

**COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

April 28, 2017

Note: Full Transcripts are available upon request

PARTICIPANTS: Council Members: Joelynn Ball (Chairing) (Representing Interpreters), Shannon Gower (Representing Audiologists), Emilie Banasiak (Representing an organization of hard of hearing persons), Russ Patterson (Representing hard of hearing individual over the age of 60), Jacob Robison (Representing physicians); Steven Birkby (Representing an organization of deaf individuals), Gretchen Fors (Representing parent of a hard of hearing child), Jerry Wilding (Representing deaf individuals) Excused: Heidi Jeffs (Representing parent of a deaf child)

Ex Officio Members: Steven Snow, Doug Clapp, Brian Shakespeare, Brian Darcy, Gordon Graff, Betsy Duncan and Bob Dunbar

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Holly Thomas-Mowery, LaVona Andrew, Lisa Doyon, Ray Lockary, Lorna Irwin, and Bill Andrew

INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order by Joelynn Ball and introductions were made. Joelynn welcomed new member Dr. Jacob Robison representing physicians and announced that Shannon Gower will not be seeking a new term but has a replacement in mind that she is encouraging to apply to the Council.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Joelynn Ball administered the Oath of Office to new member Dr. Jacob Robison.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2016 TELECONFERENCE MEETING:

Jacob Robison motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Russ Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PERFECTION OF AGENDA:

Joelynn Ball requested to amend the agenda to add Betsy Duncan from the Bureau of Occupational Licenses to present her report after the morning break. Steven Birkby motioned to amend the agenda, Jacob Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

2017 Budget: Steven Snow said the balance of Operating funds at this point of the Fiscal Year is \$10,078.97 but with projected expenses, including cost of this Council meeting, office expenses and a donation to the Rotary Club Leadership conference for interpreter services to be provided, the balance will be \$1,106.97 which will be used to purchase replacement or new equipment for the Council's demonstration and loan centers throughout the state. Steven Snow said the centers have been asked to provide a list of their requests which will be reviewed and equipment purchased before the end of the Fiscal Year 2017.

Legislation Update/Federal Legislation: Steven Snow said there are 2 legislative bills that the Council is currently monitoring, HB620 and HR1493. Steven Snow said both of these measure failed in the Legislature last year. HB620 is the Americans with Disabilities Act Educational Reform Act of 2017, HR1493 is clarification of how to file legal action including a change to have a letter written to the business or other entity before a suit is filed. The National Association of the Deaf opposes these bills believing they weaken the protections for vulnerable populations.

Steven Snow said the Council is also monitoring HR1120 which is the Alice Cogswell and Ann Sullivan act that is an amendment to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act which has a component that is designed to address deaf-blind students.

Steven Snow said HR1539 and S621 re-authorizes the funding for Newborn Hearing Screening throughout the county and also clarifies the role of the Centers for Disease Control and involving the Education Department more in the process is being monitored at this time.

Steven Snow said another measure being monitored is SB48 which gives a \$500 tax credit every 5 years for hearing aids.

Steven Snow said S9, the bill that allows over the counter hearing aids will be discussed by the Council at a later time during this meeting.

Steven Snow said another Federal action is an 8 month trial conducted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which concerns specific qualifications for interpreters providing Video Relay Service (VRS) for legal or medical interpreting needs. Steven Snow said the FCC is now allowing Certified Deaf Interpreters to be utilized and reimbursed. Steven Snow said the FCC will set up a website where consumers can compare factors in VRS and make a decision on who they want as their primary provider. Steven Snow said the FCC is also providing a pilot program where hearing individuals can obtain a video phone or a video phone number that they can use in different apps for their cell phone, etc. Steven Snow said currently, only deaf individuals can receive a video phone number or video phone and this trial would allow hearing individuals who utilize sign language to communicate with a deaf individual be allowed to have a video phone. Steven Snow said these trials are only slated for an 8 month trial where feedback is being requested by the FCC to determine if the programs would be permanent.

Legislative Update/ Idaho Legislation: HB46 Sign Language Licensing Bill passed and was signed into law on March 20, 2017. Steven Snow said Governor Otter has a ceremonial signing of the bill on March 29, 2017 which was attended by several individuals. Steven Snow thanked everyone for their assistance in getting the bill passed. Steven Snow said the next steps will be to have the Governor appoint an Interpreter to the Hearing, Speech and Communications Services Board and then the rule making process will begin. Steven Snow said the implementation of the law will be July 1, 2018.

Council Activities: Steven Snow said the Council sponsored a family with hard of hearing children at Christmas. Steven Snow thanked all the members who helped with the event. Steven Snow said the family received gifts totaling \$1,300 including clothes, toys, gift cards and bicycles. Steven Snow said the family was so thankful. Steven Snow said he would like to expand to sponsoring an additional family this year.

Steven Snow said the Meet and Greet at the Capitol was cancelled this year because of the snowstorm. He said this is an important event for the Council and various vendors, and hopefully next year the Meet and Greet will take place.

Steven Snow said he gave presentations on two days at the Department of Health and Welfare to service workers who might have a deaf client. Steven Snow said the presentations were well attended and he answered many questions. Steven Snow said he will do presentations in the future. Steven Snow said the Council receives a lot of questions from employees from Health and Welfare due to the location of the Council office.

Steven Snow said the Executive Director of the Rotary Club has asked the Council to be involved with the Rotary Youth Leadership Activity which is a leadership camp for juniors and seniors in high school. Steven Snow said he is working with the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind to identify students who would be interested in attending. Steven Snow said the Council would help with the camp by supporting interpreter services.

Steven Snow said he was invited to attend an event presented by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Civil Rights. Steven Snow said the event focused on different topics that involve people with disabilities, refugees, immigrants, and new Americans. Steven Snow said the event focused on hate crimes. Steven Snow said he has been speaking with the DOJ regarding getting some federal funds to hire people who are proficient in working with deaf refugees. Steven Snow said this process would take a long time, but the conversation has been started.

Steven Snow said he provided training to law enforcement officers in Filer, Idaho. Steven Snow said it was well attended and he was asked to provide additional training in the future.

Steven Snow said he presented to both the House and Senate subcommittees this year on what the Council is and who the Council serves. Steven Snow said in addition, Jane Donnellan presented to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee for the budget request for the Council included in the Vocational Rehabilitation budget request.

Steven Snow said he has had meetings with the West Ada School District concerning alarms and emergency drills. Steven Snow said he has discussed the need for changes in the emergency notification system for deaf employees and students. Steven Snow said this will be an ongoing discussion.

Steven Snow said he has been consulted and provided information for St. Alphonsus Hospital's Advisory Council which was established to obtain the best information and provide insight to the needs of deaf or hard of hearing patients. Steven Snow said he was asked to advise the Advisory Council on the contract to Video Relay Services providers. Steven Snow said there has been a provider chosen, however, the contract has not been signed as of yet.

Steven Snow said the Council has created a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Driver placard. He apologized for a typographical error that one person has brought to his attention. Steven Snow said the placard will be provided to people who request them. Steven Snow said we are monitoring the distribution of the cards so that they are utilized by the proper population.

Steven Snow said the Council has donated \$1,300 for a parent to attend the National Hands and Voices conference. Steven Snow said the person who attends will be required to present a small report to the Council on the conference.

Steven Snow said the state of Idaho has purchased the Hewlett-Packard building near Chinden. Steven Snow said he has had conversation with the Department of Administration about possibly moving the Council's office to that location. Steven Snow said nothing has been determined yet and he will keep the Board members informed.

Steven Snow said the Council is partnering with Idaho State University to do a study regarding hearing aids including cost and insurance coverage. Steven Snow said this report will probably take an additional year to complete.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of additional Full Time Employee (FTE): Steven Snow said the Council approved the request for an additional FTE for last year's legislation session, however, that request was denied. Steven Snow said there is a need for another FTE for the Council. The job description and salary scale were discussed by the Council. Gretchen Fors motioned that the Council include the request for one additional FTE to the legislature. Jerry Wilding seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of Budget Request FY2019: Steven Snow said the budget request for the 2019 Fiscal year is \$327,410 including personnel and operating expenses. Jacob Robison motioned that the Council present this amount to the legislature for FY2019. Gretchen Fors seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Award Nominations: Steven Snow presented 2 forms for nominations for award presented by the Council to a business or agency or an individual who is outstanding in providing opportunities for Idaho's Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers. There was discussion about the

forms with some minor typographical and format corrections. Russ Patterson motioned to approve the forms as corrected to be used for nominating a business or agency or an individual. Shannon Gower seconded the motion. The motion passed.

CDHH position on SB9 (Over the Counter Hearing Aids) Steven Snow said this legislation was introduced at the Federal level. Steven Snow said many states are starting to ask about what the Council's position on over the counter hearing aids. Steven Snow said the Council would like to be able to provide input to our Congressional Representative in Washington, D.C. so they could vote accordingly. Steven Snow provided a list of agencies that support and oppose the legislation. There was much discussion from the Council. Shannon Gower motioned that the Council oppose the Over the Counter Hearing Aid legislation. Jacob Robison and Russ Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 voting, 2 abstaining and 1 absent.

Priorities for FY2018: Jacob Robison motioned and Russ Patterson seconded the motion that the following be the Council priorities for 2018:

- Sign Language Interpreter license support as needed
- Outreach
- Create legislation to have a voluntary database available for police and other first responders when encountering deaf or hard of hearing individuals.

The motion passed.

Dates of FY2018 Council meetings: Russ Patterson motioned and Jacob Robison seconded the motion that the Council will meet on the following dates:

- Friday, September 8, 2017
- Thursday, November 16, 2017 (teleconference)
- Meet and Greet (TBD either January 2018 or February 2018)
- Friday, April 20, 2018

DEAF EDUCATION GUIDING DOCUMENTS: Brian Darcy reported that IESDB has been creating a new definition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children in the Idaho Special Education Manual. Brian Darcy said the current definitions that need to be followed are confusing. Brian Darcy said the new definition will be clearer. Brian Darcy said the proposed definitions are being reviewed by attorneys, speech language pathologists, special education directors and the Department of Education for vetting before it is accepted. Brian Darcy said students will be provided appropriate services according to their needs as defined by the new definition. Brian Darcy thanked those involved in the work of getting the new definition including Paula Mason, Director of Outreach at IESDB and Steven Snow.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IESDB) Brian Darcy said currently there are 1,509 students including 159 babies. Brian Darcy said the legislator approved a budget of close to 11 million dollars. Brian Darcy said some of this funding will be used to create a career ladder for teachers. Brian Darcy said IESDB was able to provide new FM systems for

every region. Brian Darcy said the budget also allowed for the hiring of two more administrative positions which will be extremely helpful in the evaluation process. Brian Darcy said there are a few positions available for employment at IESDB including elementary teachers and audiologist. Brian Darcy thanked the partnerships that IESDB has with various agencies, which he said causes a lot of positive work to be accomplished at IESDB. Brian Darcy said graduation is scheduled for May 25, 2017 with Bill Andrew being the keynote speaker.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR): Doug Clapp said there have been some staff changes at Vocational Rehabilitation. Nanna will now be the assistant to Director, Jane Donnellan. Doug Clapp said Allison Loentheld will be overseeing the transition program. Doug Clapp said there are various other positions that Vocational Rehabilitation will be recruiting for. Doug Clapp said Vocational Rehabilitation is involved quite heavily with transition programs that will include funding the summer work experience which will provide monies for students from IESDB to experience summer employment.

Idaho Sound Beginnings (ISB): Brian Shakespeare said there was a Federal bill passed that requires the Department of Health and Welfare to form an informational campaign to inform the public about Cytomegalovirus (CMV) and to require targeted testing for CMV in infants.

Brian Shakespeare said the screening rate for ISB is 99.3%. Brian Shakespeare said the rate of follow up for children who were referred dropped from 30% to between 8% and 9%. Brian Shakespeare said that drop is because of the change in definition on the contact with parents.

Brian Shakespeare said there were 55 children diagnosed with hearing loss in 2015.

Brian Shakespeare said the funding for ISB was renewed for 3 more years, however, which might include a budget cut of about 43%. Brian Shakespeare said if the budget cut was fulfilled, it would not cause any major funding from the program, just some fringe items that they do. Brian Shakespeare said they are waiting to hear what Congress does.

Brian Shakespeare said ISB is bringing Idaho Hands and Voices Guide By Your Side to Idaho. Brian Shakespeare said the CARE PROJECT has selected Idaho to be included to provide a retreat for Idaho families of deaf or hard of hearing children in 2018. The retreat would provide workshops, classes and experts to talk with parents. Brian Shakespeare said ISB would be seeking volunteers and additional funding for the retreat, but would know more as the date approaches.

Idaho Department of Labor (IDL): Gordon Graff said IDL has partnered with IESDB and VR for the Work Readiness Camp. Gordon Graff said IDL will probably be a 1-Stop Operator for work related issues in the future. Gordon Graff said IDL has partnered with the Idaho Employment of First Consortium to develop six short videos on SSI and SSDI which can be accessed via the internet. Gordon Graff said the videos are captioned. Gordon Graff presented an updated version of "Willing and Able A Job Hunting Guide for Idahoans with Disabilities".

Public Utilities Commission: Bob Dunbar said Hamilton Relay was granted the contract for relay services in Idaho. Bob Dunbar said there is a scheduled audit and recertification with the

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which he will be assisting Hamilton Relay. Bob Dunbar said there is no clear direction from the new administration regarding how the FCC will provide regulations for internet services, relay, internet relay, etc., Bob Dunbar said he would be monitoring what is happening in that arena and would keep everybody informed.

Bob Dunbar said Hamilton Relay did not meet the requirement for speed in answering a call because there was a tornado at the call center in Georgia which halted operations for a while. Bob Dunbar said the Hamilton staff worked tremendously hard to continue providing services even though the call center had significant damage.

Bureau of Occupational Licenses: Betsy Duncan reported that the Bureau of Occupational Licenses has licensed in Idaho 109 Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters and 115 licensed Audiologist. Betsy Duncan said the Speech, Hearing and Communications Services Licensing Board will have a meeting on May 11, 2017. Betsy Duncan said the Governor will appoint an interpreter to that board hopefully quickly so that board member can participate in the rule making process. Betsy Duncan said the process of setting rules for the Sign Language Interpreter Licensing will be discussed at the meeting and a subcommittee will be formed. Betsy Duncan said the deadline for the rule draft is the third week in August. Betsy Duncan said the subcommittee will be asking for assistance from Steven Snow and the Council to assist in the rule making process. Betsy Duncan said the sign language interpreter license fee will be \$30 for the application and \$70 for the license totally \$100 for the year.

Adjourn: Steven Snow said he would like some suggestions on a guest speaker on a specific topic for the meeting in September. Steven Snow said member could contact him at the office with suggestions.

Steven Birkby motioned to adjourn the meeting, Russ Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned.