

COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

January 21, 2016

*Draft Minutes Subject to Approval at the April 22, 2016 Council meeting
Note: Full Transcripts are available upon request*

PARTICIPANTS: Council Members: Joelynn Ball, Chairperson (Representing Interpreters) Shannon Gower (Representing Audiologists), Jerry Wilding (Representing Deaf), , Emilie Banasiak (Representing an organization of hard of hearing persons), Steven Birkby (Representing an organization of deaf persons), Heidi Jeffs (Representing parent of deaf child), Russ Patterson (Representing hard of hearing individual over the age of 60) Excused: Richard Lee (Representing physicians) and Deseret Baker (Representing parent of a hard of hearing child)

Ex Officio Members: Steven Snow, Doug Clapp, Brian Shakespeare, Betsy Duncan and Renee Miner

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Holly Thomas-Mowery, LaVona Andrew, Andrea Couch, Ray Lockary, Clifford Hanks, and Tony (no last name given)

INTRODUCTIONS:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Steven Birkby said there is a typo on page 3 under scholarship opportunity. “Show” should be “Snow”. Russ Patterson motioned to accept the minutes as corrected. Heidi Jeffs seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PERFECTION OF AGENDA:

Heidi Jeffs motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Russ Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Heidi Jeffs said there will be a picnic in Salt Lake City sponsored by Ear Community for children with Microtia atresia on June 4th. Heidi Jeffs said she will email information to those interested.

DEBRIEF MEET AND GREET:

Steven Snow said he thought the new food choices were successful. Joelynn Ball and Heidi Jeffs agreed. Russ Patterson stated he thought that in previous years there were more Legislators visiting the Meet and Greet. Steven Snow said this year there were fewer Legislators perhaps because the Council does not have any pending legislation, but each year it varies on how many

Legislators attend. Jerry Wilding said maybe January was the wrong time of the year because of the weather. Cindy Schreiner said the Council requests a date from the Secretary of the Senate and they assign a date. Cindy said the Council does not get to choose a date, but she tries to get one that is acceptable for the Council. Steven Snow said we have invited new vendors to keep the Meet and Greet diversified. Steven Snow said if the Council members knew of any vendor they think would be good to invite to please let the Council know. Steven Birkby said "Inclusions" would be a good business to invite. Emilie Banasiak said the demonstration from Dogs for the Deaf was a good attraction and perhaps in the future years there could be other demonstrations presented so that the public actually can see what each business does for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Joelyne Ball said in recap, we should continue the hot breakfast and some more demonstrations. Cindy Schreiner said the breakfast was from Life's Kitchen, a local organization that helps at risk kids. Joelyne Ball said we should send a letter of gratitude to them. Cindy Schreiner said she would.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Budget: Steven Snow said for the fiscal year 2016, the Council's operating budget was \$37,700. Steven Snow said the Council has spent approximately 12,000 dollars so far this fiscal year; however budget projections show the Council will utilize the remainder of the budget for fiscal year 2016. Steven Snow said for fiscal year 2017, the Council requested additional funding from the legislature for one more Full Time Employee which was denied by the Governor's recommendation. Steven Snow said the budget recommended by the Governor for fiscal year 2017 is \$215,000 which includes an additional \$12,000 for personnel costs to include a 3 percent raise for employees and a one-time additional payroll which happens every eleven years. Steven Snow said the additional personnel funds will not be ongoing and will not be in fiscal year 2018 budget.

Full Time Employee: Steven Snow said the Council would again request another full time employee for the Council with the 2018 fiscal year budget request. Steven Snow said the need for the FTE is great and we will work on strategies to convince the Governor's office to recommend monies in the 2018 fiscal year budget.

Legislation: Steven Snow said the Interpreter Licensure Task Force has decided to wait until the 2017 Legislation session to reintroduce the bill for Interpreter Licensure. Steven Snow said the main concerns for the legislation came from the Idaho Supreme Court. Steven Snow said the wording was corrected and agreed upon. Steven Snow said the Bureau of Occupational Licensure (BOL) had concerns on how the cost of license would be a problem to Interpreters if there was a stand-alone board for the Interpreters and suggested the Interpreter Board be combined with another Board governed by the BOL, possible the Board of Audiologist, Speech Pathologist and Hearing Aid Dealers. Steven Snow said in order for that to happen rules would have to be revised and rewritten to include Interpreters and adjustments made to the combining board. The time frame would not work for this year's Legislation session, so the Interpreter Licensure Task Force voted to postpone the reintroduction of the bill until next year.

Lead K Bill: Steven Snow said the Idaho Association of the Deaf (IAD) planned to introduce this bill, however, the IAD has yet to develop a plan, so at this time it is premature to discuss this legislation and for CDHH to take a position.

Steven Snow said this year there does not seem to be any legislation that would directly affect the deaf and hard of hearing community, however, if something does come up, he would inform the Board.

Website: Steven Snow said the new website will be launched in a few weeks. Steven Snow said the website has been recreated to include videos and updated information. Steven Snow said there are still a few quirks that need to be tweaked before it goes live, but he will notify the Board when it does. Steven Snow said we have been working with Access Idaho which supports other state agencies to make sure the websites are accessible. Steven Snow said the Council office personnel will be able to change and update the website in the office without having to know HTTP language and have the IT individuals change our website. The new website will have a direct link from the Council's Lending Library to Cindy's email so she can process the request in a streamlined manner. Steven Snow said there will also be an Interpreter's Directory which will be user friendly so information about Interpreters that is usually in our paper directory will be available online. Steven Snow said this will be a huge cost savings for the Council and will make the accuracy of the Interpreter information up to date. Steven Snow said there will be pictures of the Board members and videos in ASL and a lot of great features. Steven Snow said if the Board has any information or any request of things to be added to the website to please inform the office to have it included.

Rocky Mountain High School Transition Meeting: Steven Snow said he had partnered with Ann Flannery, the transition specialist from Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind to meet with the students in the Deaf program. Steven Snow said the students were provided information from Deaf professionals about their educational experiences. Steven Snow said the students were receptive of the information and were excited to see that their employment opportunities were not limited...

National Association of State Agencies of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH): Steven Snow said this association is designed to provide opportunity for state agency administrators and agencies to exchange information. Steven Snow said part of the responsibilities of members is to watch for Interpreter issues. Steven Snow said 23 states now require Interpreter licensure. Steven Snow said states Interpreter licensure requirements have been impacted by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) to suspend performance tests. Steven Snow said RID has completed their evaluation but has not released their official report, but the preliminary report suggests there would be a separation of the testing and certification process. Steven Snow said NASADHH is closely monitoring the outcomes and he will inform the Board whenever there is more information.

Town Hall Meeting with Hamilton Relay: Steven Snow said he was ill when this took place but Cindy took his place and held the meeting along with Emilie Banasiak. Emilie Banasiak said the meeting was attended by 3 individuals who wanted information. Emilie said the meeting was nice and informal allowing for her to answer many questions one on one.

St. Luke's Hospital: Steven Snow said St. Luke's Hospital has hired a full time interpreter who is responsible for interpreting and community relations. Steven Snow said he commends St. Luke's Hospital for making the commitment to the deaf community.

St. Alphonsus Hospital: Steven Snow said he has been invited to present at the St. Alphonsus Hospital advisory board meeting for input about how to best serve the Deaf community.

PepNet: Steven Snow said he is a member of the Idaho Coalition on Transition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (PepNet). Steven Snow said he is part of a core group that has been meeting to discuss different states resources for deaf and hard of hearing students and their transition. Steven Snow said there have been several meetings with one more scheduled where there are workgroups to provide guidance for ensuring that deaf and hard of hearing students have the highest quality services.

Meridian Police/School District: Steven Snow said he met with the Resource officer from Meridian School District to discuss safety issues for deaf or hard of hearing students in a lock down situation. Steven Snow said currently there is no written policy concerning lockdown situations where there are disabled students present. Steven Snow said he suggested text messaging, alerting signals, etc.

North Idaho: Steven Snow said he will be making a trip to northern Idaho in the spring to meet with several people concerning services and situations that are arising with deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

Infant Toddler/Idaho Sound Beginnings: Brian Shakespeare said Idaho Sound Beginnings is starting a new protocol where if a child is referred after a hearing screening, the second diagnostic appointment is scheduled before the child leaves the hospital. Brian Shakespeare said there are currently 4 hospitals participating in the pilot program with good results.

Brian Shakespeare said Idaho Sound Beginnings has provided diagnostic ABR machines to clinics in northern Idaho to assist with screening for infants because there is not pediatric audiologist in the area. Brian Shakespeare said Idaho Sound Beginnings is providing pediatric audiology training to 40 participants.

Brian Shakespeare said in 2015, fifty-seven children born in Idaho were identified through newborn hearing screening and another 15 identified through later onset testing. Brian Shakespeare said they have identified children in Idaho who were born in Border States and another 3 that were found through risk factor testing.

Vocational Rehabilitation: Doug Clapp said Vocational Rehabilitation is providing Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) to students starting at age 14. Doug Clapp said the federal government is now mandating that Vocational Rehabilitation support temporary employment for students in order to provide work experiences. Doug Clapp said there are a lot of questions and "kinks" to work out but the program should be up and running in the summer.

Bureau of Occupational Licenses: Betsy Duncan said for fiscal year 2016, there are 3 new audiologists licensed in Idaho, 8 new hearing aid dealers, 82 Speech Language Pathologists, one Speech Language Pathologist aid and 33 provisional permits for Speech Language Pathologists.

Betsy Duncan said the Bureau of Occupational Licenses is anxious to work with Interpreters when the licensure legislation is passed.

Department of Education: Renee Miner said this is her first meeting with the Council and will be the conduit to providing information to educators concerning deaf and hard of hearing issues.

Adjourn: Steven Birkby motioned to adjourn the meeting, Heidi Jeffs seconded the motion. The motioned passed, meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2016 AT THE BEST WESTERN VISTA INN.