

COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES

January 18, 2018

*Note: Full Transcripts are available upon request*

**PARTICIPANTS:** Council Members: Joelynn Ball, Chairperson (Representing Interpreters) Kate Savage (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), Jacob Robison (Representing physicians) and Gretchen Fors (Representing parent of a hard of hearing child)

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

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Holly Thomas-Mowery, LaVona Andrew, Anissa Nierenberger, Brittany Rae Joyner, Christie Curtiss, Ray Lockary, Heather Atherton, Kynzi Williamson, Michael Stevens, Macy Henze, and Kayla Adams

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Heidi Jeffs motioned to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2017 teleconference as presented. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**PERFECTION OF AGENDA:**

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

**COMMENTS:**

Jacob Robison said one of the Christmas families that the Council sponsored has children who are his patients. Jacob Robison said the mother of the family told him at their last appointment how appreciative she was of the sponsorship.

Joelynn Ball presented Steven Snow with a Certificate of Commendation from Governor Otter for ten years of service to the Council.

**DEBRIEF MEET AND GREET:**

Various council members commented on the success of the Meet and Greet. Steven Snow said there were more “freshmen” Legislators who visited the vendor booths. Steven Snow said there are vendors who attend every year and some new ones this year including St. Alphonsus Hospital and the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation. Steven Snow said the

Council wants to include new vendors every year and if the members have a specific new vendor in mind, please let him know so they could be invited.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Full Time Employee:** Steven Snow said the Governor did not recommend the Council's request for another full-time employee (FTE). Steven Snow said at the April Council meeting there will be a discussion on whether to request another FTE starting in FY 2020.

**Federal Legislation:** Steven Snow said legislation at the federal level includes the bill which funds over the counter (OTC) hearing aids. Steven Snow said the Council sent letter of opposition to both the House of Representatives and Senate, however, the bill has passed both the House and Senate and signed into law. Steven Snow said the next step is the Food and Drug administration has three years to create rules and regulations. Steven Snow said there will be a time for public comments which will be an opportunity to share thoughts and concerns about the bill. The bill becomes effective on October 1, 2020.

**State Legislation:** Steven Snow said there is a proposed bill in the Idaho legislature now which would require insurance companies to cover the cost of hearing aids for children. He said the bill is in the preliminary stages and the hope is that it gets another sponsor and a hearing in the Health and Welfare committee. Gretchen Fors said she was surprised that the bill was introduced this year and has worked with Representative Rubel to get the bill to the next step. Gretchen Fors contacted the media and was interviewed at the Meet and Greet by Channel 6 news concerning the legislation. Steven Snow said he would keep the Council abreast of what is happening with the bill.

Steven Snow said the Interpreter License Bill that was passed last year will need to have 3 proposed amendments this year. Steven Snow said the amendments include: 1) Qualified educational interpreters will be exempt from obtaining a license. 2) Interpreters from other states who hold a certification for that state will not be required to get a license in Idaho when they work in Idaho for under 30 days, and 3) there will be an amendment to change the age of licensing from 21 to 18.

**Christmas Families:** Steven Snow said this year the Council sponsored two families for Christmas. Steven Snow said one was from Athol in northern Idaho and one from Middleton in the Treasure Valley. Steven Snow said there were many, many donations adding up to over \$1,500 and all the request from the families were met. Steven Snow said the families were so appreciative and it is heartwarming to sponsor the families and we will continue to sponsor 2 families, one from the Treasure Valley and one from a different location in Idaho.

### **Council Activities:**

Steven Snow said the Council partnered with Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind for a meeting about transition hosted at the Council's offices. Steven Snow said this year there were about 60 people who attended compared to 2 last year. Steven Snow said the meeting was very successful.

Steven Snow said he presented at the Idaho Department of Human Resources providing information about employment of Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals. Steven Snow said he presented ideas for opportunities for different agencies to hire Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals and he felt the information was well received.

Steven Snow said he will be the Keynote speaker regarding emergency notifications/management for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community at the upcoming Idaho Emergency Management Annual Conference.

Steven Snow said there is an opening on the Board for an individual who is hard of hearing over the age of 60. Steven Snow encouraged the board to notify anybody they knew who would qualify to apply for the vacant position.

Steven Snow said on February 17, 2018 there will be a workshop sponsored by the Idaho State University's interpreter training program, where Holly Thomas Mowery will provide information about interpreting in a Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse situation. Steven Snow said the Council members are invited to attend.

Steven Snow said Disability Awareness Day is January 24, 2018 at the Capitol. Steven Snow said he will be conducting tours of the Capitol in ASL.

Steven Snow said the next Board meeting is in April. Cindy Schreiner said she will send out meeting reminders closer to the time of the meeting.

Heidi Jeffs and Gretchen Fors wanted to discuss the school boundary changes proposed in the West Ada School district where the deaf and hard of hearing students will be effected. Joelynne Ball said the Council should not discuss the changes until the Administration from IESDB was there to address the concerns.

## **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:**

**Infant Toddler/Idaho Sound Beginnings:** Brian Shakespeare said Idaho Sound Beginnings has sponsored and completed training for Hands and Voices Guide by Your Side. Brian Shakespeare said that the representatives from Guide by Your Side have contacted all the families who children were diagnosed with hearing loss and will now contact families of older children.

Brian Shakespeare said Idaho Sound Beginnings will have a CARE Project camp this summer following the example of the North Carolina CARE camp. Brian Shakespeare said when they have more information about where the camp will be and other activities, he will report to the Council. Brian Shakespeare said there is a need for volunteers and encouraged the Board and others to volunteer.

**Vocational Rehabilitation:** Doug Clapp said the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has made a significant impact on the services that Vocational Rehabilitation can provide to transitioning students. Doug Clapp said students can now get services at a younger age

including Job Coaching and work experience. Doug Clapp said there will be a meeting soon for a day of training regarding the WIOA program and he will have more information and direction after the meeting.

**Bureau of Occupational Licenses:** Betsy Duncan said for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2017 (October – December) there were 5 new licenses issued to Hearing Aid Dealers/Fitters for a total of 116 current active licenses and 3 inactive licenses in Idaho. Betsy Duncan said there are currently 5 provisional permits (working under a supervisor’s license) in Idaho. Betsy Duncan said there were 0 new licenses issued to Audiologist for a total of 117 current, active licenses in Idaho and 2 inactive licenses.

Betsy Duncan said the Bureau of Occupational Licenses is looking forward to working with Interpreters receiving licenses.

**Adjourn:** Heidi Jeffs motioned to adjourn the meeting. There were several seconds of the motion. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018 AT THE BEST WESTERN VISTA INN.