

**MINUTES OF
THE ADVISORY BOARD FOR INTERPRETERS BETWEEN HEARING INDIVIDUALS AND
INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF, DEAFBLIND, HARD OF HEARING, OR ORAL DEAF
OCTOBER 10, 2014
QUARTERLY MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ray James, Chairperson
Debbie Pearce
Pat Nickell
Holly Ketchum
Melanie Thornton
J.R. Courtright

ADH STAFF PRESENT

Reginald Rogers, Attorney
Bethany McLaughlin, Legal Staff

GUESTS PRESENT

John West, Interpreter
William Gorum, Interpreter

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The Quarterly Meeting of the Advisory Board for Interpreters between Hearing Individuals and Individuals who are Deaf, Deafblind, Hard of Hearing, or Oral Deaf (the "Advisory Board") was called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m., on Friday, October 10, 2014. Roll was called and all members except Jami Hollingsworth being present, a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. James indicated that the minutes from the July 11, 2014 Quarterly Meeting will be reviewed at the next Advisory Board meeting. Ms. Ketchum stated that she would like the minutes to be sent to the committee one month after the quarterly meeting. There was unanimous agreement to vote on both the July 11, 2014, and the October 10, 2014 minutes at the next meeting.

UPDATE FROM THE LICENSURE APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ms. Thornton gave a report on the activities of the Licensure Application Review Committee since the last full Advisory Board meeting. She stated that there have been 144 applications total. Twelve applications were approved for licensure today. She explained that the Committee has three applications pending that need additional information or credentials to be provided.

Ms. Thornton explained that, at the last meeting, she reported that there were about 130 applications, but those numbers may have been a little loaded. She explained that when the subcommittee reviewed an application, may ask for additional credentials when something is missing from the application. Those applications may have been counted twice. According to

Ms. Thornton, 144 applications is more accurate. There should be about 141 who have already received their license or who have been approved to receive their license.

Ms. Thornton then asked, when someone is submitting their initial application for Provisional Licensure, do the training and supervision hours they submit have to take place within the previous year?

Mr. James replied that on the application it says only ten (10) hours a year of supervised interpreting.

Ms. Thornton identified that was with fifteen (15) hours of training and ten (10) hours of supervision.

Ms. Pierce stated that the Subcommittee looked at the rules and felt that there needs to be some clarification. She said that under Section 9 of the Rules speaks of continuing education on an annual basis for Qualified Licensed Interpreters. However, Section 7(B), regarding the application for Provisional Licensure, requires documentation of fifteen (15) hours of training and ten (10) hours of supervised observation with no specified timeframe.

Mr. James indicated that he did not think the training and supervision for Provisional Licensure was repeated on an annual basis, because the applicant would come under the ten (10) hours of continuing education units once they have been approved for Qualified Licensure. The timeline for the initial application is vague.

Ms. Thornton asked what happens if an interpreter has been certified or credentialed through an existing agency, but then loses their hearing and identifies as a deaf person. Would their application be rejected with the existing credentials? Would the Advisory Board require them to submit the credentials for a Provisional Licensure?

Mr. James stated that if their credentials are still current, the Board would have to honor them, even if the applicant is functioning as a Deaf individual.

Ms. Pierce asked if the application has to match the documentation if they apply for a Provisional License and check that they are Deaf? Or can they apply saying they are Deaf, but document with hearing credentials?

Mr. James stated if they are applying for Provisional status, yes. However, if they are applying as a Certified Deaf Interpreter certified individual that is a totally different story. They would have to hold Certified Deaf Interpreter credentials for that application.

Ms. Thornton asked if someone holds an EIPA, would they have the option to submit a Provisional license if they are Deaf. Mr. James stated yes it would allow them to apply for a license under the general process. In which to apply for Provisional status Certified Deaf Interpreter. They are going to have to follow that rule and the EIPA credential is invalid for that process.

Ms. Ketchum asked, if you start losing your hearing is there a transfer to Certified Deaf Interpreter where you can take a test? She said that she has heard of some interpreters who lost their hearing but they were still interpreting because with a hearing aid they could still function as an interpreter. However, if they did go completely deaf, then they could go to Certified Deaf Interpreter

Mr. James agreed that those individuals may need to switch over to Certified Deaf Interpreter credentialing. Ken Musteen is a perfect example of someone losing their hearing and still working as a regular interpreter with the use of assistive devices. It may be that the applicant in question should be applying for Qualified Licensure and start working on Certified Deaf Interpreter, because in the future the Qualified License may not be available to them.

The Advisory Board discussed renewal of licensure and when renewal letters should be sent out.

Ms. Thornton made a motion to send out renewal letter reminders no later than November 15, 2014, so that the applicants will have forty-five (45) days' notice prior to the time for renewal. Ms. Ketchum seconded the motion. The motion passed.

REVIEW OF ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES INTERPRETERS INFORMATION SHEET

Mr. James stated that the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services brochure was placed on the Arkansas Registry of Deaf Interpreters' list serve about a week and a half ago. He also stated that Arkansas Rehabilitation Services approved the Board to use their website.

It was noted that changes to the brochure had already been submitted prior to placement. However, Ms. Ketchum was to confirm there were no other changes to be made.

Revision mentioned consisted of under who can I contact; should be "at" instead of "as" and any late fees, in the amount of \$25.00, should be added to the box at the bottom. It was also mentioned "same page" under Registry for the Deaf Interpreter should not be capitalized and there should be an "s" added, the first bullet point under information about the law should read "automatic recognition of credentials"; with a lower case "r" for recognition., under Arkansas Services it should be "QAST recognized", and to remove Arkansas Rehabilitation Services completely. It was also added that in the first paragraph second sentence "if an interpreter refuses to show you their license you may take down as much information you know" should be changed to "as much information as possible to file a complaint".

It was stated under "who files a complaint" "deaf, hard of hearing, oral" needs to be added. Also in the previous section "when the interpreter shows you a license, copy down the information needed and start the complaint/grievance process" does not correlate with the next sentence. The revision requested was to change "when the interpreter shows you their license, copy down the information needed in case a complaint/grievance is to be filed".

Ms. Ketchum mentioned that she would like a link added and Mr. James indicated there is not a link to put on the brochure yet. However, one could be added at a later publication. Mr. Rogers mentioned under "what happens under a complaint process" "what happens to the accused that is found at fault" He suggested removing that line. The next bullet "what is the punishment" try to stay away from the word "punishment" it is more criminal. Mr. James stated that "individuals will have 30 days to become compliant" under the section "what is the punishment?" This sentence needs to be added to all services.

REAPPOINTMENT OF EXPIRED POSITIONS

Mr. James indicated J.R. Courtright and Debbie Pearce are near the expiration of their terms. Notification was received, from the Arkansas Association for the Deaf that J.R. Courtright and Nathan Burleson were recommended for appointment. Debbie Pearce and Karen Binko were also recommended for nomination by the Arkansas Registered Interpreters for the Deaf.

Mr. James stated this is an annual event that will need to be on Arkansas Association for the Deaf and Arkansas Registered Interpreters for the Deaf's timelines as they are going to be giving nominations on an annual basis. The number of positions will change on an annual basis, but it will be an annual event that they will need to submit nominations. He stated that in August or September the search should begin for nominations to be submitted. This would ensure that by October the Arkansas Department of Health would have the considerations to make the appointment before January.

Ms. Ketchum stated that she would calendar a reminder for August so that she will be able to make the announcement in October.

DISCUSSION OF RULES

Mr. James stated we are discussing the rules and not the law because the law is not changeable. The rules are changeable.

Mr. Rogers informed the Board that they do have to go through the entire rule making process. He added that the legislative session is about to begin and all rule making will stop once the session begins. This will continue until the session is over, unless there is an emergency rule making. Therefore, starting in January when the session starts until March or April there will be no way to make changes.

Mr. James stated that a public forum meeting was going to take place for the general public between now and the end of the year. That way we can present to the Arkansas Board of Health in January. If they give their approval the Board can move forward to March and April.

Mr. James suggested having a discussion regarding pages 10 and 11 of the rules. He stated there needed to be some clarity regarding conflicts and duplications in the credentials.

It was discussed that there would need to be some discussion regarding the Administrative Office of the Court; as the court currently uses Provisional individuals for their court cases. The state of Arkansas has no Certified Deaf Interpreters. Mental health cases also use Provisional individuals. It was asked if it would be helpful to add the categories QAST 1, BEI 1, and PDI. Or to complete a separate list all together.

Ms. Ketchum emphasized that a separate list would be easier. Professional Provisional Interpreters, she believed starting next year, are permanent Certified Deaf Interpreter through Registered Interpreters for the Deaf.

Mr. James stated the rules do not limit how long a Provisional can hold a license at this time.

Mr. James indicated that a public forum would take place on October 18, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. in Springdale, Arkansas for the discussion of the rules. This will be a chance for public comments regarding the rules and regulations.

Ms. Ketchum stated two interpreters are scheduled for the public forum, Elise Kirkpatrick and David Peebles. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services will be paying for these two interpreters.

Mr. James asked, "do we have to make sure we cover the whole state?"

Mr. Rogers replied you do not. He explained there will still be a public comment period and it will have to be approved by the Board of Health.

There was no further discussion or public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Hollingsworth, Secretary
The Advisory Board for Interpreters between
Hearing Individuals and Individuals who are Deaf,
Deafblind, Hard of Hearing, and Oral Deaf