

COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
September 17, 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) Valerie Player (Representing parent of a deaf child), Emilie Banasiak (Representing an organization of hard of hearing persons), Gretchen Fors (Representing parent of a hard of hearing child), Sonny Cabbage (Representing a deaf individual)

Vacant Position: Member who is hard of hearing over the age of 60

Ex Officio Members: Steven Snow, Charlie Silva, Brian Darcy, Nicki Chopski (substituting for Julie Eavenson), Brian Shakespeare, Terry Gammel, Erin Olsen, and Kelli Toohill

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Sierra McIver, Lauren Seale, LaVona Andrew, Ray Lockary, Susan Hilverda, Adena Poe, Bella Brock and Taylor Lee

INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order by Joelynn Ball and introductions were made

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 2021 MEETING

The minutes had some typographical and grammatical errors which needed amended. Jacob Robison motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PERFECTION OF AGENDA:

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

OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Valerie Player congratulated Board member, Gretchen Fors who is serving on the State Department of Education Special Education Advisory Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Federal Legislation:

Steven Snow said the Federal Government is focusing on the proposed infrastructure bill and most other legislation has been held. Steven Snow said the Council is monitoring the Cogswell-

Macy Act (H.R. 1959 (House Bill), S.813 (Senate Bill)) <https://cogswellmacyact.org/> which will strengthen the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to improve results for deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, and deaf-blind children, including those with additional disabilities. Steven Snow said he would keep the Council apprised of any developments on this legislation and any other Federal legislation that is pertinent.

State Legislation:

Steven Snow said the Council is developing a statement about Concurrent Resolution 103 regarding closed captioning in public places. Steven Snow said the Council will take an educational approach including developing Public Service Announcements.

Other CDHH Activities:

COVID 19: Steven Snow said because of the COVID 19 virus, Idaho is now in Crisis Standard of Care which means hospitals can decide who will receive care and who will have to wait. Steven Snow said the Council will be monitoring to make sure deaf patients are not turned away from receiving care due to being deaf. Steven Snow said the Council is encouraging individuals to receive the vaccine and has provided information in American Sign Language regarding the vaccine. Steven Snow said the Council has a limited supply of Clear Masks that are available if requested.

Idaho Council on Domestic Violence: Steven Snow said he and Sierra McIver have been participating in roundtable discussions regarding how to share information and resources for victims. Steven Snow said the discussions have been virtual and on hiatus lately. Steven Snow said the Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Council, Heather Cunningham, has requested him to participate in a meeting where Federal funding of domestic violence programs will be discussed. Steven Snow said there will be discussion about rule making about how organizations that receive Federal funding will have to include how they will improve services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, as well as other victims with various disabilities.

Idaho State University Deaf Education Professor Hire: Steven Snow said he was on the faculty hire search committee. Steven Snow said Idaho State University hired Jill Radford to be the faculty member to revamp the Deaf Education program. Steven Snow said the first cohort of students will start in the Fall of 2022. Steven Snow said the program will also be offered online.

Work Readiness Camp: Steven Snow said he presented at the Work Readiness Camp sponsored by Vocational Rehabilitation and Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind. Steven Snow said he presented on the topic of social media and the impact of social media on careers.

Department of Financial Management: Steven Snow said the Council's offices were visited by the Director of the Department of Financial Management, Alex Adams and the Council's new Budget Analyst, Amanda Harper. Steven Snow said it is the first time an official from the Governor's office of Financial Management has visited the Council's offices and Steven said he is encouraged by the visit and hopes the visit will help in determining the approval of the Council's appropriation request.

North Idaho Outreach: Steven Snow said he, Sierra McIver and Lauren Seale traveled to north Idaho in August. Steven Snow said the Council presented at the American Sign Language family camp. Steven Snow said he participated in a panel at the North Idaho College 11 YRA conference which is a conference about serving students with disabilities. Steven Snow said two of the other panelists are the co-founders of Global Access Awareness Day (GAAD). Steven Snow said Sierra McIver presented at the conference. The Council hosted a town hall meeting after the conference. Steven Snow said during the travel, training was provided for 43 professionals in Post Falls which included police officers, 911 dispatchers, emergency medical technicians and fire fighters. Steven Snow said the training was accredited by Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) thus the participants earned continuing education credits.

Cross Disability Task Force: Steven Snow said he is participating in the task force created by the City of Boise to gather information for the Cross Disability Committee, which in turn will provide input and counsel to the mayor's office on how to increase awareness and access. Steven Snow said the goal is to have an official Commission or Advisory Commission on Disabilities Boise. Steven Snow said if the Commission is established, it would be the first in the state and could be a template for other cities to adopt. Steven Snow said he would keep the Council advised on whether the Commission is established.

Deaf Awareness Day: Steven Snow said the Council sponsored Deaf Awareness Day on August 28, 2021. Steven Snow said there was tremendous turn out. Steven Snow said the event had workshop and presentations and activities including face painting, coloring, bouncy house, popcorn, and cotton candy. Steven Snow said doctors from "Deaf in Scrubs" presented information about Covid 19 and the vaccine and the other presentation focused on general health care accessibility for the deaf community. Steven Snow said the presenters were deaf physicians, one from Las Vegas, Nevada and the other from Rochester, New York. Steven Snow said the presentations were presented in American Sign Language so the deaf community could have the information in their native language. After the presentation, 5 individuals receive the Covid 19 vaccination administered by St. Alphonsus Hospital. Steven Snow praised Sierra McIver for her fund raising and organization for Deaf Awareness Day. Steven Snow said St. Alphonsus hospital donated \$15,000 to the event.

Deaf Vibes: Steven Snow said after Deaf Awareness Day, there was a social event for deaf individuals and their families. Steven Snow said it was the first time for an event in over two years and was very successful.

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing 30th Anniversary: Steven Snow said the Council hosted a celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at the Council's offices. Steven Snow said there were presentations by Bill Andrew, who was along with John Centa, the first co-chairman of the Council. Bill Andrew gave a brief history of the Council and how it was formed. Pennie Cooper, past Executive Director gave a presentation about her time as the Executive Director of the Council. During the celebration, there were two paintings by local deaf artist that were revealed which will be part of the permanent art collection of the Council.

Idaho Supreme Court: Steven Snow said Idaho Supreme Court Justice Bordy has invited him to participate in the Idaho Judicial Conference as a panelist. Steven Snow said the panel will be

discussing language access. Steven Snow said the conference is for all judges and clerks in the state and it is very hard to get on the agenda and present, so he is very excited about the opportunity.

Annual Report 2021: Steven Snow said this year the Council created a visual “poster” of a few highlights that the Council completed and will send a copy to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS:

Update By Laws: There were some grammatical errors and updated language presented for updates, a change in Article V, Section 4. Elections. *The elected officers shall assume their duties at the first meeting of the fiscal year following the election*, a change in Article VIII, Section 1. Composition. *The third person shall be elected by the Board at the last meeting of the fiscal year.*

Valerie Player moved to accept the updated by laws as presented and direct the Bylaws Committee to convene and look for additional changes. Kate Savage seconded the motion. The motion passed.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

Idaho Infant Toddler/Idaho Sound Beginnings:

Brian Shakespeare said there will be two CARE Project workshops this year. One for parents and one for professionals which will be facilitated by Johnnie Sexton, the creator of the project which provides support for families of children with hearing loss.

Brian Shakespeare said the deaf mentor program is still in development and he will have an update as soon as in person training is available.

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

Brian Darcy said classes at IESDB have resumed in person this year with masked being required for staff and students. Brian Darcy said the campus census is 125, with 65 students in the Cottages.

Brian Darcy said the “Round Building” is now available and will be used for the young adults in the Independent Living Program. Brian Darcy said the food truck that will be ran by the young adults is “being wrapped” and he hopes it will be in service soon.

Brian Darcy said IESDB now has a school psychologist who is fluent in ASL and has already made a huge impact on the students.

Brian Darcy said the outreach representatives and teachers are very busy working with the different school districts as the need for their expertise grows. Brian Darcy said during the Spring semester, IESDB will be offering an ASL/finger spelling language development class along with a Listening Spoken Language (LSL) course. Brian Darcy said the LSL course is on hold right now due to staff shortages. Brian Darcy said there are staff shortages throughout all school districts including IESDB where there is only a part time audiologist and no Speech Language Pathologist on staff.

Brian Darcy said students from IESDB participated in the Work Readiness Camp where students have intense training in how to self-advocate for employment. Brian Darcy said the students can participate in mock interviews, buy interview clothes, and learn how to complete employment applications. Brian Darcy said after the camp, the students are hired at different locations with pay, with many employers retaining the student after the initial timeline is completed. Brian Darcy said the camp is funded primarily through Vocational Rehabilitation.

Brian Darcy said IESDB had a few family events that were kept outside because of COVID 19, and Deaf at the Zoo had over 500 people attending and a zoo event in north Idaho had about 40 families that participated.

Idaho State Department of Education:

Charlie Silva said there is a shortage of staff throughout the state. Charlie Silva said there will be a webinar next week on a COVID 19 update, and there will be additional guidance for special education directors. Charlie Silva said Gretchen Fors is now on the Special Education Advisory Panel.

Charlie Silva said State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Sherri Ybarra will be presenting a budget request to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee which will include the following areas: 1) All-day kindergarten, 2) Increase in line-item discretionary funds which would be used for advanced opportunities, 3) Compensation of teachers, 4) Increase in funding for school support staff, 5) health insurance in rural districts.

Joelynn Ball said the Department of Education supported 12 educational interpreters to be able to participate in a mentoring program which is offered through participation with *Task 12 Training and Assessment Systems in K Through 12 Interpreters*. Joelynn Ball said Idaho is the only state to take advantage of all slots available.

Idaho Department of Labor:

Terry Gammel said this is his first meeting.

Terry Gammel said the Idaho Department of Labor is working on a new grant for state apprenticeships that will include a component on diversity and equity. Terry Gammel said the apprenticeship program will be under the flag of Apprenticeship Idaho giving a single resource for information and resources for the best outcome for participants.

Idaho Commission on Aging:

Erin Olsen said there is now a Facebook group for the Aging and Disability Resource Center that will provide resources and information. Erin Olsen said September is Falls Prevention Month and there have been webinars and seminars that are available on Idaho Commission on Aging's website. Erin Olsen said there are two more webinars in the future including one on how to identify trip hazards. <http://aging.idaho.gov/campaign/FPAM>

Erin Olsen said the Idaho Commission on Aging provides services for people over 60 and anybody 18 and older with a disability.

Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licensure:

Nicki Chopski said the current number of licensed Sign Language interpreters is 249, the current number of licensed Audiologist is 155 and 1,157 licensed Speech Language Pathologists

Adjourn:

Jacob Robison moved to adjourn the meeting. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: Date and Time to be determined