

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

**AUGUST 5, 2016 QUARTERLY MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jami Hollingsworth, Secretary  
Debbie Pearce  
Holly Ketchum  
Karin Binko  
J.R. Courtright  
Jerrie Finch

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ray James, Chairperson (excused)

**ADH STAFF PRESENT**

Elizabeth Harris, ADH Attorney  
Bethany McLaughlin, ADH Legal

**GUESTS PRESENT**

William Gorum, Interpreter  
Linda Stauffer, Interpreter

## **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Jami Hollingsworth, Secretary, called 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") to order at approximately 2:00 p.m., on Friday, August 5, 2016. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the May 6, 2016 Licensure Subcommittee and Quarterly Meetings of the Advisory Board were presented, along with Minutes from the June 24, 2016 Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Pearce and Ms. Finch asked that the spelling of their names be corrected in the minutes. Ms. Finch made a motion to approve the May 6, 2016 Licensure Subcommittee Meeting and Quarterly Meeting minutes of the Advisory Board, as amended. Mr. Courtright seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

Mr. Courtright moved to approve the June 24, 2016 Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting minutes. Ms. Finch seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Criminal Background Checks**

Ms. Ketchum gave an update from the June 24, 2016 ad hoc Subcommittee meeting, along with Ms. Pearce. Ms. Pearce briefly described the June 24 meeting. She stated that the Subcommittee's recommendation was to include an inquiry into criminal background on the application for licensure. This is based on the Registry for Interpreters of the Deaf's actions to do the same.

Ms. Pearce stated that the Subcommittee planned to meet again to determine the exact wording of the inquiry and to determine what action should be taken when criminal background is disclosed on an application. Ms. Pearce and Ms. Ketchum will give a final report after the next Subcommittee meeting.

The Advisory Board discussed why this new requirement is needed. Ms. Finch mentioned that the state screening organization (QAST) will also be adding a background check requirement. Ms. Hollingsworth indicated some concerns over further restricting licensees' ability to practice. She advised taking caution in deciding how to proceed.

## **Update on Rules and Regulations Promulgation Process**

Ms. Harris stated that the public comment period had ended and that no one attended the public hearing. Ms. Harris stated that some comments were received on the levels of licensure and what credential had to be held to practice in a certain area. Ms. Harris asked the Advisory Board to assist the agency in formulating a response to those comments and whether or not any changes needed to be made.

Discussion ensued about those comments and responses were formulated that were attached to the Rules and presented to the Legislative Committees. The Committee decided not to make changes based on these comments. The Advisory Board discussed that the changes proposed were based on feedback from an ad hoc committee that was formed to specifically look at this issue; this committee looked at several of the issues mentioned in the comments. Ms. Hollingsworth mentioned that the Advisory Board should not advocate for the position that having any interpreter is better than having no interpreter. Ms. Ketchum mentioned that if enough feedback is received about how these levels work, then flexibility could be built into the licensing structure in the future.

Ms. Hollingsworth did mention that the committee could always return to the licensure levels in the future and make changes, but that nothing in the comments warrants making those changes now. Ms. Ketchum said that the ad hoc committee should probably review the licensure levels. Ms. Harris recommended waiting until these changes have been effective for some time to see how it is working in the community.

Ms. Harris stated that the Rules should be presented back to the Board of Health in October 2016, or January 2017. The effective date should be by February 2017. Ms. Hollingsworth suggested that the ad hoc committee look at these levels again in the fall of 2017 and that public feedback would be welcome at that time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Acceptance of Georgia State Sign Language Interpreter Certification**

Ms. Harris stated that someone applied for licensure in July 2016 that had a Georgia certification and an EIPA credential. This person has been approved for licensure with her EIPA credential. The only issue before the Board is how to handle the Georgia certification.

Ms. Hollingsworth reported on the Licensure Subcommittee's discussion of this issue. She stated that the Georgia's license is specific for an educational interpreter. According to Ms. Hollingsworth, there are no levels that could be equivalent to Arkansas's level. Ms. Harris stated that Georgia also requires them to provide an underlying credential to get a certification.

Ms. Harris asked the Advisory Board to vote on whether to accept the Georgia's credential pursuant to the Rules and the Statute. Ms. Hollingsworth posed the question to the Board. Ms. Finch moved to deny acceptance Georgia's certification for licensure in Arkansas because there is no need to do so; the underlying credential is recognized by Arkansas. Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. Ms. Hollingsworth asked for any discussion. Discussion ensued on the question being presented. The motion passed without objection.

Ms. Hollingsworth reminded the Advisory Board that three positions will be expiring in December 2016: Ray James, Jami Hollingsworth, and Holly Ketchum. Ms. Harris stated she will start working on getting those filled as soon as possible.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Licensure Subcommittee Update**

The Subcommittee met on August 5, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Hollingsworth reported that there are currently 158 licensees. Since the last Board meeting there have been seven new applications and six renewals. All were approved and there are no pending applications.

Ms. Hollingsworth mentioned that the Subcommittee discussed reaching out to the various Interpreter Communities. Ms. Hollingsworth explained that sometimes applicants will fail to provide the form or submit the wrong form that does not have the correct information, so the new form will have a place to put the email so that we can streamline the application process.

Ms. Harris updated the Advisory Board on releasing the names of licensed interpreters to the Arkansas Department of Education. Ms. Harris stated that the Department will prepare notices to send to all licensees asking if they want to be removed from that list.

### **Financial Update**

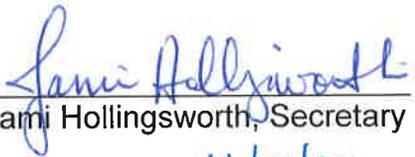
Ms. Harris reported that the Advisory Board had a balance of \$32,460.57, at the beginning of the fiscal year. As of the last meeting, it was \$37,169.39. It currently has \$46,763.00, in its account.

The Advisory Board has dedicated about \$1,300 for expenses. Another \$5,000 has been committed to technology, like videos translating documents into American Sign Language that have been discussed at previous meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. William Gorum, an interpreter, commented that several people in the community have expressed a concern that there is no one involved representing a freelance interpreters on the Advisory Board or the Subcommittees. Ms. Hollingsworth stated that this was very good feedback and was something the Advisory Board should consider in the future.

There being no other public comments, Ms. Hollingsworth adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:15 p.m.

  
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Jami Hollingsworth, Secretary

Approved on 11/4/16