



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 18, 2022 at 4:30pm.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Jantz called the meeting to order at **4:40 PM**

Commissioners present: PV Jantz, Catherine Sienko, Fred Williams, Susan Webster

Commissioners present by phone: Andrew Cohen, Barbara Brimhall, Jennifer Scarboro, Sarah Benton, Missy Keast, Melanie O'Rourke (in at 4:48 PM)

Commissioners absent: Debbie Venkatesh

Staff Present: Sherri Collins, Carmen Green Smith, Nikki Soukup, Victoria Vaughn, Ricky Gonsowski, Chyla Dalton-Nava

By Phone: Assistant Attorney General Nick Bacon

Approval of Minutes- June 9, 2022

Commissioner Sienko moved to approve the minutes from the last board meeting held on June 9th, 2022. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Report/Summary of Events

None.

Executive Director's Update

Sherri Collins updated the Board on some of the recent changes to ACDHH Staff. Carlos Castillo will be moving out of state, and will be resigning as the Business manager on September 2nd. Sue Kay Kneifel will begin working with the agency as the incoming Business Manager effective August 22nd. Ricky Gonsowski started as our new IT Generalist in April, and Amory Goodale started as the Communications Access Specialist. On Monday, August 22nd, we will have two new full time staff joining us- Sandra Regalado, who is the Business Operations Accounting Specialist, and Cameo Hunsaker, who is the Interpreter Development Specialist. The agency has been busy working on the Citizens Clean Elections for developing an ASL voter's guide, as well as

with Ballet Arizona, who will be doing a special promotion in the fall to promote awareness for the new looped Dorrance Theatre. She also updated the Board on Sate Plan for Aging- Arizona is the first state to include Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind seniors in a state plan. The agency will be hosting an expo in the spring of 2023 for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind seniors.

Executive Director's Annual Evaluation

Commissioner Jantz updated the board on the recent Personnel Committee meeting, which was held earlier in the day. The committee discussed Sherri Collins recent evaluation, which had a 96% positive rating. The Board expressed their appreciation for the work Sherri is doing, and wanted to reward her performance over the past year. After discussing options for bonuses, **Commissioner Cohen moved to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation of a 7% Spot award for Sherri Collins** Commissioners Brimhall and Webster seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Policy/Legislative Update

Nikki Soukup addressed the Board with a legislative update. The agency has been keeping an eye on senate bill 1651 which requires AHCCCS to include specific information on people with disabilities in their annual report. this will allow easier tracking of complaints related to securing ADA accommodations. Comments have been submitted to the Department of Health Services on their proposed rules on out of state telehealth providers. Recommendations were also provided to the House AdHoc Committee on the abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults. She concluded with an update on the end result of the SB 1092 Language Acquisition Task Force- the report is now available for the Board to review, and will soon be presented to the public, along with ASL and Spanish versions. **The board went on a break at 5:45.** Commissioner Keast left the meeting. **The meeting resumed at 5:59.**

Interpreter Licensure Committee Update

Commissioner Benton updated the Board on the licenses granted since the June Board Meeting. There were a total of 27 licenses granted, with seven of those licenses being granted to individuals in the state of Arizona. There were also a few Provisional D licenses granted.

Public Comments

Casey Hassett commented on her concerns about the DeafBlind Community in Tucson. She explained that SSP services can be very difficult to schedule, and that SSP needs to be scheduled two weeks in advance, as well as concerns with SSP providers sometimes not having skills for tactile interpreting. J. Birch wrote in comments that were read by Commissioner Benton, on the difficulty of finding in-home or assisted living care for elderly Deaf in southern Arizona.

Interpreter Complaints/Inquiries

Victoria Vaughn updated the board on one interpreter inquiry, for Victoria Connolly.

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.

Ms. Victoria Connolly was issued her provisional C license on June 20th of 2019, which has been renewed yearly until June 20th, 2022. She recently attempted to renew on June 20th of this year. Upon review of her renewal application, licensing staff found her continuing education hours to be incomplete, short of seven hours. Prior to submitting the renewal, Ms. Connolly did not realize she was short the full 12 hours, and expressed that she was surprised that she did not complete her hours. The recommendation is to renew her license with the condition that she make up the seven new additional continuing education hours on top of the required 12 hours prior to her renewal on June 20th of 2023. After discussion, **Commissioner Benton moved to approve the license renewal with understanding that she will complete 12 hours of continuing education plus the missed 7 hours by her 2023 renewal date, Commissioner Sienko seconded, the motion carried unanimously.**

AHCCCS Systems Concerns

No update at this time. *AAG Nick Bacon Left the meeting at 6:14 PM.*

DeafBlind Board Member

Nikki Soukup will be drafting a resolution to the Board, and will have more information on that at the next Board Meeting.

Officer Elections

Commissioner Jantz moved to table the discussion on Officer Elections until the November Board meeting, Commissioner Sienko seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

Future Meeting Format and Location

After a brief discussion, **Commissioner Cohen moved that the November 17th Board meeting be held remotely, Commissioner Sienko seconded, the motion passed unanimously.**

Future Agenda Items

The Board discussed adding the following topics to the agenda: 2023 meeting dates and locations, discussion on SSPs, discussion on accessible facilities for seniors, Officer elections.

Adjournment

Commissioner Jantz moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 pm. Commissioner Sienko seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 22nd day of August 2022 by PV Jantz, Committee Chair

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 23rd day of August, 2022 at 5:00 pm by Chyla Dalton-Nava.