



**MINUTES OF THE ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND THE HARD OF HEARING
(ACDHH) Board meeting held on Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 4:30p.m.
at DoubleTree by Hilton – Reid Park, 445 S Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona 85711**

Call to Order & Roll Call Discussion/Action

Chair Kneifel called the meeting to order at 4:57 p.m.

Commissioners Present in Person: Sue Kay Kneifel, Judy Huch, Michele Stokes, Pv Jantz, Annette Reichman, ElizaBeth Garcia, Bob Baber

Commissioners Present by Phone: Raymond Baesler & Barbara Brimhall

Commissioners Absent: Elizabeth Booth

Staff Present: Sherri Collins, Carmen Green Smith, Curtis Humphries, Emmett Hassen, Victoria Vaughn, Heidi Lovato, Beca Bailey, Kim Minard

Assistant to the Attorney General: Molly Adrian (present by phone)

Approval of Minutes: Discussion/Action

Commissioner Stokes moved to accept the minutes from July 11, 2018 and Commissioner Huch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairs Report/Summary of Current Events Discussion only

Chair Kneifel recognized Commissioner Baber by presenting him a service award for 6 years on the ACDHH board. Commissioner Booth was also recognized for 6 years of board service and received her award at an earlier committee meeting - both Commissioners will end their terms on August 28, 2018. The board recognized Sherri Collins with a 20 year service award.

No Chair report at this time.

Executive Director's Update/Summary of Events Discussion only

Sherri Collins referenced the community forum that happened the night before – great turnout from the Tucson community and it was decided (based upon some areas of concern that were shared) ACDHH will hold another more focused forum in Tucson the beginning of 2019.

Director Collins shared her areas of focus for the coming year

The agency is preparing for the sunset review in 2020 and in doing so, it forces the agency to think about the future needs in serving the community.

It's time to revisit communication access in Arizona – how licensure is looking and the quality of interpreting being delivered. Should be getting a proposal from the University of Arizona to (hopefully) start a needs assessment the beginning of 2019.



ACDHH has been asked to provide feedback regarding sign language interpreting and CART/captioning for the state procurement office as they plan to release their request for proposals and one of the suggestions is to include language for the SSP (Support Service Providers) program.

Sharing the latest organization chart for the agency in order to clear up some confusion the board had regarding Beca Bailey and Michele Michael's position changes. She explained that the Legislature approved one full-time employee last fiscal year, which is Michele's current position as the Hearing Healthcare Program Manager. The Hard of Hearing Specialist position became Beca's current position as the Community Engagement Liaison. Beca's previous position as Deaf Specialist was filled by Kim Minard. Currently the agency has an opening for a Deaf Specialist as Aimee Mousavi has moved onto another opportunity out of state – her position will be posted soon.

Budget 2020 Discussion/Action

The agency's budget has to be submitted by September 1st, which will need board approval, but due to a last minute request to be a part of the Governor's pilot (budget) program, Curtis was unable to provide a summary to the board, but the highlights are:

- Agency is asking for one full-time position, Director of Government Affairs – basically, a public policy staff member. Sherri, as agency Director and a registered Lobbyist, can't do all public policy efforts alone.
- Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IPCTS) – Due to the recent FCC ruling to shift this responsibility to the states (which will be very expensive) - An outside attorney has been hired who to help the agency file comments.
- SSP – the Deaf-Blind information will be presented with our budget with (hopefully) one new position.

A conversation ensued between Commissioner Jantz and Director Collins regarding a timeframe of expansion of the SSP program. Director Collins emphasized that the program just started July 1st and will need a couple of years to have a better idea of how the program will shape itself.

Commissioner Jantz motioned to approve the budget submission and Commissioner Stokes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comments on Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items

None

Interpreter Complaints/Inquiries

Only one complaint for the board as the other two (Haley Ritter and Penny Posedly) were moved to the December board meeting.

Christine Morgan (present in person) sent a letter to the board and stated she did not have anything to add other than her confusion on what the complaint was for.

Emmett reviewed the complaint with the board at the request of Commissioner Jantz. Commissioner Baesler and Jantz asked follow-up questions specific to the nature of the assignment and Christine Morgan answered.



Commissioner Jantz motioned to move into Executive Session, Commissioner Huch seconded. The motion passed with Commissioner Baesler opposed.

Meeting entered into executive session at 5:29 p.m.
Meeting returned to open session at 5:36 p.m.

Commissioner Jantz wanted it noted that the complaint seems retaliatory in nature and requests that Christine Morgan update her address and contact information with ACDHH.

Commissioner Jantz motioned to dismiss the complaint against Christine Morgan and Commissioner Garcia seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Audiology Patient Choice Act Discussion Only

Commissioner Huch described The Audiology Patient Care Choice Act as basically having direct access for audiology testing without a physical referral. The VA already has this in place and has for years. The issue is (if the bill passes) the audiologist will only be able to bill if there is a medical necessity – hearing loss of itself is not a medical necessity. You must have tinnitus or ringing in the ear, diabetes, vertigo, dizziness, kidney disease – something else that makes it a medical necessity.

Commissioner Huch would like ACDHH to consider supporting the bill for better access for people. Noted by Director Collins.

Interpreter Referral Agency & Foreign Language Service Compliance with Arizona Licensure Law Discussion/Action

Commissioner Stokes (works for City of Tempe) and they contract with a translation or interpreter service. So if the police department needs somebody who speaks some other language, they contact with a certain provider to provide the language translation. This particular company is saying they can provide ASL interpreters for police matters also, which would require a legal-licensed interpreter, but they are not. This particular company resides in Arizona.

Chair Kneifel deferred to Emmett Hassen for clarification. Emmett stated that the Commission has no authority over interpreter referral or foreign language agencies. The burden falls on the interpreter, individually. The agency relies on the community to contact us and let us know which companies are out there doing this, so we can follow up with them.

Further discussion ensued between Commissioner Stokes, Baesler, Garcia and Emmett. It is determined no action can be done, the agency is not allowed.

Legal Licensure: New Changes for Legal A in 2021 Discussion/Action

Commissioner Baesler explains his concern regarding interpreters who currently hold a legal license and recent changes in licensing rules - He fears a shortage of legal interpreters in the future.

Carmen Green Smith explained the agency's option to go into the rule making process when the board determines they need changes (whatever it might be) – A request is made to the Secretary of State and the agency asks to be excused from the moratorium and give justification by way of a "Substantive Policy



Statement", but the Assistant Attorney General has already looked into this and has determined the statement is not sufficient.

Chair Kneifel suggested the agency reach out to the interpreters affected and start getting some feedback, which Carmen confirmed is already doing – questions have been prepared and will be sent out as early as next week. The agency is aware that as of of April 17, 2018 29 of 50 legal interpreters will be impacted.

A conversation ensues between Chair Kneifel, Commissioner Jantz, Baesler and Carmen regarding the timeframe of collecting responses from the interpreters affected.

Chair Kneifel suggests to keep this item on agenda for further discussion regarding a request to be waived from the moratorium.

Executive Director's Annual Evaluation Discussion/Action

Chair Kneifel reviews the summary provided to the board and thanks all Commissioners for 100%. She asks if there are any questions and the board has none except for one comment by Commissioner Jantz stating that Sherri more than exceeds expectations for the agency and she is fantastic.

Chair Kneifel explains that due to the denial of Director Collins increase last year, the board is going to make another attempt by giving a range and a classification change.

Support Service Provider (SSP) Update Discussion Only

Director Collins asks for any follow up questions about the SSP program and Commissioner Jantz asked who is managing it – Sherri introduced Julie Stylinski to the board and stated that Julie's start date was July 1st.

Commissioner Jantz was curious as to the demand for the program. Julie state that it is in the very infant stage with 2 SSP's in Tucson and 5 in Phoenix. Last month (July) there were 30 hours of SSP services and in Phoenix and in Tucson started last night and had its first. She shared with the board that transportation is a challenge for people using the SSP program.

Chair Kneifel wanted to know if anyone was interested in becoming an SSP in Northern Arizona and Julie said 1 is interested in the Lake Havasu area.

Commissioner Jantz wanted to know if the demand was higher than the availability of SSP's and Julie confirmed that is the case. Carmen said the agency has conducted 15 to 20 interviews – there is interest, but not everyone is a fit, but there is certainly interest and it's been a positive experience so far.

IARC Update Discussion Only

Commissioner Baesler shared that the committee approved 19 applications on August 16, 2018.

Chair Kneifel asked Emmett to prepare a report of number of approved licenses from January of this year that are for VRI both in and out of state as it seems more than half of the approvals are interpreters working out of state in VRI settings.



Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind Update Discussion Only

Commissioner Reichman had four items to share with the board:

1. Early Intervention Funding: ASDB received some additional funding to hire 21 new teachers. – hired 14 in last 3 months and the Governor wants 4 more hired by December, so she's hoping to make that happen despite most hiring happens in the summer months.
2. The Phoenix Day School for the Deaf, The Arizona School for the Deaf and the Arizona School for the Blind are moving forward with implementing a Language Arts curriculum. The teachers will use it to teach English and adding an ASL component.
3. The residents program and what to do with it, no plans yet, but there is a slight downtrend - There were 45 students living in the dorm last year and this fall there are 42. Right now ASDB has a proposal, but is working on a framework and will be providing more updates as this progresses.

Officer Election Discussion/Action

Chair Kneifel tabled this item until there is a full board.

Future Agenda Items Discussion/Action

Commissioner Jantz wants to make sure the Legal licensure item is moved to next agenda

Announcements

Commissioner Stokes shared the following events:

- September 8th - Disability Forum Expo at Alhambra High School
- October 30th - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Disability Job Fair at the Tempe Public Library
- November 27th – Youth Mock Interviews at the Tempe Public Library
- The grant from the Arizona Community Foundation was received and the 2 rooms at the Tempe Public Library will be looped in the next few months by OtoJoy.

Adjournment

Commissioner Jantz motioned to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Huch seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 28th day of August, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. by Heidi Lovato.