

COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
November 17, 2022
Via ZOOM Video Conference
Transcripts available upon request

PARTICIPANTS: Council Members: Joelynn Ball (Representing Interpreters), Valerie Player (Representing parent of a deaf child), Steven Birkby (Representing an organization of persons who are deaf), Gretchen Fors (Representing parent of a hard of hearing child), Sonny Cabbage (Representing a deaf individual) Matthew McGraw (Representing hard of hearing over 60)

Excused: Emilie Banasiak (Representing an organization of hard of hearing persons)
Jacob Robison (Representing physicians)
Vacant (Representing Audiologist)

Ex Officio Members: Steven Snow, Randi Cole (substituting for Charlie Silva) Brian Darcy, Jane Donnellan, and Kelli Toohill

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Jahaira Faber, Jess Raschke, Leah McElwee, LaVona Andrew, Ray Amber Deutsche,

INTRODUCTIONS:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2022 MEETING

There were 3 typographical errors in the minutes. Gretchen Fors motioned to approve minutes as corrected. Valerie Player seconded the motion. The minutes of September 16, 2022 were approved as corrected.

PERFECTION OF AGENDA:

The changes in the agenda were: Randi Cole representing the Idaho Department of Education and Ex-officio members, Erin Olsen, Brian Shakespeare, Terry Gammel and Katie Stuart not attending or providing a report. Valerie Player moved to accept the agenda as corrected. Sonny Cabbage seconded the motion. The motioned passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Steven Snow said Silent Weekend will be February 10 and 11, 2023 sponsored by Idaho State University hosted in Gooding.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Federal Legislation:

Rule Changes by Federal Communications Commission:

Steven Snow said there was a rule change approved by the Federal Communications Commission to ensure all Emergency Alert information must be fully accessible including radio alerts being captioned on websites and the use of plain language. Steven Snow said these changes will take place by December 2023.

Mid-term Elections:

Steven Snow said with the mid-term elections just completed, some legislation might be held until a future date, including Senate Bill 3333. Steven Snow said the Council will continue to monitor legislation and keep the Council updated.

Over the Counter Hearing Aids:

Steven Snow said Over the Counter Hearing Aids have been available since October 17, 2022. Steven Snow said there have been many more advertisements for them. Steven Snow said some high-tech companies such as Apple are making air pods for mild to moderate hearing loss. Steven Snow said so far there has been good feedback. Steven Snow said the Council will continue to monitor.

State Legislation:

Steven Snow said with the election results, there will be several new legislators and the Council is waiting to see which legislators will be assigned to what committee, especially the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee.

Steven Snow said the Council is not sponsoring any bills this session but will continue to monitor any legislation that affects the Council or the deaf/hard of hearing community.

Other CDHH Activities:

- Steven Snow said Governor Little called for a meeting of all State Agency Directors which he attended where he was provided a list of Idaho state priorities. Steven Snow said the Council's priorities of:
 - Community engagement
 - Law Enforcement Education
 - Government Service Accessibility

align with Idaho state priorities.

Steven Snow said he was very happy to be involved in the meeting as it provided valuable information including how to recruit and retain younger employees, the centralization of the IT department for cyber security, budget information for FY2024 and an introduction to the new state software LUMA.

Steven Snow said there is a new evaluation process for Agency Directors which was recently implemented where a survey about the Director is anonymously by chosen staff members of agencies, other Agency Directors, and the public. Steven Snow said the evaluations provide needed input.

Steven Snow said the last meeting of the Idaho Coordinated Response Team was held where the team developed a tool kit for local responders to use during crisis situations including Domestic Violence situations.

Steven Snow said he met with Danielle Bailey from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to discuss notifications during emergencies or disasters. Steven Snow said they will meet again in the future.

Steven Snow said the Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpreters (CASLI) has approved CDHH to proctor exams again.

Steven Snow said there will be interviews next week for the Administrative Assistant 11 position. Steven Snow said he presented at the Equal Opportunity Training panel hosted by Human Resources concerning effective communication.

Steven Snow said the Council and employees have hosted information booths at various events and have been so busy that swag needs to be replaced.

Steven Snow said the Council is looking for nominations to sponsor 2 families for extra Christmas cheer this year. Steven Snow said the staff of CDHH will choose families from the submitted nominations and will post the information when available.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

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

Brian Darcy said the school is currently on Thanksgiving Break and will resume classes after Thanksgiving. Brian Darcy said currently there are 133 students on campus with approximately 100 of them being deaf/hard of hearing. Brian Darcy said IESDB has requested from the Department of Public works 2 new cottages for campus residences. Brian Darcy said in the Outreach program there are approximately 1,700 students with 139 ages birth to 3 and approximately 1,600 school aged students.

Brian Darcy said the girls Volleyball team won against Utah School for the Deaf and Blind, students have started basketball gain and this year the WSBC will be hosting a basketball tournament for deaf individuals in Oregon this year.

Brian Darcy said there is a new E-sports program started at ISDB where the competition is video game based.

Brian Darcy said there was a Zoo Event on October 23 which was attended by around 300 people.

Brian Darcy said the National Deaf Center representatives attended the grand opening of the ISDB Food Truck and the National Deaf Center has selected ISDB as a model program for transactional aged students.

Brian Darcy said there will be a new accessible playground at ISDB.

Brian Darcy said with the election, Debbie Critchfield will be the new Board Chair for IESDB replacing Sherry Ybarra.

Brian Darcy said IESDB is also waiting for the new legislation session to commence to prepare budgets, etc.

Idaho State Department of Education:

Randi Cole reported for Charlie Silva. Randi Cole said the Charlie Silva will be leaving the Idaho State Department of Education, her replacement will be appointed by Debbie Critchfield. Randi Cole said the Idaho State Department of Education is participating in a federal review focusing on accessibility where there will be a review of policies and procedures.

Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation:

Jane Donnellan said IDVR is waiting for the new legislation session. Jane Donnellan said IDVR will be requesting 3 new FTE for business support. Jane Donnellan said IDVR has no legislation pending for the next year, however, there has been adoption of new rules with streamlined language. Jane Donnellan indicated that there was clarification from Rehabilitation Services Administration specific to serving individuals in border states and residency requirement. Jane Donnellan said there have been some changes in who could apply for VR services including adding remote counseling, serving individuals in border states, and expanding community services in rural areas.

Jane Donnellan said there is a new position that will be monitoring contract management stationed in the Boise office.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION:

Kelli Toohill said the 30th anniversary of Idaho Relay Service is December 2022 and was celebrated in Boise in August. Kelli Toohill said Idaho renewed the contract with Hamilton Relay to provide Relay services in Idaho for another 3 years. Kelli Toohill said Idaho Relay is focusing on outreach. Kelli Toohill said there is a scholarship available for high school seniors.

Adjourn:

Matthew McGraw motioned to adjourn; Sonny Cabbage seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 19, 2023. MEET AND GREET AT THE CAPITOL