



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 February 18, 2021 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 **4:36** pm

Commissioners Present via Zoom: PV Jantz, Sarah Benton, Andrew Cohen, Tamara Collinsworth, Jennifer Hensley, Judy Huch, Missy Keast, Melanie O'Rourke, Catherine Sienko, Richard Vanover, Susan Webster, Fred Williams

Commissioners Absent: Barbara Brimhall

Staff Present via Zoom: Sherri Collins, Carmen Smith, Betty McEntire, Curtis Humphries, Emmett Hassen, Victoria Vaughn, Jeremy McCown, and Shari Burda

In Attendance: Assistant Attorney General, Jo-Ann Handy

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Webster moved to approve ACDHH Board Meeting minutes from November 19, 2020.. All in favor; motion carried unanimously.

Committee Chair's Report

Pv Jantz Acknowledged new members and announced one vacancy for a Hearing Aid Dispenser

This is the last meeting for Commissioner Vanover as he is resigning - thank you for time and service.

Acknowledged and thanked Sue Kay Kneifel and others whose terms had expired.

Next meeting is May 20, 2021. We will continue virtual meetings until permitted to gather again, addressing health and safety standards.

Executive Director's Update/Summary of Events

Sherri Collins Welcomed new members. Two sessions for new member training were held yesterday (February 17, 2021).



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We have met with the Attorney General's office as well as the Governor's office and are moving forward to resolve the Legal A suspension.

We have partnered with the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training (AZ P.O.S.T.) to develop training materials and a curriculum for new officers who may encounter a person who is Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind. The program is set to begin in April. We are one of the few in the nation to have this program.

The Let's Get To Work campaign launched in August. We are now partnered with the Arizona Broadcast Association to release Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on TV and radio.

We continue our concerns with COVID-19 and are focusing on the vaccine and communication access.

There are no outstanding budget issues and no legislative concerns related to "sweeping" our funds. However, there are upcoming personnel changes. The Assistant to the Executive Director position is currently vacant. Curtis Humphries will retire effective April 1st leaving an opening for a Business Manager.

Commissioner Benton asked for details regarding activities related to the Legal A process.

Deputy Director, Carmen Smith responded

We are waiting for confirmation from the Attorney General's office to approve the process and agree that it merits an emergency rule making.

Legislative Update

Betty McEntire Next week is crossover week. All of the bills that passed through the House and Senate will be sent to the opposite chamber.

Bills we are tracking:

SB1092 ACDHH bill sponsored by Senator Pace. This is a revision of 1045 from last year; unable to pass through the House as the session ended early due to COVID concerns.

HB2454 This is a comprehensive Telemedicine bill. It is a proposed law out of an Executive Order from Governor Ducey mandating insurance companies to cover telemedicine visits.

SB1458 Speech Pathology Assistants bill from last year. It was amended to address concerns from audiologists. Our concern is the language related to Hearing Aid dispensers.



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We are also monitoring several bills related to the voter registration process, paying close attention to accessibility issues. There are a few that may have an impact on the special election boards - this is a critical resource for individuals with disabilities.

HB2863 ASDB; Revision Representative Udall sponsored a Striker Amendment to clarify in statute that the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind is an LEA, a local education agency.

Betty McEntire explained why the bill was brought forth. I would ask to be able to take a formal position on the record related to this bill; formally support, remain neutral, or oppose this bill.

A discussion ensued. Commissioners Hensley, Huch, Benton and Jantz joined the discussion.

Commissioner Keast motioned to have the Commission support HB2863 ASDB to be LEA. Commissioner Sienko seconded. All in favor; Commissioner Hensley abstained. Motion carried.

Commissioner Huch asked about the assignments for the HB2454 advisory council.

Betty McEntire will send the list to the Commissioners.

Public Comments

Commissioner Jantz announced: We are suspending public comment. Please contact ACHHH, the Commission, Sherri Collins, the executive director, or myself as the chair of the board, if you have something that you would like to see on the agenda for the next meeting.

Officer Election

Commissioner Jantz explained officer elections and process - three positions: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary (currently vacant)

Commissioner Keast moved to table officer elections to next meeting.

Commissioner Sienko moved Commissioner Jantz continue as Chair.

Commissioner Keast withdrew her motion.

Commissioner Vanover seconded the motion for Commissioner Jantz to continue as Chair.

Commissioner Jantz called for a Roll Call vote for the Chair position. All in favor; Commissioner Jantz abstained. The motion carried.



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Commissioner Keast moved to have Commissioner Sienko remain as Vice Chair. Commissioner Benton seconded. Commissioner Jantz called for a Roll Call vote for the Vice Chair position. All in favor; Commissioner Sienko abstained. The motion carried.

Commissioner Keast moved to select Commissioner Benton as Secretary. Commissioner Vanover seconded. Commissioner Jantz called for a Roll Call vote for the Secretary position. All in favor; Commissioner Benton abstained. The motion carried.

Commissioner Jantz called for a break at 5:54 PM.

Meeting resumed at 6:01 PM

Interpreter Inquiries

Commissioner Jantz acknowledged Assistant Attorney General Jo Ann Handy and thanked her for joining.

Emmett Hassen gave a summary of the first complaint/inquiry.

Alexis Weisman failed to earn the 12 hours prior to her license expiration and submitted additional hours earned after her license expired within the 30-day window prior to renewal.

A discussion ensued. Commissioners Huch, Webster, Cohen, Jantz, Benton, Williams, and Keast joined the discussion.

Commissioner Benton moved that we accept the staff's recommendation that we renew her license on the condition that she does take two additional hours on top of the 12 that are required before the end of this calendar year. Commissioner Vanover seconded; the motion carried unanimously

Renee Olivier

Emmett Hassen The applicant has since withdrawn her application, and so there is no discussion at this point.

Commissioner Benton the application for Renee Olivier came up in the list of applicants that we were reviewing today. She has reapplied. So how do we handle the previous application and the current application?

A discussion ensued. Commissioners Benton and Webster, Cohen, Jantz, Benton, Williams, and Keast joined the discussion.

Commissioner Vanover move to enter into Executive Session to discuss Renee Olivier's application for legal advice from the Assistant Attorney General. Commissioner Keast seconded; the motion carried unanimously.



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The Commissioners moved to Executive Session at 6:29 PM

The meeting resumed at 6:44 PM

Commissioner Keast shared thoughts regarding licensing anytime there is a lack of integrity the board needs to be serious about punishment.

Commissioner Jantz we have been strict with ethical issues. Any kind of falsification, intentionally or unintentionally, can become an ethical issue.

A discussion ensued. Commissioners Cohen, Vanover, Jantz, Benton, and Emmett Hassen joined the discussion.

Commissioner Benton moved that the board recommend the application be granted and set a fine of \$300 for the ethical violation as well as six hours of training on ethics.

Modification: I move that the board recommend approval of Renee Olivier's interpreter license application and the board impose discipline of a \$300 fine and six hours of continuing education units in the area of professional ethical behavior to be completed by December 31st, 2021. Commissioner Vanover seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Emmett Hassen and Assistant Attorney General left the meeting at 6:57 PM

Interpreter Licensure Committee Update

Commissioner Benton The Interpreter Licensure Committee met today, reviewed 18 and approved 17 applications. Combining the number of applications from the January meeting and today, we have approved 42 applications.

Future Agenda Items

None

Future Board Meetings

The next ACDHH Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 4:30pm.



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Adjournment

Commissioner Vanover moved for adjournment. Commissioner Cohen seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at **6:59pm**

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 22rd day of February, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. by Shari Burda.

DRAFT