savage seconded the nomination, Steven Birkby accepted the nomination, the vote was unanimous. Steven Birkby will continue as Vice Chairman.

Jacob Robison nominated Valerie Player as a member of the Executive Committee, Kate Savage seconded the nomination. Valerie Player accepted the nomination, the vote was unanimous. Valerie Player will be the third member of the Executive Committee.

New Employee Position:

Steven Snow presented information about a new employee request to the Legislature. The employee will be a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist. Steven Snow said the cost of the new employee would be approximately \$70,511 for salary and benefits, \$5,160 for yearly operating expenditures and a one-time Capital outlay of \$3,360. Steven Snow said this position would work as a team with Sierra McIver to provide training, workshops, one on one problem solving and advocacy for deaf or hard of hearing individuals. Steven Snow said he will present this request to the Legislature for FY2023.

Valerie Player motioned to present the request for a new employee to the Legislature. Kate Savage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Steven Snow will present the request to the Legislature.

FY2023 Budget Request:

Steven Snow said the total amount CDHH will request from the Legislature for FY2023 will include:

- Personnel \$318,900
- Operating 71,200
- Misc. Revenue 3,000
- New FTE 70,511
- Operating Increase 5,160
- Capital Increase 3,360
- Lease 9,000

The total budget request for FY2023 is **\$481,131**

Jacob Robison motioned to accept the FY2023 Budget Request. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Steven Snow will present the FY2023 budget request to the Legislature.

Approval of Individual Award Nomination:

Steven Snow said Paula Mason nominated Kristie Buffington for the 2021 Outstanding Individual Award. There was a brief discussion about the award. Emilie Banasiak motioned for the Council for award the Outstanding Individual Award to Kristie Buffington, Kate Savage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Set Dates for 2022 Council Meetings:

Cindy Schreiner presented the following dates for upcoming Council meetings:

- Friday, September 17, 2021 (via Zoom)
- Friday, November 19, 2021 (via Zoom)

- Thursday, January 20, 2022 or Thursday, January 27, 2022 (Meet and Greet) Date to be confirmed with Capitol personnel
- Friday, April 22, 2022 (Either in person or via Zoom)

Kate Savage motioned to accept the dates for the Council meetings as presented. Steven Birkby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

Idaho State Department of Education

Charlie Silva said the Department of Education's FY 2022 budget had not been passed by the Legislature as of this date. Charlie Silva said the American Rescue Act has specific line items for individuals with disabilities and that money will be funded through a grant. Charlie Silva said the final state allocation for FY2021 had been funded.

Charlie Silva and Joelynn Ball reported there were additional funds available for Educational Interpreter mentorship program. Joelynn Ball said the program was a virtual program lasting 8 months and the first cohort had 12 slots available and will be starting soon.

Charlie Silva said she would keep the Council posted on any changes in budget or policies that would affect deaf or hard of hearing students.

Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind

Brian Darcy said there are now 117 students on campus. Brian Darcy said graduation will be on May 27, 2021 and will be an in-person ceremony. Brian Darcy said IESDB's funding had been approved and contracts signed with teachers at the school. Brian Darcy said there are two job openings at the school for teachers of the deaf and two job openings at the school for Educational Interpreters.

Brian Darcy thanked the many partnerships the school has with various agencies including Vocational Rehabilitation, which is sponsoring the Work Readiness Camp which has registered 40 participants, Idaho Sound Beginnings which has funded a program for Deaf mentorship, Idaho State Department of Education providing funding for mentorship for Educational Interpreters, St. Alphonsus Hospital for providing COVID 19 vaccination clinics and the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the support and partnership provided throughout the years.

Brian Darcy said the Sawtooth Camp this year will be held on the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind campus providing a camp for children with hearing loss. Brian Darcy said there are a lot of activities that are near by and can be provided to the campers.

Brian Darcy said the school received a grant from Chobani Yogurt to recondition a school bus into a food truck business. The name of the business which will be ran by transitional students will be The Ravenous Raptor. The students will be in total charge of how the business is run.

Brian Darcy said he met with other Superintendents of School for the Deaf, and the consensus is that they are in support of the Cogswell-Macy Act.

Vocational Rehabilitation:

Doug Clapp said there is an opening for a Rehabilitation counselor for the deaf as Marcus Johns had resigned. Doug Clapp said his caseload now is only for students between 14 and 21, that his position now will be only focusing on students. Doug Clapp said the names of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centers have been renamed to Treasure Valley East (Boise), Treasure Valley Central (Meridian) and Treasure Valley West, (Nampa/Caldwell).

Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licensure:

Julie Eavenson said there are currently 199 American Sign Language interpreters licensed in Idaho.

PUC/Idaho TRS Administrator

Kelli Toohill said the way TRS is funded needs to be changed because of the decrease in landline usage. Kelli Toohill said the Public Utilities Commission cannot initiate the change; the change would have to be initiated by a different entity. Steven Snow said he would be happy to participate in an ad-hoc committee to discuss ideas. Kelli Toohill said she and Emilie Banasiak will have a virtual town hall meeting on June 9, 2021 to discuss Relay issues. Kelli Toohill said she would be available to present at various events if needed.

Other:

Valerie Player shared what is in a new “welcoming” kit that will be given to parents of newly diagnosed children including books, information packets, etc. The packets will be given to parents by Idaho Hands and Voices.

Adjourn:

Kate Savage motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steve Birkby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, September 17, 2021