

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, November 30, 2017 at 4:30p.m.
At ACDHH, 100 N. 15th Ave – Suite 104, Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

Call to Order & Roll Call Discussion/Action

Chair Kneifel called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Sue Kay Kneifel, Robert Baber, Elizabeth Booth, Judy Huch, Michele Stokes, Pv Jantz, Barbara Brimhall, Elizabeth Garcia (joined later in person)

Commissioners Present by Phone: Annette Reichman.

Commissioners Absent: Raymond Baesler

Staff Present: Sherri Collins, Carmen Green, Curtis Humphries, Vicki Bond, Heidi Lovato

Staff Present by Phone: Emmett Hassen

Approval of Minutes: Discussion/Action

August 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Stokes moved to accept the minutes, Commissioner Baber 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

Two of the internal staff have been promoted – Michele Michaels who was the Hard of Hearing Specialist was promoted and is now the Hard of Hearing Program Manager. This position was a result of the funding received and approved by the Legislators. Michele was also the Legislative Liaison before her promotion and that position was advertised and filled internally by Beca Bailey. Beca was the Deaf Specialist and is now the Community Engagement Liaison. She will not only be working with the Legislature, but also on public policy and community partnership projects – her role is effective on Monday, December 4th. Beca's previous position as a Deaf Specialist is currently being reevaluated by Carmen to determine whether the position will remain or be reclassified to include a deaf-blind program, which ACDHH is becoming more involved in. Updates will be given at the next board meeting.

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.

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Public Relations

ACDHH is getting some media coverage. Yesterday (November 29, 2017), there was coverage on the radio about the "Noisy Toys" (this time of year, with the Holiday's, we do this campaign) – Michele Michaels has been doing this and there will also be some TV coverage next week.

Legislation/Public Policy Issues

This is the time of year we prepare for the January legislation session. Sherri is a part of the Senior Citizen Caucus Group that will meet every month during the legislative session and will involve issues with the deaf and the hard of hearing in the senior population.

An article was shared with the board on early hearing detection. Congress voted to revise the act for the better. It's a great opportunity for children to get identified with hearing loss much earlier, get services and even more important language development. The rule part has not been implemented, so we will be watching on that development as well as on the over-the-counter hearing aid bill that was passed and the rulemaking on it.

Sherri is currently working to get the hearing aid battery tax sponsored, but the financial impact to the general fund is a concern at this time – asking board members to get with their colleagues and lobbyist group.

An invitation was just received (before the board meeting) to attend a stakeholder's meeting to introduce a bill on the emergency preparedness and accessibility, specifically on broadcast. Waiting to get confirmation for that meeting.

Also, Sherri is building relationships with various organizations such as AARP and March of Dimes to name a few.

January 11th is the day we are going to have a press conference at the capitol to complete the looping project with a plaque at the House and the Senate. We will also be announcing and launching captioning, which will be available to live stream via mobile phone and computer. Requests must be made in advance so a link can be sent to be able to watch.

Budget

No new information to report. Will know more after the Governor gives his State of the State address, which is when he will release his budget. (no questions on budget report)

Commissioner Garcia arrives at 4:48 p.m.

Annual Report

There is an error in the report provided reflecting Commissioners for fiscal year 2017. The following is how it should reflect:

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Arizona Commission

for the deaf and the hard of hearing

100 N 15th Avenue * Suite 104 * Phoenix, AZ 85007
acdhh.org

Board of Commissioners

The Board oversees the policymaking, budget planning, and strategic planning of ACDHH, in addition to evaluating the ongoing performance of the executive director. Each board member also acts as an advocate for ACDHH and the particular group they represent.

The ACDHH Board consists of 14 members appointed by the Governor to three-year terms. Of the representatives, four are deaf; four are hard of hearing; one parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child; one Arizona licensed American Sign Language interpreter, one licensed hearing aid dispenser; one clinical audiologist; one representative from the Department of Economic Security; one representative from the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind in Tucson or the Phoenix Day School of the Deaf. The Board meets four times a year, one of which serves as their retreat.

FY 2017 – July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Term expiration</u>
Sue Kay Kneifel	Acting Chair Department of Economic Security Representative	8/26/2017
Raymond Baesler	Secretary Interpreter Representative	8/26/2017
Robert Baber	Licensed Hearing Aid Dispenser	8/26/2018
Elizabeth Garcia	Hard of Hearing Representative	8/26/2017
Jeffrey Hebert	Hard of Hearing Representative	8/26/2017
Elizabeth Booth	Hard of Hearing Representative	8/26/2018
Judy Huch	Audiologist Representative	8/26/2018
Pv Jantz	Deaf Representative	8/26/2017
Annette Reichman	ASDB Representative	8/26/2019
Barbara Brimhall	Parent Representative	8/26/2019
Chris Schneck	Hard of Hearing Representative	8/27/2015
Cynthia Butts	Deaf Representative	
Vacant (2)	Deaf Representative	



Commissioner Booth moved to approve the FY2017 Board of Commissioners with the proposed corrections, Commissioner Brimhall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2018 Meeting Calendar

2018 commissioner meeting dates are as follows:

February 15, May 17th, August 23 (Tucson) and December 6th

Commissioner Stokes moved to approve the updated 2018 meeting dates for the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Jantz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer Election

Chair Kneifel points out that there is not a full board and that both she and Commissioner Baesler agreed to stay on to keep a quorum until the positions are appointed; therefore suggests two options: Go ahead and nominate using the current available board members to move forward or table the officer elections.

Commissioner Jantz moved to table the discussion and election and work with what is currently in place. Commissioner Huch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Molly Bonsall from the Attorney General's Office joins by telephone at 5:00 p.m.

Public comments on Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items

Jerriann Skinner, a licensed interpreter, provided some background on her experience with a client who filed a complaint (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 Huch seconded. The meeting went into Executive Session at 5:12 p.m.

Meeting resumed to open session at 6:26 p.m.

Vicki Bond gave a brief review of what has happened since the last board meeting regarding the settlement offer that the board decided back on August 24th. ACDHH staff sent a letter on September 8th detailing the settlement agreement, which included a requirement of 4 hour training in ethical decision-making and a 4 hour training in working with a Certified Deaf Interpreter with 6 months to complete the training. On October 8th, Ms. Skinner responded with a letter via email stating she was rejecting the settlement offer and felt she should have been given a hearing. On October 18th, the Assistant Attorney General, Molly Bonsall, sent a letter clarifying this was an informal settlement agreement offered by the board. No disciplinary action had been taken yet and a hearing would only be offered if the board decided to impose disciplinary action. She was also informed of her right to come and speak to the board this evening, which she has done.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Jantz and Emmett Hassen regarding Emmett's investigation.



Commissioner Huch moved to open the investigation on the complaint of Ms. Skinner pending the Attorney General's decision on the legality of the action. Commissioner Jantz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Provisional License Upgrade

Vicki Bond referred to the summary provided (Exhibit E). What was being asked is for the board to give an interpretation of one particular rule that came up in the IARC meeting regarding a request for a waiver. (Two potential interpretations to the rules – provided by the Attorney General's office – were provided to the board for review) The waiver is for 500 hours of interpreting experience. An interpreter is asking if she be allowed to submit an upgrade for an application from a C to a B based on the 500 hours of interpreting experience she earned while she had a provisional B license.

A discussion ensued between Commissioner Kneifel and Vicki Bond pertaining to this discussion at the IARC meeting and the fact that it was just a question and not an application. The recommendation was to bring it to the board for a decision in terms of an interpretation on the rule.

A discussion ensued between Commissioner Kneifel, Jantz, Stokes and Vicki Bond pertaining to the potential interpretations provided by the Attorney General's office.

Commissioner Jantz moved to go into Executive Session to gain legal advice with the Assistant Attorney General's office. Commissioner Huch seconded. The meeting went into Executive Session at 6:41 p.m.

Meeting resumed to open session at 7:30 p.m.

A discussion ensued between Commissioner Kneifel, Jantz, Vicki Bond and Emmett Hassen in regards to their preference of the two interpretations provided by the Attorney General's office. Vicki and Emmett both preferred the first interpretation, which states:

Rule (R9-26-507(B)(3.f.ii.) – does not specifically state that the licensee must hold a Provisional C license when they complete the hours, just that they must show acceptable evidence of the 500 hours; therefore, it would be a reasonable interpretation to simply require evidence of the 500 hours, whether they were completed under a Provisional B or Provisional C license.

Commissioner Brimhall moved to accept the first interpretation. Commissioner Baber seconded. The motion passed, with one opposed vote. Individual votes are as follows:

Baber – Yes
Huch – Yes
Brimhall – Yes
Booth – Yes
Stokes – Yes
Garcia – Abstain
Jantz – No
Reichman – Yes
Kneifel – Yes

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Support Service Provider (SSP) Training Update

Deputy Director Carmen Green provided the board with an update regarding Support Service Provider Training in the state of Arizona. She shared we are in current discussion with COPD as the subcontractor with the U of A for the SSP curriculum. COPD will be the first pilot training for the SSP's – waiting on a date at this time. Initial training will be for 3 days.

IARC Update

Carmen Green updated the board that IARC approved 24 applications – Emmett Hassen confirmed.

Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind Update

Commissioner Reichman gave an update that ASDB announced \$1.6 million for the early childhood and family education program. ASDB is working with Sherri Collins and the state legislators to let them know it is upcoming. Senators Boyer and Allen are sponsoring the bill and moving forward to getting the bills in both the House and Senate. ASDB will be reaching out to the community and all of the stakeholders to ask for their support.

Future Agenda Items

None at this time

Announcements

Commissioner Stokes wanted to invite the board members to nominate someone for the Tempe Mayor's Disability Awards – Deadline is February 28th.

Adjournment

Commission Huch motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Booth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 4th day of December, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. by Heidi Lovato.