

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Sherri L. Collins
Executive Director



Pending Commission Approval

**MINUTES OF THE ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND THE HARD OF HEARING
(ACDHH) Board meeting held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
at ACDHH – 100 N 15th Ave, Suite 104, Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

Call to Order & Roll Call: Discussion/Action

Chair PV Jantz called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM

Commissioners Present in Person: Antonio Calderon, Fred Williams, Susan Webster, Sue Kay Kneifel, Catherine Sienko, PV Jantz, Annette Reichman, Richard Vanover, Sarah Benton

Commissioners Present by Phone: Barbara Brimhall and ElizaBeth Garcia

Commissioners Absent: Judy Hutch and Tamara Collinsworth

Staff Present: Sherri Collins, Carmen Green Smith, Curtis Humphries, Emmett Hassen, Victoria Vaughn, Betty McIntire, Jeremy McCown, Julie Styliniski, Michele Michaels and Shari Burda

Also present Assistant Attorney General Krysta Liveris

Also present by Phone: Assistant Attorney General, Jo-Ann Handy and Rip Wilson

Approval of Minutes: Discussion/Action

Commissioner Garcia moved to accept the minutes from November 21, 2019 and Commissioner Vanover seconded. The motion passed unanimously

Chairs Report/Summary of Current Events: Discussion Only

Chair PV Jantz made known his availability for questions as the new Chair. He also noted the May 2020 meeting would be held in Yuma, AZ and would have CART as well as the ability to view via Livestream.

2020 Legislative Update: Discussion Only

Betty McEntire reported the following:

This week is the last week for all Bills to be heard before they are deemed dead. Next week is cross over week. This is when the Senate bills go to the House and the House bills go to the Senate. We are expecting a budget next week. Both of our bills, 1055 and 1056 cleared the Senate. If no budget, there will be a second reading.

SB1055 is our Sunrise bill where we are modifying our Agency duties to include the DeafBlind along with a definition. It needs to pass through the House then it will go to the Governor. If there are no changes, it will not go back to the Senate.

We made recommendations as it relates to newborn screenings.

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Legislative update in the Senate. Senator Pace believed the definition of DeafBlind was not technical enough. He wanted a clarification on the term Environmental and why that was important. Changes were made and now it is close to the definition of DeafBlind in the Helen Keller Act.

Weekly email updates are sent out on bills that may affect our communities. We have monthly update videos as well.

March 3, 2020 is world hearing day. Executive Director, Sherri Collins will sign the Pledge of Allegiance in the House. Students from ASDB will sign the Pledge in the Senate.

We will have CART and interpreters.

RIP Wilson reported the following:

Betty has given us a different level of engagement at the capitol.

Federal Report: nothing moves quickly in Washington D.C. General observation: there are discussions and consideration to make Social Security and disability requirements more difficult as well as changes to Medicaid benefits. This will negatively affect our constituents.

Legislative: I am watching a few bills if successful H1393 and S1423 change hearing, vision, and dental benefits for Medicare and Medicaid.

House Resolution 4932 expands access to Telehealth.

House Resolution 4056 and S2446 Medicare amendment will make audiology services eligible

HR3866-If a Veteran develops hearing loss or Tinnitus, treatment will be covered by their VA benefits.

Regulatory side: FCC has not had a lot of movement. Sherri Collins has met with FCC in person and by phone on reimbursement rates.

There is a debate over using live or software recognition. FCC has also discussed moving all responsibilities to the states. That has currently stalled. Now it is in an open comment period on universal services and deafblind equipment.

The Jan 30th FCC had a meeting to deal with VRS and Call Assistants for interpreters working at home. There was also a discussion on rules for handset capabilities.

Executive Director's Update/Summary of Events: Discussion Only

Director Collins thanked Betty McEntire and RIP Wilson for working in partnership with ASDB and Public Policy to make sure our vision is successful.

Sherri Collins recognized JLBC analyst Lydia Chu and noted we have two analysts (one in the Governor's office and one Legislative). She also recognized our new Assistant Attorney General Krysta Liveris / Laura Handy on the phone.

ACDHH has a new Deaf student intern from ASU working with Public Policy and Community Engagement Unit (PPCEU)

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RIP Wilson left the call at 4:58 PM

Sherri Collins - Page two (2) of your books are the top five (5) Agency Goals. At the next board meeting I will give a quarterly update.

Sherri Collins showed and explained the Agency's American Girl 2020 Doll of the year, Joss. She is Hard of Hearing and comes with accessories. Sherri Collins was interviewed about the doll. The doll's kit comes with an ASL guide. This is good for ASL and hearing aid exposure. The Agency has an extra Doll that will be kept to entertain children who come in the office.

Executive team level is working on a document that will define communication in different settings. This will be used in our curriculum training in Public Safety, Healthcare, and with the Ombudsmen. This is a way to introduce ourselves by offering our training.

Community Engagement Liaison and Betty McEntire will help support the agency with new partners. We are working with Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to make sure the information on their website is accessible.

The Agency had a few Noisy Toys segments during the holidays - hearing health protection.

Arizona Relay Service Contracts are being reviewed. Hope to announce the new vendor by the end of April.

Financial report - nothing new, but Curtis Humphries is here to answer questions.

Commissioner Benton - questioned the Executive Director's work with LEAD K. Are appropriate standards being upheld?

Response Betty McEntire - we continue to meet with a small subgroup. At the last board meeting it was decided to make recommendations for language acquisition in the statute under 1056. We want to ensure that children have all of the tools they need for language acquisition.

Commissioner Benton admonished Betty McEntire to remember the Northern part of the state when collecting data. Betty McEntire acknowledged Commissioner Benton's concern and assured that would be included in the Agency's our rural outreach.

Public Comments on Agenda Items & Non-agenda Items / Discussion Only

Vice Chair, Sienko read the rules for public comments

Natalie Quezadc - School Electives for middle school and school choice
Middle schools do not have ASL as a language. The schools should add ASL classes as an elective

Andrew Cohen - DeafBlind retreat

Announcement - we have a new organization called DeafBlind Retreat of Arizona.
This is for local DeafBlind individuals and the first retreat will be in Scottsdale in September.

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Interpreter Complaint(s)/Inquiries

ACDHH Licensing and Certification Coordinator, Emmett Hassen gave a summary and recommendations.

The complaint against Ms. Jerri Skinner was an alleged overstepping of bounds and violating Code of Professional Conduct.

Recommendation: dismiss due to unsubstantiated evidence

question - This is not the first complaint of a similar nature. Do we need to question other staff involved?
Emmett Hassen - No other person was there. It was a "He said/She said" situation.

A discussion ensued involving Emmett Hassen, Commissioner Kneifel, and Chair Jantz

Commissioner Reichmen moved to dismiss the complaint. Commissioner Calderon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Jantz asked Emmett Hassen to inform Ms. Skinner of the outcome.

Chair Jantz asked Assistant Attorneys General, Jo-Ann Handy and Krysta Liveris if they would like to be dismissed. Jo-Ann Handy left the call at 5:26 PM.

Commissioner Benton question - When we have complaints, would it be possible to share more background information? Example, first or second complaint.

Emmett Hassen asked for clarification

Commissioner Benton - Previous complaints need to be brought up as needed

Assistant Attorney General, Krysta Liveris - In terms of determining the nature of the issue, a previous complaint would not be relevant information to consider even if the complaint was accurate. If it was a credible complaint, the Commission could determine the appropriate action.

Commissioner Benton - because the complaint was unsubstantiated then we cannot look at past behavior

Assistant Attorney General, Krysta Liveris - We need to look at each case individually. She left the meeting at 5:29 PM.

ESSE Certification and Arizona Licensure / Discussion/Action

Emmett Hassen - This is a continuation from previous Interpreter Licensure Committee meeting. One applicant from California wanted to move here with an Educational Sign Skills Evaluation (ESSE) Certification. Emmett Hassen is against allowing this certification in support of an Arizona ASL Interpreter license.

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Commissioner Benton moved to not accept the ESSE Certification in support of an Arizona State license. Commissioner Kneifel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

U of A Interpreter Survey Summary / Discussion Only

In a previous meeting, we discussed the Survey results and comments. It was determined to assess the most important issues. ACDHH will sponsor workshops, partnering with other organizations to provide education on Mental Health, Healthcare, legal settings, DeafBlind, tactical interpretation, and working with a CDI.

Interpreter Licensure Committee Update / Discussion Only

Commissioner Benton - In the January meeting, we approved eight (8) licenses. Seven (7) were VRI and one (1) was Provisional. In the December meeting, we approved forty-two (42) applications. We also had a discussion on the need to clarify definitions of in-state and out-of-state interpreters.

Reschedule Board Meeting Date for November 2020 – ASDB Conflict / Discussion/Action

Chair Jantz - Keep in mind November 11, 2020 is Veterans Day. There is a need to reschedule the November Board meeting. Commissioner Reichman - We (ASDB) might move our meeting as thirteen (13) members will be replaced anytime.

Chair Jantz suggested to keep it as an open item for next board meeting.

Future Agenda Items / Discussion Only

Chair Jantz asked for topics for Yuma board meeting? No ideas were mentioned. Chair Jantz reminded the members of the required 48-hour notice for agenda items.

Adjournment / Discussion/Action

Commissioner Vanover moved for adjournment. Commissioner Calder seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 PM

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 25th day of February, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. by Heidi Lovato.

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