



Arizona Commission

for the deaf and the hard of hearing

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

**Minutes of the meeting of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the
Hard of Hearing, Board Meeting.
Meeting held August 19, 2021 at 4:30pm.
Meeting was held remotely via teleconference and Zoom due to COVID-19.**

Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Jantz called the meeting to order at **4:35 pm**
Commissioners present via Zoom: Commissioner Benton, Commissioner Jantz, Commissioner Sienko, Commissioner Cohen, Commissioner Huch, Commissioner Brimhall, Commissioner Williams, Commissioner O'Rourke, Commissioner Scarborough, Commissioner Collinsworth
Commissioners absent: Commissioner Keast, Commissioner Webster
Staff Present: Sherri Collins, Carlos Castillo, Betty McEntire, Carmen Green Smith, Emmett Hassen, Victoria Vaughn, Jeremy McCown, Chyla Dalton-Nava
Assistant Attorney General Patricia LaMagna

Approval of Minutes- May 20, 2021

Commissioner Sienko moved to approve the minutes from the last board meeting held on May 20th, 2021. Commissioner Benton seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Report/Summary of Events

None.

Executive Director's Update

Sherri Collins updated the board on the progress on the Five Year Rule Review, an extension has been requested and provided. As of July 1st, the agency will continue working from home. The agency will allow in person meetings by appointment, in line with CDC guidelines. Since the last board meeting, 387 people have received training, and the requests continue to increase. She also updated the board on the approval of our Interpreter Licensure Rules from GRRC. The agency will possibly be working with Communication Services for the Deaf to develop a 211 information hotline in ASL. This hotline will partner with the Department of Economic Services and the Department of Health to provide direct ASL support. This process is still in the works, and we hope to have more information by the next board meeting. Commissioner Jantz updated the board on the vacancies currently on the board, for a Deaf representative, and a Licensed hearing aid dispenser. Three members of the board have terms that will expire soon, Commissioners Huch, Webster, and Collinsworth. He thanked them for their service, and

encouraged the board to reach out to the community to try and fill these vacancies.

Budget 2023:Decision Package

Sherri Collins updated the board on the four new positions the agency is requesting in the budget package: *Accounts Payable*, to keep these services in-house. This position will help us be more efficient, and greatly support FSU. This position is currently being filled on contract. *Staff Interpreter*, the need for interpreters has greatly increased for the agency. This position is also being filled on contract. *Media Specialist*, this will help us improve our community engagement, and raise awareness. *Family and Youth Engagement Coordinator*. This position is currently being filled on contract with Knowledge Services. All four positions are being requested with no changes to the budget due to the fact that they are all being filled currently by contract, and the agency has already been paying for these services. After a discussion of the new positions, **Commissioner Scarboro moved to approve the budget package with the four new positions, Commissioner Benton seconded, the motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comments

None.

Five Year Strategic Plan/Agency Goals Review

Betty McEntire explained the Strategic Plan to the board, as well as the many surveys and community forums that have take place over the past few months. We have received great feedback from our community members. One of the key takeaways was the need for accessible information for all of our communities. Another was the need for increased awareness of the services the Commission offers, and also assisting families who have newborns or children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind. The lack of equal communication access especially within the community and government was another big issue. Another issue brought up was the need to expand our services to include rural and underserved communities. There was also a request to issue or expand certifications for interpreter training. This allows us to identify our goals as an agency to better serve our community. Betty continued with the 4 goals of the strategic plan. A discussion followed. **Commissioner Jantz moved to approve the 5 year strategic plan, Commissioners Huch and Sienko seconded, the motion carries unanimously.**

Support for Deaf Young Adults

Commissioner Scarboro expressed the need for services for the specific population of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind young adults. The group discussed options for assisting this group, such as youth ambassadors, mentorships, targeted presentations, and internships. The board decided to continue this discussion in the next board meeting. The board then went on a break at 6:05 PM. The discussion resumed at 6:15 PM, with the board asking the commission to brainstorm ideas, and present them at the next board meeting.

Legislative Update

Betty McEntire updated the board on the legislative session which ended on June 30th. One highlight was the success of ensuring community access to testify on House bill 2863, and Senate Bill 1092. There was also progress on the new captioning system for hearings, it is now available by request.

Interpreter Licensure Committee Update

Commissioner Benton provided an update on interpreter licensing- a total of 94 applications have been processed since May of 2021.

Interpreter Complaints/Inquiries

Emmett Hassen updated the board on two interpreter inquiries, for Tiana Dopp and Jill Blass. Ms. Tiana Dopp failed to earn the total 12 hours prior to her license expiration and submitted nine hours that were earned outside of her license year. She met three of the required hours. The other nine were completed outside of her license year. He recommended to renew her license with the condition that she make up nine new additional continuing education hours in addition to the required 12 hours for a total of 21 hours for next year's renewal. after discussion, **Commissioner Benton moved to approve the license renewal with understanding that she will complete 21 hours by her 2022 renewal date, Commissioner Huch seconded, the motion carried unanimously.** Ms. Jill Blass failed to earn the total 12 hours prior to her license expiration and submitted 12 hours that were earned outside her license year. The recommendation is to renew her license with the condition that she make up 12 new additional continuing education hours on top of the required 12 hours prior to her renewal next year. This would be a total of 24 hours. Ms. Blass requested that her recent 12 hours she earned be accepted in lieu and attached her certificates of attendance. **Commissioner Jantz moved that the license be renewed for Jill Blass with the understanding that during this new license period, she must complete an additional 12 hours of continuing education on top of the required 12 hours for a total of 24 hours during the license year. Commissioner Sienko seconded, the motion carried unanimously. AAG Patricia LaMagna was excused from the meeting.**

Executive Director's Annual Evaluation

Commissioner Jantz discussed the Personnel Committee that was held earlier in the day. Commissioner Benton went on to discuss the results of the Personnel Committee Meeting, and the recommendation to give a merit bonus to the Executive Director of 10%, and an additional 5% incentive to make up for the inability to increase her compensation. **Commissioner Brimhall moved that the Personnel Committee's recommendation of a 10% merit bonus and 5% incentive be given to the Executive Director. Commissioner O'Rourke seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.**

Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Jantz and the board discussed items they would like to discuss at the next meeting: youth support, board elections, deciding on whether board meetings will continue virtually, or be in person, adding a DeafBlind representative to the commission.

Adjournment

**Commissioner Scarboro moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm.
Commissioner Huch seconded; the motion carried unanimously.**

Dated this 24th day of August 2021 by PV Jantz, Committee Chair

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 24th day of August, 2021 at 5:00 pm by Chyla Dalton-Nava.