COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

April 22, 2022

Via ZOOM Video Conference

**PARTICIPANTS: Council Members:** Joelynne Ball (Chairing) (Representing Interpreters), Kate Savage (Representing Audiologists), Valerie Player (Representing parent of a deaf child), Gretchen Fors (Representing parent of a hard of hearing child), Sonny Cabbage (Representing a deaf individual) Jacob Robison (Representing physicians), Steven Birkby (Representing an organization of deaf individuals), and Emilie Banasiak (Representing an organization of hard of hearing persons),

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

**Ex Officio Members:** Steven Snow, Charlie Silva, Brian Darcy, Katie Stuart, Doug Clapp, Renae Birkby, and Kelli Toohill

Others: Cindy Schreiner, LaVona Andrew, Holly Thomas-Mowery, Avery Moers, Tianna Andersen, Bella Brock, Jill Radford, Rachel Miller, Caitlin Quiroz, Rachel Humphries, Melissa Bair, and Steven Stubbs

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2021 MEETING.**

There were two typographical errors (Emily to Emilie and Popf to Dopf). Kate Savage motioned to accept the minutes as corrected. Gretchen Fors seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2022 MEETING**

There were three typographical errors (acronym BE should be BEI). Sonny Cabbage motioned to accept the minutes as corrected. Gretchen Fors seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**PERFECTION OF AGENDA:**

Gretchen Fors motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Jacob Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**FEDERAL LEGISLATION:**

**EHDI Reauthorization:**

Steven Snow said reauthorization of funding for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, known as Idaho Sound Beginnings, has passed in the House of Representatives and has been reintroduced in the Senate. When passed, the bill would provide several years of continuous funding through 2026.

**SB 3333** **Airline Information and Entertainment Access Act:**

This bill requires air carriers (including foreign carriers) to ensure equal access to airline information and entertainment programming for all airline passengers regardless of their disabilities.

Specifically, the bill requires

* open captioning and an American Sign Language option for persons with disabilities when the information and programming are available to passengers through shared video displays, such as a monitor located in a passenger access aisle;
* closed captioning and an American Sign Language option when the information and programming are available to passengers through individual video displays;
* audio descriptions when the information and programming are available to passengers through individual video displays or shared video displays;
* an aural public address announcement in textual format through individual video displays or shared video displays; and
* control systems for video displays, apps for personal devices, and web portals and websites to have a nonvisual operating option.

Steven Snow said he will keep the Council informed on the progress of the bill as it proceeds through the Legislature.

**Federal Communications Commission (FCC) notice of proposed rule-making regarding caption settings:**

Steven Snow said the FCC is looking at ways to change the settings of captioning in videos, Hulu, Netflix, etc. to include options for changing the settings of captions to provide better access to varieties of caption depending on the need of the individual accessing the captions.

Steven Snow said the there is another bill that will be introduced to provide funding to the FCC for grants that will provide funding for training of captioners. Steven Snow said he would keep the Council informed on the progress of the bill as it proceeds through the Legislature.

**STATE LEGISLATION:**

**CDHH FY 2023 Budget:**

Steven Snow said the Legislature approved the Council’s request for another Full Time Employee (FTE). The Council’s budget includes on-going expenditures for that employee of $90,600 and additional Capital expenses of $3,400 for one-time expenses such as office furniture, computer, and other items needed for the new employee. Steven Snow said the Legislature approved a 3% cost of living adjustment for employees and a 4% merit increase for employees. Steven Snow said the total budget for FY 2023 is $510,400 which includes personnel, operating and capital expenses. Steven Snow said that budget will start on July 1, 2022.

**Other State Legislation:**

Steven Snow said this Legislative session had no bills presented or passed that directly affected Idaho’s deaf or hard of hearing populations.

**Other CDHH Activities:**

Steven Snow said the Council still has an opening for a member who is hard of hearing and over the age of 60. Steven Snow said there have been some applications submitted to the Governor’s office and the Governor will appoint that member. Steven Snow said he will keep the Council informed of the appointment.

Steven Snow said Sierra McIver resigned from the position of Outreach and Communications Coordinator and the Council has interviewed candidates for that position and an individual has accepted an offer. Steven Snow said he would be making an announcement shortly on when the individual will start working.

Steven Snow said Lauren Seale resigned as Executive Interpreter and there have been some candidates that have applied for the position. Steven Snow said he will start the interview process soon and will keep the Council informed.

Steven Snow said the FTE position approved by the Legislature for FY 2023 for a deaf and hard of hearing specialist will be posted and advertised soon. Steven Snow said this position will provide for community needs such as training in specific areas that are lacking for deaf individuals.

Steven Snow said he has been contacted by St. Luke’s Hospital to address issues on how St. Luke’s can better provide services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Steven Snow said St. Luke’s is considering an Advisory Committee to access the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals and to focus on how to best provide what is needed. Steven Snow said St. Alphonsus, St. Luke’s and other health care providers now have a new electronic healthcare record which should help with providing information regarding the need for interpreters for patients who are deaf.

**Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA):**

Steven Snow said he is a participant in a focus group of deaf individuals that are discussing how FEMA can provide better information and relationships with the deaf community, including how information is disseminated. Steven Snow said he is happy to be part of the group and will keep the Council informed.

**PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT:**

Steven Stubbs presented information concerning a public health. Steven Stubbs said the grant is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services and distributed through the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Steven Stubbs said Idaho was allocated $30,729,732 to meet three specific outcomes:

* Examine Health Disparities that occurred because of COVID 19 pandemic.
* Looking at testing and contact tracing for populations at higher risk and underserved.
* Improve the capacity of health departments to provide services for COVID 19.

Steven Stubbs thanked the Idaho State University interpreter program and Dr. Elizabeth Schniedewind for writing the grant and working together to submit it.

Steven Stubbs said he will be focusing on how deaf and hard of have been affected by COVID 19. Steven Stubbs said his project will have the following activities: 1) will be hiring five community health workers who will be fluent in American Sign Language to ensure the deaf community has all the information needed. 2) working with primary care providers to inquire their knowledge of how to serve people with a variety of disabilities, 3) to identify the providers who are willing to accept patients with disabilities including deafness 4) assist deaf/hard of hearing Idahoans to establish care with primary care providers and 5) design universally accessible materials for deaf/hard of hearing Idahoans.

Steven Stubbs gave a timeline of the grant proceedings and the budget that he will be following which totals $209,295 for his intended outcomes.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Election of Officers:**

* Chairperson: Sonny Cabbage nominated Joelynne Ball to continue as Chairperson. Joelynne Ball accepted the nomination. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
* Vice Chairperson: Kate Savage nominated Steven Birkby to continue as Vice Chairperson. Steven Birkby accepted the nomination. Jacob Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
* 3rd Member of Executive Committee: Emilie Banasiak nominated Valerie Player to continue as 3rd Member of Executive Committee: Valerie Player accepted the nomination. Steven Birkby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Budget Request 2024**

Steven Snow said the total FY 2024 budget request that will be submitted to the Legislature is as follows:

* Personnel $427,000
* Operating 77,000
* Misc. Revenue 3,000
* ASL Classes 11,000
* 3% Lease increase 1,300
* TOTAL $519,300

Jacob Robison motioned to accept the FY 2024 budget request as presented. Gretchen Fors seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Proposed Priorities FY 2023**

Steven Snow proposed the following priorities for FY 2023:

* Law Enforcement Outreach and Training
* Improvement of State Services
* Community Engagement Initiative

Steven Snow said these priorities aligned with the Governor’s priorities for Idaho. Emilie Banasiak said she would like to see a yearly summary of the Council’s priorities. Steven Snow said that that information would be provided.

Jacob Robison motioned to accept the FY 2023 proposed priorities as presented. Steven Birkby and Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Change in By Laws:**

Article II Section 2. Location: Add (1*) if conditions warrant, meetings may be conducted via a virtual platform.*

Article II Section 6. Meeting Arrangements. *The Executive Director will make arrangements for a place for the meeting, a secretary to take minutes and the provision of needed accommodations.*

Article II Membership. Change the “An” licensed sign language interpreter to “a” licensed sign language interpreter.

Emilie Banasiak motioned to amend the By-laws as stated. Sonny Cabbage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Awards:**

Steven Snow said the Council received a nomination for Elizabeth Schniedewind to receive the Outstanding Individual Award. Steven Snow said there were several items listed in her nomination that deemed her a candidate for the award. Jacob Robison motioned to present the Outstanding Individual Award to Elizabeth Schniedewind. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Steven Snow said the Council received a nomination for the James Castle House to receive the Outstanding Agency/Organization/Business Award. Steven Snow said the nomination of the James Castle House outlined several ways where the museum has been committed to ensuring that the site is preserved over a long period of time and that deaf prospective is included in all aspects of the collaborative process. Emilie Banasiak motioned to present the Outstanding Agency/Organization/Business Award to the James Castle House. Valerie Player seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Quarterly Meeting Dates:**

* Friday, September 16, 2022
* Thursday, November 17, 2022
* Thursday, January 19, 2023 Meet and Greet at Capitol in a.m. Quarterly meeting p.m.
* Friday, April 21, 2023

The Council will send a survey to determine whether these meetings will be held virtually or in person. Emilie Banasiak motioned to accept the meeting dates as presented. Steven Birkby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:**

**Idaho State Department of Education:**

Charlie Silva said some personnel from the Department of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will be conducting a post-legislative tour where they will travel throughout the state to various school districts to access how new legislation will affect the districts.

Charlie Silva said the new legislation regarding dyslexia will be implemented with input from the literacy experts in the department.

Charlie Silva said the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) will be meeting at the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind (ISDB) campus on May 16, 2022.

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

Brian Darcy said the Legislature provided funding for 8 additional positions at Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind (ISDB). Brian Darcy said the deaf mentoring program is continuing and training was provided for the mentors. Brian Darcy said the student population at ISDB has grown and currently ISDB is can no longer accepting students for residential life because they are at capacity, however, day students to campus are still enrolling.

Brian Darcy said ISDB is partnering with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) and Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) offering a dual credit program for a finance class where students are getting college credit for participating in the classes. The class is presented virtually and in person. Brian Darcy said ISDB is one of two schools which are the pilot schools for this program with hopes it expands to different schools. Brian Darcy said ISDB is also partnering with RIT piloting a writing intervention class, where three professors are collecting data.

Brian Darcy said he will be meeting in Salt Lake City with the Council of Executive and Administrators of School for the Deaf (CEASD). Brian Darcy said he will be giving presentations of 3 programs currently provided by ISDB:

* Writing Intervention class
* Flexible Instructional Arrangements and Intervention
* Work Readiness Program

Brian Darcy said the principal of the deaf and hard of hearing program, Jana Hasco, received her Ph.D. from the University of Arizona.

Brian Darcy said ISDB is preparing for summer camps including the Sawtooth Camp partnering with Vocational Rehabilitation on the Work Readiness Camp.

Brian Darcy said ISDB will be graduating five seniors this year and the public is welcome to attend.

**Vocational Rehabilitation:**

Doug Clapp said Ranae Birkby will be the VR counselor for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Doug Clapp said the Work Readiness Camp is full and has a waiting list of participants. Renae Birkby said she is happy to join the Council as an Ex-officio member and will be participating in future meetings.

**Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses IDOPL:**  Katie Stuart said IDOPL will be reviewing rules and regulations to streamline rules and regulations for Zero-based Regulations for different licenses that are let by the IDOPL. Katie Stuart said IDOPL will be reviewing each agency and decide if that agency is continuing to maintain what they were originally intended to do. Katie Stuart said if there are concerns about licensing procedure of individuals professions, please let her. Katie Stuart said she is working with 6 surrounding states and South Dakota and Alaska to get their input on licensing. Katie Stuart said this is essential for professionals licensed in other states and move to Idaho or are licensed in Idaho and move to other states.

Katie Stuart said the next meeting for discussing Speech and Hearing is June 1, 2022 and then again on June 29, 2022. Steven Snow said he would like to attend that meeting and would like the Idaho Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to attend.

Katie Stuart provided license counts as of 4/19/2022

**Public Utilities Commission (Idaho Relay):** Kelli Toohill said the Telecommunications Relay Services and for Caption Telephones and Outreach Services will be expiring in December and will be reviewed for renewal. Kelli Toohill said Request for Proposals will be sent out for review and then submitted. Kelli Toohill will keep the Council informed on the progress.

Kelli Toohill said there will be an in-person Ice Cream Social at Julia Davis Park on August 6, 2022 celebrating 30 years of providing Telecommunication Relay Services.

**ADJOURN:**  Valerie Play motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Sonny Cabbage seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING**: Friday, September 16, 2022