

COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

April 20, 2018

*Draft minutes to be approved at September 14, 2018 Council meeting
Note: Full Transcripts are available upon request*

PARTICIPANTS: Council Members: Joelynn Ball (Chairing) (Representing Interpreters), Kate Savage (Representing Audiologists), Emilie Banasiak (Representing an organization of hard of hearing persons), 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), Jacob Robison (representing physicians) Vacant position: (Representing hard of hearing individual over the age of 60).

Ex Officio Members: Steven Snow, Doug Clapp, Gordon Graff, and Betsy Duncan

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Fran Bennett, LaVona Andrew, Andrea Couch, Ian Stone, Sue Finney, Carrie Peters, Steve Yates, Kelley Packer, Bailey Neuhaus, Anissa Nierenberger, and Ray Lockary

INTRODUCTIONS:

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

OATH OF OFFICE:

Joelynn Ball administered the Oath of Office to new member Kate Savage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2018 MEETING

Kate Savage motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PERFECTION OF AGENDA:

Joelynn Ball requested to amend the agenda to remove the report by Brian Darcy from Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind as he would not be attending the meeting. Heidi Jeffs motioned to amend the agenda, Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed.

OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Heidi Jeffs said there is a company that is now ready to create ears out of stem cells. Heidi Jeffs said a representative from the Microtia Community has presented to the Food and Drug Administration. Heidi Jeffs said the Microtia Community is monitoring the progress of this issue.

Gretchen Fors said she wanted to thank all those who worked on HR 45 this year. Gretchen Fors said she was pleased with the outcome of how the information about the lack of insurance coverage for hearing aids was received by the Legislation this year. Gretchen Fors said the hearing aid coverage legislation will be continued next Legislative session.

Gretchen Fors asked Steven Snow About the new Guidelines for Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Steven Birkby said the guidelines were approved which clarify that students with hearing loss are identified in one group so that each student can receive the services that they need regardless of the degree of hearing loss.

Steven Snow said he would invite Paula Mason from Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind who was instrumental in upgrading the guidelines to the next Council meeting to explain/clarify the new guidelines and to answer any specific question.

Emilie Banasiak said she is happy that CDHH received permission and funding to hire an additional part time employee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Legislation Update/Federal Legislation: Steven Snow said House Resolution 620 (HR620) the legislation that would change how complaints are filed for any Americans with Disabilities Act violation has been debated at the federal level with both support and opposition. Steven Snow said currently HR620 is being held in a Senate committee and he would keep the Council informed of the status of HR620.

Legislative Update/ Idaho Legislation: Steven Snow said House Bill 411 that amended the Interpreter License Bill passed the Legislature. The amendments included correcting the age of licensing from 21 to 18, clarification about out of state license for interpreters from states that do not require a license, certification would be recognized, and to make clear that educational interpreters did not have to be licensed, however, they need to follow the Educational Interpreter Act to be exempt from licensure in K-12 settings. Steven Snow said the rules for Interpreter license passed through the Germaine committees and did not need the vote of the full House or Senate.

Steven Snow said Concurrent Resolution 45 concerning insurance payment for hearing aids was created this Legislative Session. Steven Snow said at the next Legislative session, the resolution could result in 3 different outcomes, 1) nothing will happen, 2) the Insurance Industry will agree and Legislation will go forward, or 3) the dialogue will lead to Legislative activity for later years. Steven Snow said he would keep the Council updated on what happens next.

Interpreter License: Steven Snow said the licensing process has begun with applications available from the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses. Steven Snow said there were a few questions regarding Endorsements and Out of State license which have been resolved. Steven Snow said this is a new process and there will be some details continuing to come up, but should be resolved quickly. Steven Snow said the first license has not been granted yet, but he is looking forward to the licenses being granted.

Budget:

2018 Budget: Steven Snow said the balance of Operating funds at this point of the Fiscal Year is \$7,859.73 with projected expenses of about \$5,402.00 leaving an operating balance of today of

approximately \$2,387.00. Steven Snow said the budget will be completely utilized by the end of the Fiscal year 2018.

FY2019 Budget: Steven Snow said the Legislature approved CDHH hiring a part time employee with full benefits beginning in the Fiscal Year 2019. Steven Snow said the position is for a Communications and Outreach Coordinator. Steven Snow said the person will be responsible for outreach and training. Steven Snow said the candidates must be well trained on several issues including law-related, emergency, education, which would require a level of motivation and commitment. Steven Snow said he wants a person who is really qualified to represent CDHH. Steven Snow said the position has been posted in several places and CDHH has started receiving resumes. Steven Snow said the position is open until May 31, 2018, with interviews taking place after that and the person starting in August.

Idaho Emergency Managers Association: Steven Snow said he presented to the Idaho Emergency Managers Association on policies could be adapted to provide better support for the deaf and hard of hearing community during disasters. Steven Snow said he has been invited to different counties to present on this topic.

Suicide Hotline: Steven Snow said he had been contacted by a representative from the Suicide Hotline about access for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Steven Snow said he discussed various options to provide access to deaf and hard of hearing individuals including having video phones, a person who could sign or even texting. Steven Snow said the conversation will continue and he will keep the Council informed.

“Making Sense”: Steven Snow said Doug Cole is making a movie about people with various disabilities. Steven Snow said he has been asked to be the consultant on the script to ensure that the integration of the deaf characters are culturally correct and the movie is authentic and correct. Steven Snow said the movie is a large budget film with famous actors and local actors. Steven Snow said there will be a “Red Carpet” opening at the Egyptian and then the movie will be released nationwide.

Core Group Reality: Steven Snow said CDHH partnered with Core Group Reality to provide a workshop presented in American Sign Language on how to purchase a home. Steven Snow said the workshop was presented by Holly Thomas Mowery. Steven Snow said there will be additional workshops in the future. Steven Snow said there were requests to provide the workshops out of the Treasure Valley area which might be a challenge.

Other Presentations: Steven Snow said he has given a variety of presentations about deaf related topics to various agencies including Boise State University, Idaho State University, middle schools and high school with deaf students to present about his background. Steven Snow said on April 30, 2018 he will be participating with the Idaho Supreme Court Language Access Committee. Steven Snow said one topic will be about the enforcement of Rule 52 which is about access to interpreters in the courtroom. Steven Snow said he is also serving on the National Association of the Deaf’s Interpreters Agency Regulation Enforcement committee to establish accreditation to agencies that provide interpreters meet minimum qualification standards.

Steven Snow said he will be participating in several upcoming events including “Engaged for Change”, “Idaho Coalition on Secondary Transition for Deaf or Hard of Hearing”, sponsoring Sawtooth Deaf Camp, and setting up a concealed carry weapon class taught in American Sign Language just to name a few.

Notary Public: Steven Snow said both he and Cindy Schreiner are now Notary Publics so we can notarize the Sign Language License applications if requested to do so.

PRESENTATION BY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATE:

Steve Yates presented to the Council his qualifications for being Lieutenant Governor. He answered questions and provided information.

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH REPORT:

Bailey Neuhaus said she is currently conducting ongoing research of the impact of untreated hearing loss over and individual’s lifespan. Bailey Neuhaus reported on some of her research findings regarding the quality of life of those with hearing loss, her research techniques and criteria, and responses from audiologists. Bailey Neuhaus said she will continue with her research and present finding on how the Legislature can assist with funding of hearing aids that can impact the quality of life for Idahoans with hearing loss. Steven Snow said he is encouraged by this research as it specifically targets Idaho. Steven Snow said when the research is complete, CDHH will publish the report and utilize it in supporting efforts to get insurance agencies to cover the cost of hearing aids.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Budget Request FY2020: Steven Snow said the budget request for the 2020Fiscal year is \$275,720 which includes personnel, capital, and operating expenses. Gretchen Fors motioned the Council present \$275,720 the legislature for FY2020. Kate Savage seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Award Nominations: Steven Snow presented a nomination for Cedar Ridge Dairy to be awarded the “Outstanding Business or Organization Award” for making a positive impact on Idaho’s the deaf and hard of hearing community. Kate Savage made the motion Cedar Ridge Dairy to be recognized and receive the award. Heidi Jeffs seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Statute Updates: Steven Snow said agencies periodically update their statutes. Steven Snow said the Council has never updated its statute and he would like to present an update to the Legislation next year which would include updated verbiage among others. Steven Snow said the updates would include: (Referencing the attached document)

- Line 8: Changing the percent of general population from 10% to 13%
- Line 21: Any reference to “hearing impaired” will be changed to “People who are deaf or hard of hearing”

- Lines 34 34, 35, 38, 39 and 46: Steven Snow said he would contact Paula Mason to ensure language was the same in the Council statute revisions as in the Guidelines for Education to ensure consistency in the statute updates.
- Line 59: Changing “National” organization to “organization”
- Line 62: Add the word “license” for interpreter and remove “for the deaf” and add “sign language”
- Line 70: change “Office on Aging” to “Commission on Aging”
- Line 71: change “Department of Employment” to “Department of Labor”
- Line 73: remove “Hearing Aid Society” as that organization does not exist
- Lines 89 and 90 the verbiage would be consistent and say, “sign language interpreter” and remove “for the deaf”

Joelynn Ball said she would like to see the statute changed to use the “People First” language. Steven Snow said those edits would be included. Steven Birkby asked that the edits be reviewed by the Board members before they are sent to the Legislature. Steven Snow said he would forward the edits before sending to the Legislature to make sure all were correct.

Jerry Wilding motioned the updates to the statutes be sent to the Legislature. Steven Birkby seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Priorities for FY2018: There was discussion about the Council’s Priorities for FY 2019 with the following presented by Steven Snow:

- Research on Access and Barriers to Healthcare among Deaf users of ASL (in partnership with Idaho State University)
- Hearing Aids: Including Reinstating State Medicaid Coverage for Adults and Monitoring the progress of House CR 45
- Promoting Awareness on Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Requirements to business/governmental entities and the community

Heidi Jeffs motioned to accept the presented priorities. Emilie Banasiak seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Election of Officers: Heidi Jeffs nominated Joelynn Ball to continue as Chairman, Steven Birkby seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, Joelynn Ball will remain as Chair by acclamation.

Heidi Jeffs nominated Steven Birkby to continue as Vice-Chairman, Gretchen Fors seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, Steven Birkby will remain as Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Joelynn Ball nominated Gretchen Fors for the position in the Executive Committee. Heidi Jeffs seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, Gretchen Fors is on the Executive Committee by acclamation.

Dates of FY2019 Council meetings: Cindy proposed the following dates for upcoming Council meetings:

- Friday, September 7, 2018
- Thursday, November 15, 2018 (teleconference)
- Meet and Greet, Thursday, January 17, 2019** (This date was added after confirming Capitol rotunda availability)
- Friday, April 26, 2019

Heidi Jeffs motioned to accept the dates of the FY2019 meetings with the addition of the date for the Meet and Greet. Steven Birkby seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PRESENTATION ON CAPTIONING:

Anissa Nierenberger from IdaCaption discussed with the Council her and Andrea Couch's efforts to provide caption services to different venues throughout the state. Anissa Nierenberger said they will be focusing on getting captioning in the Legislative sessions. Anissa Nierenberger asked the Council for suggestions on where and who she could contact to get captioning in different venues. Anissa Nierenberger said she would like to partner with the Council to bring captioning throughout the state. Anissa Nierenberger answered several questions about where and how captioning is available including that captioning is available on any mobile device which would make it easier for any venue as a large screen is not needed.

PRESENTATION BY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATE:

Representative Kelley Packer presented to the Council his qualifications for being Lieutenant Governor. She answered questions and provided information.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR): Doug Clapp said Vocational Rehabilitation is upgrading the guidelines and changes for working with students. Doug Clapp said students now get work experience and Vocational Rehabilitation will pay for up to 100 hours of work, and when the students get permanent employment, Vocational Rehabilitation will not be involved after that point.

Doug Clapp said the Federal standards have changed from closing a file after a student has 3 months of employment to following the student from graduating high school into moving successfully through college. Doug Clapp said Vocational Rehabilitation is collecting data and reporting to the Federal agency.

Idaho Department of Labor (IDL): Gordon Graff said the IDL has a new Director, Melinda Smyser. Gordon Graff said the Workforce Development Council will be its own agency under the Governor instead of being supported by the Department of Labor. Gordon Graff said when the economy is doing well, there is less staffing at the IDL. Gordon Graff said IDL is partnering with the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind on workforce summer camps which will

be two and three-day camps in separate parts of the state. Gordon Graff said the camps will be separated for Blind/visually impaired students and Deaf/hard of hearing students this year.

Gordon Graff said new accessible computers have been installed in the local offices. Gordon Graff said IDL has developed short resource pages to provide to staff members to assist people with disabilities to access suitable websites. Gordon Graff said IDL is providing videos on SSI and SSDI that are captioned that provides information to clients.

Gordon Graff said there has been a group called Statewide Website Accessibility Team (SWAT) that provides resources to Web Masters and state agencies for making their websites accessible.

Gordon Graff said he will be retiring in June and will inform the Council who will be his replacement.

Bureau of Occupational Licenses: Betsy Duncan said the Bureau of Occupational Licenses has licensed in Idaho 114 Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters and 117 licensed Audiologist. Betsy Duncan said the Interpreter License applications are available and she will email the links to CDHH to post to Facebook.

ADJOURN:

Heidi Jeffs motioned to adjourn the meeting, Kate Savage seconded the motion. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned.