



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

**Minutes of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (ACDHH),
Board Meeting and Interpreter Licensure Committee
Meeting held November 19, 2020 at 4:30pm.
Meeting was held remotely via teleconference and Zoom due to COVID-19.**

Call to Order & Roll Call: Discussion/Action

Board Chair Jantz called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm

Commissioners Present by Zoom: PV Jantz, Sarah Benton, Barbara Brimhall, Judy Huch, Sue Kay Kneifel, Catherine Sienko, Susan Webster, Fred Williams, Richard Vanover, Annette Reichman, Tamara Collinsworth

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present by Zoom: Sherri Collins, Carmen Smith, Betty McEntire, Curtis Humphries, Victoria Vaughn, Katie Lopez, Emmett Hassen, and Jeremy McCown

Assistant Attorney General, Krysta Liveris joined the meeting at 5:20pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Seinko moved to approve ACDHH Board Meeting minutes for August 20, 2020. Motion seconded by Commissioner Webster and Commissioner Webster and; motion carried unanimously.

Committee Chair's Report

Pv Jantz addressed that all participants are aware of Coronavirus issues. Not able to take public comments during the meeting, however, the public is welcome to reach out to us prior to the next meeting. There are three vacant Board positions. Commissioner Calderon recently resigned due to a move out of State. The three vacant positions are: one Deaf representative, one Hard of Hearing Representative, and one Licensed Hearing Aid Dispenser. He encouraged anyone who knows someone who may want to apply, to get in touch with himself, as Board Chair or with ACDHH Executive Director, Sherri Collins.

Commissioner Kneifel mentioned that there are also positions on the Board which have expired terms and they are not renewable. Commissioner Jantz explained that the Coronavirus situation has slowed the ability to fill vacant positions timely after their expiration. It is hoped that work may begin next year to get all vacant positions filled.

Executive Director's Update/Summary of Events

Executive Director, Sherri Collins discussed the updates since the last Board meeting in August 2020.

Agency continues to provide services remotely. Staff training in different areas, domestic violence and a wide variety of other topics. ASL pilot program is becoming very popular. ACDHH has been highly involved in voter education efforts for Clean Elections. Arizona is the first state to have a voter guide in ASL.



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ACDHH has made efforts to ensure that all press conferences are made accessible for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population. Not just here in Phoenix but other small towns, making sure their information is accessible when having a press conference related to COVID-19, making sure there's an interpreter and captioning as part of their presentation.

ACDHH launched the "Let's Get to Work" employment campaign at the end of August. The campaign has been going well.

Articles have recently been published by our staff, and the agency has also made other recent media efforts. Staff has been added to engage with families throughout the State of Arizona who speak both English and Spanish. Meetings with Yuma area citizens are expected to continue in May and for now, will continue remotely.

Statewide employee survey was done this quarter. Feedback was positive. ACDHH online staff retreat was this quarter. The agency will be developing a communication plan to improve the message communicated to the general community and the community we serve.

Annual Report – Exhibit B

Pv Jantz opened the floor to questions and discussion. Sherri said the report outlines our activities during the last fiscal year. She mentioned that the summary section includes all highlights. Deputy Director, Carmen Green Smith sits in on weekly meetings held by the AZ Department of Health Services. We have been very involved in the Maricopa County area and in the Pima County, as well, in terms of making communications accessible. We have not had many public inquiries. We are positive that service providers have been accessing the information. We have worked with consumers one-on-one who needed additional support, and worked to circle back and ensure those issues did not persist for others. Correction needed to Commissioner term-expiration dates in the report. Commissioner Benton complimented that agency for efforts to provide quality support and services to the community during the COVID-19 situation.

Commissioner Jantz asked about efforts the agency is making to provide information to the public related to COVID-19. We do have information on our website, E-News and social media. Efforts are being made daily to update information and ensure it is as current as possible.

Commissioner Huch moved to approve the Annual Report with edits to Commissioner term-expiration dates. Commissioner Benton and Commissioner Vanover seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update

Betty McEntire went over current legislative efforts being pursued by the agency. Betty and Sherri met with Congressman Greg Stanton this quarter to discuss current legislative efforts regarding COVID-19, the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, bill number HR-3535. We are working to move this legislation along. Discussion ensued regarding other legislative efforts currently underway, including the renewal of our bill which was not heard last year due to the COVID-19 situation, 1056.

AAG Arrival

Krysta Liveris introduced herself at 5:25pm



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Interpreter Inquiries

Renee Oliver – Michael Cox Jr. – Danielle Cox

Emmett Hassen reviewed the inquiry about Michael Cox, Jr. He worked three (3) days with a lapsed license. Danielle Cox worked one (1) day without a license within one month of the license expiration in June 2020.

Commissioner Williams asked about the annual renewal fee of the license. The annual fee is \$50.

Commissioner Benton moved to fine Michael Cox, Jr. for \$25 per day, for the three (3) days he was not licensed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Vanover; motion carried unanimously

- **Commissioner Kneifel would like the letter sent to Michael Cox to reflect that the fine was reduced due to the COVID situation. Motion is amended to fine Mr. Cox and ensure the letter sent to him regarding his fine and license status reflect the reason for the fine being reduced.**

Commissioner Kneifel moved to fine Danielle Cox for \$25 per day for the one (1) day she worked without a license. Motion seconded by Commissioner Vanover; motion carried unanimously

- **The letter sent to Danielle Cox will reflect that the fine was reduced due to the COVID situation. Motion is amended to fine Ms. Cox and ensure the letter sent to her regarding her fine and license status reflect the reason for the fine being reduced.**

Discussion ensued regarding the third licensing inquiry for applicant, Renee Oliver.

Sarah Benton clarified that the license for Renee Oliver was not approved at today's ILC meeting. There needs to be a two part motion. To approve the application and to approve the license. Corrective action would also need to be decided.

Commissioner Vanover moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the licensure application of Renee Oliver. Motion seconded by Commissioner Webster, motion carried unanimously.

Break in Board Meeting beginning at 6:01pm to hold Executive Session

6:42pm – meeting reinstated

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board Chair, Pv Jantz, tabled the discussion on Renee Oliver until the next meeting. The Commission Board will ask for an extension on the application. If the extension is not approved, an emergency meeting will be called.

Interpreter Licensure Committee Update

Emergency Rulemaking: COVID Impact on AZ Interpreter Licensure

Legal A interpreters will be reduced to half if the rule requiring interpreters to receive the CIC legal license performance certification from BEI remains effective on January 1, 2021. This testing is not currently available to many Legal A interpreters. Testing has been postponed until further notice at many sites at this time. We have



not been given
deviate from any

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permission to
rules due to the

COVID-19 situation. ACDHH staff has reached out to the Governor's office on this issue. Reaching out to the Board Members to ask for additional direction on this issue. Board supports ACDHH staff's efforts to continue working with the Governor's office on a solution to this issue.

Officer Election

Tabled until the next Board Meeting.

2021 Board Meeting Dates

Sherri Collins asked if there were any conflicts with meeting dates. No conflicts were brought to the attention of the group.

Commissioner Vanover moved to accept the 2021 Board meeting dates. Motion seconded by Commissioner Huch; motion carried unanimously.

Future Agenda Items

- Interpreter complaint – Renee Olivier
- ACDHH Board Member Elections
- Sue Kay would like it defined in the minutes what action may be taken on interpreter complaints moving forward. ACDHH staff to work to provide clarification.

Future Board Meetings

The next ACDHH Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 4:30pm.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Commissioner Sienko motioned for an adjournment. Motion seconded by Commissioner Vanover; motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 24th day of November, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. by Katie Lopez.