

**COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2018**

*Draft minutes to be approved at November 15, 2018 Council meeting
Note: Full Transcripts are available upon request*

PARTICIPANTS: Council Members: Joelynn Ball (Chairing) (Representing Interpreters), Kate Savage (Representing Audiologists), Heidi Jeffs (Representing parent of a deaf child), 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), and Marva Kubalik (Representing hard of hearing individual over the age of 60). Excused: Emilie Banasiak (Representing an organization of hard of hearing persons).

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

Others: Cindy Schreiner, Sierra McIver, Brittany-Rae Joyner, Ray Lockery, Grace Scherer, Bailey Neuhaus, LaVona Andrew, Dawn Wells, Lisa Doyon, Anne Flannery, Melisa Wintrow, Ray Lockary and Krista Kramer (via remote).

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 Marva Kubalik.

PRESENTATION:

Joelynn Ball presented a 10-year service award to Executive Director, Steven Snow.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2018 MEETING

Gretchen Fors motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Heidi Jeffs 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, but she would read a report from him. Joelynn Ball requested to move the report from Brian Shakespeare to first on the agenda for Ex-Officio reports as he will have to leave before the meeting is adjourned. Heidi Jeffs motioned to amend the agenda, Gretchen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Heidi Jeffs said the Ear Community was awarded a grant in conjunction with Harvard University and Vanderbilt to start conducting a genetic study of atresia.

Gretchen Fors said she wanted to thank Steven Snow for his help with the change in Legislative rules for insurance coverage for hearing aids for children. Gretchen Fors said she will be on the radio with Gemma Gaudette's program, Idaho Matters to discuss the legislation.

Gretchen Fors said there will be a forum at Boise State University concerning the changes in the Idaho Deaf and Hard of Hearing handbook for schools has been amended. Gretchen Fors said the meeting is October 29 from 9 until 3. Sierra McIver said there is a flyer posted on CDHH website with details.

Lisa Doyon said the Sinclair Broadcast Company which owns television stations has started using captioning software that is inadequate. Lisa Doyon said if consumers wanted to file a complaint about the captioning to do so with the Federal Communications Commission.

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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Steven Snow introduced new employee, Sierra McIver who will be the Communications and Outreach Coordinator for the Council. Sierra McIver gave a brief biography of her qualifications.

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 passed in the House but was tabled in the Senate. Steven Snow said it appears this bill will not continue, and he is not sure if it will be brought up again. Steven Snow said he will keep the Council updated if there is any change.

Steven Snow said HR5381, the Keith Nolan Air Force Demonstration Act is a Resolution that the Air Force has presented to have a pilot program that will allow Deaf and Hard of Hearing participants be able to serve in the Air Force in non-combat roles such as mechanics, office support, etc. Steven Snow said current law forbids Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals to join the Military at any level. Steven Snow said this resolution will determine if the Air Force can accommodate Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals. Steven Snow said there is resistance to HR5381, and he will keep the Council informed.

Steven Snow said SB2530, The Safe and Equitable Resources and Education Act which amends existing law The Cleary Act is an amendment that would require all materials that concern safety issues on a campus be accessible to deaf, blind and other disabled students. The Act would also insure that any type of emergency plan or evacuation plan would be communicated to students and faculty who have disabilities. Steven Snow said HB5241 is similar and is currently making way through the House and Senate.

Legislative Update/ Idaho Legislation:

Steven Snow said Concurrent Resolution 45 concerning insurance payment for hearing aids was created last Legislative Session. Steven Snow said, 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 there was a hearing where there was discussion and concerns brought forward. Steven Snow said the Department of Insurance was open to revisions. Steven Snow said there was a second hearing with public testimony, and a third is scheduled for October 3, 2018. Steven Snow said that comments can be made up to 20 days past the October 3, 2018 hearing. Steven Snow said the resolution will then go to the Legislature either in the Commerce Committee or Health and Welfare Committee. Steven Snow said once the Resolution passes whichever committee it will go to the full floor for vote. Steven Snow said because it is a Resolution, not a Bill, there only needs to be passage in either the House or Senate.

Steven Snow said Governor Otter has asked that State agencies not bring forward any bills this Legislative session because there will be a newly elected Governor to help in the transition process.

Steven Snow said the Council is a member of the Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities (CID) which is a nonprofit organization that works for common projects. Steven Snow said this year the Council will support two issues that CID will be addressing. Steven Snow said one issue is changing the current law about the definition of “battery” on health care workers and the second issue is with landlord/tenant issues that cause an undue burden on those with disabilities.

Steven Snow said that if the Council hears of any other legislation that the Council should be aware of, please let him know.

Budget:

Steven Snow said for Fiscal year 2019, the Council was allotted \$48,600 which is an additional \$10,000 to be utilized with our new employee. Steven Snow said we will closely monitor the expenses for the new employee to be able to know what future request should entail. Steven Snow said the Council is also tracking activities of the new employee to be able to document the need for the position to be full-time.

Captioning of Legislation Session:

Steven Snow said he and Representative Kelley Packer have been in contact with Eric Milstead, the Director of Legislator Services. Steven Snow said Eric Milstead contacted the Speaker of the

House, Representative Bedke, and the Senate Pro Tem, Senator Hill and both have agreed to set aside money to support captioning. Steven Snow said for 2019, captioning will be provided for the Senate and House floor meetings in both streaming and television formats. Steven Snow said this is a pilot program with the goal of permanent captioning starting in 2020.

Idaho Court Administrative Rule 52:

Steven Snow said language has been finalized for review by the judges who will approve the language. Steven Snow said the language includes accommodations for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in a court setting. Steven Snow said he will continue monitoring this issue.

National Association of the Deaf:

Steven Snow said he is a member of a subcommittee that wants to develop a group that will accredit interpreting agencies. Steven Snow said the subcommittee has met and will continue meeting to discuss how to achieve this goal. Steven Snow said he will keep the Council informed on the progress.

Idaho Federation of Families:

Steven Snow said he participated with the Idaho Federation of Families in a webinar about mental health issues and deaf children. Steven Snow said the webinar lasted about an hour and received positive feedback.

Interpreter License:

Steven Snow said he, LaVona Andrew and Kristie Buffington (President of Idaho Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) had held meetings and workshops in Pocatello, Twin Falls, Boise and Spokane for interpreters and the public answering questions about the new interpreter license law. Steven Snow said several times he has had to provide clarifying information to various agencies about what the requirements are regarding utilizing a licensed interpreter.

Health Care Disparity in Deaf Community:

Steven Snow said he and Elizabeth Schniedewind from Idaho State University are researching a project through the National Institutes of Health. Steven Snow said they attended a conference in Las Vegas to report the progress of the research. Steven Snow said the research is continuing and he will keep the Council informed and will share the final report.

Educational Interpreter Guide:

Steven Snow said he would have Joelynn Ball report on this activity since she is leading the effort on making the revisions. Joelynn Ball said the original guidelines were published in hard copy in 2005. Joelynn Ball said the revision in Idaho guidelines are coinciding with guidelines published by the National Association of Interpreters in Education. Joelynn Ball said there were

meetings held over the summer to create a job description and on how to provide support and guidance to smaller communities. Joelyne Ball said the new guidelines will be online.

Administrative Director of the Courts:

Steven Snow said he met with Sarah Thomas, the Administrative Director of the Courts in Idaho. Steven Snow said one of the conversations concerned VRI services in courts and how that service needs improving. Sarah Thomas said she would research how the service can be improved and report back to Steven Snow.

Contract for Interpreter Services:

Steven Snow said he had meetings with the Department of Purchasing regarding separating the contract for interpreter services to two separate contracts, one for language services and one specifically for American Sign Language services. Steven Snow said he has been asked to help with writing the contract for American Sign Language services.

Other Presentations and Events:

Steven Snow said he along with Dana Gover, the Director of the Northwest ADA Center, and Lane Amareux gave a presentation to Ada County about accessibility rules under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Steven Snow said he was the Keynote speaker at the recent State Independent Living Conference regarding his firsthand experiences during September 11, 2001. Steven Snow said he will be traveling to Coeur D'Alene next week to present about emergency preparedness.

Christmas Families:

Steven Snow asked the Council to start thinking about families with deaf or hard of hearing children that the Council can sponsor for Christmas.

IDAHO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND FOUNDATION:

Ann Flannery gave a presentation about the IESDB Foundation, the charitable arm of the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind. Ann Flannery gave information about how the funds from the Foundation are distributed and how they are collected.

IDAHO COORDINATED RESPONSE TO SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Representative Melissa Wintrow gave a presentation about the law enforcement response to sexual and domestic violence in marginalized communities. Representative Wintrow said the committee includes law enforcement agencies, courts, attorneys and others to create a better way to respond to victims of sexual and domestic violence. Representative Wintrow said the coalition is just starting the process and will hopefully have some solid revisions in the future.

IDAHO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT:

Krista Kramer from the University of Idaho gave a presentation via video streaming about various assistive devices that are available for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

IDAHO AUDIOLOGISTS' PERSPECTIVE ON THE IMPACT OF UNTREATED HEARING LOSS AND INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS:

Bailey Neuhaus, third year Audiology student from Idaho State University gave a presentation concerning lack of hearing aid coverage by insurance companies in Idaho. Bailey Neuhaus presented information about the various social limitations that are associated with hearing loss and on how assistive devices including hearing aids could help eliminate some of the limitations.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Infant Toddler (Idaho Sound Beginnings):

Brian Shakespeare said training has been provided in eight hospitals in northern Idaho, six in eastern Idaho and three outside Boise, Payette and Weiser and three in southern Idaho.

Brian Shakespeare said in partnership with Hands and Voices has brought Guide by Your Side to Idaho. Brian Shakespeare said the guides are parents of children with hearing loss that can be a support system for other parents.

Brian Shakespeare said The Care Project, started in North Carolina, is a retreat for families of children with hearing loss. Brian Shakespeare said in June, a Care Project retreat was provided for Idaho families in Sun Valley. Brian Shakespeare said the retreat was a great success.

Brian Shakespeare said as soon as the legal department approves a script, Idaho Sound Beginnings will start texting parents when their child refers. Brian Shakespeare said if the texting doesn't bring in reliable results, then they will go back to phone calls.

Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind:

Joelynn Ball reported for Brian Darcy. Joelynn Ball said IESDB is serving 1,674 students in Outreach, including 245 birth to 3-year-old children. Joelynn Ball said there are 62 deaf or hard of hearing students on campus. Joelynn Ball said IESDB receive a Monsanto grant for \$25,000 to purchase a virtual welder. Joelynn Ball said IESDB is a partner in updating the Educational Interpreter Guidelines. Joelynn Ball said there is a continuing effort to provide security and safety on the Campus. Joelynn Ball said the Department of Public Works has approved combining all services under one roof which will include moving the infirmary to the campus building. Joelynn Ball said the budget for IESDB has been submitted including a request for a full-time licensed interpreter and an I.T. assistant and a Speech Language Pathologist for campus. Joelynn Ball said the work experience camp was a success. Joelynn Ball said there was a passing of one of IESDB's teachers, Margaret Rose.

Vocational Rehabilitation:

Doug Clapp said there has been a change in the Rehabilitation Services Administration rule's concerning how many clients are successful in gaining employment. Doug Clapp said there is now no mandate. Doug Clapp said now the focus will be on student outcomes. Doug Clapp said he has a caseload of 130 cases including 36 college students and about 12 high school students.

Doug Clapp said there is still some confusion about who can interpret for his clients. Steven Snow said he will make some phone calls to clear up the confusion.

Bureau of Occupational Licenses:

Betsy Duncan said Sign Language Interpreters have been getting license since July 1st. Betsy Duncan said currently there are 109 licensed interpreters and 28 provisional permits, and 9 out of state registrants. Betsy Duncan said currently there are 118 licensed audiologists and 115 licensed hearing aid dealers. Betsy Duncan said in answers to questions from Steven Snow, the attorneys at the Bureau are there for the Bureau, so the public cannot ask them questions about the interpreter licenses. Betsy Duncan said the Bureau is working on their website to be able to identify Certified Deaf Interpreters. Betsy Duncan said there has been some confusion about out of state registrations, but now that has been cleared up.

Department of Education:

Renee Miner said the Youth Empowerment Services is a response to a 30-year-old lawsuit and information can be found on the Idaho Training Clearinghouse. Renee Miner said the Idaho Training Clearinghouse is the place to get information about educational materials. Renee Miner said the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education handbook will be included in the Idaho Training Clearinghouse handbook as soon as it is published.

Idaho Public Utilities Commission:

Bob Dunbar said the Idaho relay is recertified from the Federal Communications Commission for another 5 years. Bob Dunbar said there might be a change in how the relay is funded where states may have to pay more for the services. Bob Dunbar said Idaho has some reserve monies that could pay for a few years, but after that there is a question on where the funds would come. Bob Dunbar said the Legislature would have to make that decision.

ADJOURN:

Heidi Jeffs motioned to adjourn the meeting, Gretchen Fors seconded the motion. The motion passed.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED AS A TELECONFERENCE ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018.