

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

Sherri L. Collins  
Executive Director



**MINUTES OF THE ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND THE HARD OF HEARING  
(ACDHH) Board meeting held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 4:30p.m.  
At ACDHH, 100 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave – Suite 104, Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

**Call to Order & Roll Call Discussion/Action**

Chair Kneifel called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Sue Kay Kneifel, Raymond Baesler, Elizabeth Booth, Judy Huch, Michele Stokes, Pv Jantz

Commissioners Present by Phone: Annette Reichman, ElizaBeth Garcia, Barbara Brimhall (dismissed after quorum was met @ 4:36 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent: Robert Baber

Attorney General's Office: Molly Bonsall

Staff Present: Sherri Collins, Carmen Green, Curtis Humphries, Emmett Hassen, Heidi Lovato, Kim Minard

**Approval of Minutes: Discussion/Action**

Chair Kneifel proposed a correction to the November 30, 2017 minutes – On page 3 (where the list of commissioners appears, note the dates reflecting FY2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017).

**Commissioner Jantz moved to accept the minutes, Commissioner Stokes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Chairs Report/Summary of Current Events Discussion only**

No report at this time

**Executive Director's Update/Summary of Events Discussion only**

Sherri Collins, Executive Director, shared highlights from her report

**Staffing Updates**

Vicki Bond left her position in licensure and the position is currently vacant - Carmen is in the process of reviewing applications. Beca Bailey, who was our Deaf Specialist took on the Community Engagement Liaison position where Michele Michaels was serving in – the position was reclassified to match our goals that we want to accomplish. Beca's position was filled with Kim Minard – her first day was February 5<sup>th</sup>. Kim worked at the Valley Center for the Deaf. She knows the community well and will be a great transition joining our team. Just today, it was announced that, Noneshi Anderson, will be moving out of state. She currently works our front desk and will be leaving. That position will be advertised soon.

602-364-0990 TTY \* 602-542-3323 V \* 480-559-9441 VP \* 800-352-8161 V/TTY \* 602-364-0581 FAX \* info@acdhh.az.gov

*The mission of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing is to ensure, in partnership with the public and private sectors, accessibility for the deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, and persons with speech difficulties to improve their quality of life.*



## Legislation/Public Policy Issues

Rip Wilson, Legislative Consultant, was introduced to give the board an update on some of the bills the Commission has been working on:

### Senate Bill 1296 (SB1296) – Emergency Response for Interpreters

- It's a bipartisan bill, which passed out of the Senate government yesterday. There were 178 people signed in supporting the bill. One person was opposed to it with no particular affiliation noted. City of Tempe was one of the institutions in support of it.

### Senate Bill 1049 (SB1049) – Sales Tax Exemption for Hearing Aid Batteries

- This bill was originally written and conceived to include all batteries for hearing aids and cochlear implants. Sherri has been working hard to get that turned around and was able to get a Republican sponsor, worked out a compromise and the bill in its current form will exempt the most expensive batteries, the cochlear implant and rechargeable batteries. This bill passed out of committee with a 4-2 vote. We think the sponsors are preparing to work hard with his members and look forward to going to the floor of the Senate soon.

### House Bill 2022 (HB2022) – Pertaining to the school for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB)

- It's an early childhood education appropriation. It's a general fund appropriation and that bill has passed out and is going to the floor.

Sherri added: While there should be no issues, it was discovered how the funding was established, which the Governor's budget is recommending to include part of our telephone funds to support ASDB's early intervention program – this is our relay funding. There was a misunderstanding at the Governor's office that they omitted to put a language in the Governor's budget to request it as a one-time fund. That's the plan and hopefully the language will be corrected. (the funding is for 1.6 million)

### House Bill 2042 (HB2042) – Telemedicine

- Sherri was involved with this bill today. It's a bit of a fight between providers and insurers. Sherri took the opportunity to point out that the bill was silent on any accommodations for the Deaf and the hard of hearing in the telemedicine delivery process. Sherri was able to get a commitment (on the record) from the chairman of the health committee to work with the Commission and the supporters to find a way to see that the accommodation is included. This isn't really a matter of an accommodation, rather this is a health and safety issue! We will push hard on this one.

Another bill we are keeping an eye on is having to do with service animal I.D cards, which a legislature wanted the Department of Transportation to administer – curiously, the legislation itself says you do have to have the I.D., just not with you in a public setting. The purpose of this bill was hard to figure out, but came out of committee with a 7-2 vote and we will see what happens to it.

I don't think there is any question that the Commission has (particularly in the last two years), an entirely different profile in the legislative process – It's a positive one! There are champions in the legislature now, people (legislators) who know a lot more about our issues and the Commission is more visible than we use to be.

Sherri Collins continued with her update noting the importance of working with Rip and how it has helped elevate the Commissions profile. (Rip also has hearing loss)



#### HCR2033 – World Hearing Day

- Representative Carter, Chair of the Health Committee, sponsored the resolution and there's a possibility she will be reading this on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It's a great way to raise awareness about hearing loss, health care and protecting your hearing.

#### Public Relations

Sherri referred the board to the publications, media coverage and several articles provided.

#### Budget

The Commission received funding for SSP (Support Service Provider) to support service providers. We have training in place for March for those who want to become SSP's. The other component of the funding is we are doing the actual service delivering. Our leadership team (Sherri, Carmen and Curtis) will handle the in-house SSP program (for 18 months) to get a hand on the issues, the process and get feedback and monitor. This will help when going to legislature for additional funding as we will have firsthand information.

There was a general comment by Commissioner Jantz pertaining to CART at the Senate and House and a question about interpreters.

- Sherri said the captioning has gone viral as several states have contacted her and the Commission has become a model for others - The National Legislatures Conference Association even called to ask how we did it!
- As far as interpreters, (like captioning) both interpreters and captioning is always available by request. The link is on the main page of both the House and Senate's website.

#### Officer Election

The Board Chair tabled the officer election until there is a full board.

#### Public comments on Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items

Jerriann Skinner, a licensed interpreter, wanted to thank the board for continuing the investigation and was happy to hear the board is willing to dismiss the complaint. (Complaint by Mr. Sam Higgenbottom for not providing quality interpreting services at his doctor's appointment on November 11, 2016 discussing his serious health issues)

#### Licensure Complaints and Inquiries

**Commissioner Jantz moved to go into Executive Session to gain legal advice with the Assistant Attorney General's office regarding Ms. Skinner. Commissioner Baesler seconded. The meeting went into Executive Session at 5:12 p.m.**

**Meeting resumed to open session at 5:31 p.m.**

Commissioner Jantz and Emmett Hassen have a discussion about the Doctor's response.

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

Sherri L. Collins  
Executive Director



**Commissioner Huch moved to dismiss the complaint against Jerriann Skinner with an open letter of concern in her file that would outline that there is a standard of practice to uphold and will be in her file in the event there is a future complaint against her - It would also be a part of that investigation and would include the tenets of code of professional conduct. Commissioner Jantz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Support Service Provider (SSP) Training Update**

Sherri discussed this in her board report

### **IARC Update**

Commissioner Baesler updated the board that the IARC approved 9 applications for licensure in December and this afternoon, February 15<sup>th</sup>, approved 8.

### **Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind Update**

Commissioner Reichman gave an update touching on what Sherri Collins discussed with the bill coming out of the House and moving over to the Senate in which they will actively support and network for on the Senate side.

Arizona Department of Education sent out some information about how well the school districts are doing. The Arizona School for the Deaf has a D grade and are in what's called school improvement. The Arizona Department of Education invited ASDB to apply for grant funding to assist with the school improvement initiative. ASDB received most of the funding asked for and are putting out themes, one at Phoenix Day School for the Deaf and the other at the Tucson campus to look at training the teachers, to look around the country and identify an appropriate English language curriculum for K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. ASDB is putting together a team to look at behavior intervention and also getting software to help look at how we schedule our classes to see if instruction time can be improved upon – maximize time with the students.

### **Future Agenda Items**

None at this time

### **Announcements**

None at this time

### **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Booth motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Huch seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.**

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. by Heidi Lovato.

602-364-0990 TTY \* 602-542-3323 V \* 480-559-9441 VP \* 800-352-8161 V/TTY \* 602-364-0581 FAX \* info@acdhh.az.gov

*The mission of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing is to ensure, in partnership with the public and private sectors, accessibility for the deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, and persons with speech difficulties to improve their quality of life.*