

Minutes of the meeting of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, Interpreter Licensing Committee(ILC).

Meeting held June 10, 2026 at 4:00pm.

Meeting was held remotely via Zoom and posted to the agency YouTube page.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Swenson called the meeting to order at **4:11 PM**

Commissioners present via Zoom:,Commissioner Swenson, Commissioner Bolmarcich,Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Kidd

Commissioners absent: None

AAG Elise Phalen

Staff Present via Zoom:Ashley Martin, Nikki Soukup,Ricky Gonsowski, Chyla Dalton-Nava and Victoria Vaughn

Announcements

None.

Review/Approval of Sign Language Interpreter Applications

Commissioner Swenson moved to recommend the names below, to the Executive Director for issuance of an Interpreter License. Motion seconded by Commissioner Thompson; motion carried unanimously.

The following applicants are approved for licensure, based on education, examination and experience requirements.

1. Amanda Alexander
2. Angela Hoag
3. Angelique Kessens
4. Annette Pourciau
5. Ariel Baeseman-O'Donnell
6. Arthur Trexler
7. Arturo Anchondo
8. Baron Kane II
9. Breanna Boyce
10. Breeann Katz
11. Brian Parker
12. Bronwynn Shew
13. Carrie McGoldrick
14. Catarino Munoz
15. Charles Valo
16. Claire Shafer

26. James Glenz
27. Julie Cottom
28. Julie Olivarez
29. Kathryn Fisher
30. Katie Hoover
31. Kelly Mikkelson
32. Khera Colbert
33. Laura Blackburn
34. Lilly Miller
35. Mary Dorough
36. Mary Evans
37. Michael Bove
38. Molly Sheridan
39. Nicole Briney
40. Nohelani Jarnes
41. Octavia Iwuchukwu

17. Connor Kane	42. Ryan Shephard
18. Divone Bethea	43. Sandra Dieter
19. Erica Wade	44. Sarah Guillory
20. Ernest Willman	45. Tabatha Fratangelo
21. Esther Doss	46. Tanner Vance
22. Hanna Russell	47. Terri Bennett
23. Heather Novak	48. Tracie Henning
24. Heidi Cooke	49. Ulissa Montoya
25. Hope Jensen	50. Zaqari Olivarez

2026 Meeting Dates

The committee discussed availability for the upcoming July meeting. After navigating individual scheduling conflicts, they decided to set the immediate next meeting date and handle subsequent July dates via a follow-up poll to save time. **Commissioner Swenson moved that ILC meet on July 23rd, 2026 at 5:30 PM; Commissioner Kidd seconds, the motion carried unanimously.**

Interpreter Complaint/Inquiries

Regarding Brenda Tress: This complaint was filed by Debbie Mahoney. Victoria Vaughn provided a summary of events: the situation occurred during a two-day hospital assignment for a DeafBlind patient. Allegations included Ms. Tress was playing games/texting on her phone, failing to interpret when medical staff were present, inappropriately suggesting Adult Protective Services (APS) be called, gossiping, and refusing to assist with feeding the patient. Ms. Tress responded to the allegations, and denied failing to work, noting she used live captions and ASL to facilitate communication. She acknowledged refusing to feed the patient, stating it fell outside her professional boundaries as a communication facilitator. She also alleged that Ms. Mahoney (the caregiver) physically removed her hands during tactile interpreting, causing interpersonal tension. The ILC discussed these allegations, and agreed that feeding a patient is not an interpreter’s duty. Commissioners noted that due to a lack of concrete evidence for the other conflicting allegations, and the fact that Ms. Tress's last complaint was eight years prior, a severe penalty was unwarranted. **Commissioner Kidd moved to recommend to the full board to send a Letter of Concern to Ms. Tress regarding the professional code of conduct and conflict mitigation; Commissioner Bolmarcich seconded, the motion carried unanimously.**

Regarding LaDonna Gabrielson: This complaint was filed by Cindy Volk. Summary of Allegations: Ms. Volk alleged that Ms. Gabrielson (owner of Open Doors agency) and an unnamed Legal D interpreter accepted a Tucson Police Department interview assignment at an emergency room involving a Deaf victim. Ms. Volk alleged

this assignment required a Legal A tier interpreter under A.R.S. 12-242 and that Ms. Gabrielson improperly accepted it without the appropriate teaming arrangement. The investigation revealed that Ms. Gabrielson did arrive at the assignment, though ultimately all three interpreters (including Ms. Volk, who arrived via a separate agency) went into the room. The ILC discussed the findings, with Commissioner Kidd raising questions regarding agency responsibilities and directory listings. Elise Phalen clarified that the Commission holds no legal authority over interpreting agencies or businesses; its jurisdiction is strictly limited to Ms. Gabrielson's actions as an individual licensee. Commissioner Thompson expressed concern over the clarity of "best practice" versus mandated policy.

Commissioner Swenson moved to recommend to the full board to send a Letter of Concern to Ms. Gabrielson regarding best practices for legal settings and police interviews. Commissioner Thompson seconded this motion, it carried with Commissioner Kidd abstaining from the vote.

Regarding Cassandra Olewinski: This complaint was filed by Heather Cane. Summary of Allegations: Ms. Cane alleged that Ms. Olewinski engaged in the unlicensed practice of sign language interpreting. Ms. Olewinski was contracted by Connect interpreting agency for an adult construction class at the East Valley Institute of Technology. Because the consumers were two Deaf adults (not K-12), the educational licensure exemption did not apply. The investigation reveals Ms. Olewinski confirmed she took the assignment because the agency informed her "something is better than nothing." However, upon being informed of the law by Ms. Cane, Ms. Olewinski immediately cancelled all future assignments at the facility and refused payment for the work completed. The committee commended Ms. Olewinski for taking swift corrective action once notified of the law, recognizing it as a learning moment for a newer interpreter who was misled by an agency. **Commissioner Kidd moved to recommend to the full Board that Ms. Olewinski receive a Letter of Concern detailing licensure laws, alongside resources and assistance mapping out a path toward proper Arizona licensure, Commissioner Swenson seconds, the motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

Commissioner Kidd moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 PM; Commissioner Bolmarcich seconds, the meeting ended at 5:18 PM.

Dated this 15th day of June, 2026 at 5:00 pm by Chyla Dalton-Nava, Assistant to the Executive Director.