

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

August 7, 2020
Quarterly Meeting Minutes

The Advisory Board for Interpreters convened at 2:00 p.m., at Freeway Medical Building, Room 906, Little Rock, AR. Board president Mr. Carel Dunaway opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and requesting a brief introduction of each member and program staff.

COVID restrictions are in place. All participants are 6 feet apart & wearing mask. We will do roll call, rather than signing in.

Board members present included: Board president, Mr. Carel Dunaway, Arthur Babin, Ms. Daisy Dippel, Ms. Debbie Pearce, Ms. Stephanie Ott, and Ms. Nancy Quinn.

ADH staff in attendance included: Mr. Brian Nichols, ADH attorney & Cheryl Allen (administrative support).

Transcribers present: Amy Hazel and Will Gorum

Interpreters present: Meagan Beaty, Jonathan Smith, Clint Brockway, and Tironica Hamilton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Dunaway requested a motion to approve two sets of meeting minutes from November and February and acceptance of the minutes by a show of hands. Corrections to grammar & spelling were made on the February & November meeting minutes and an overall change was made to the title of the meeting minutes. The word “Deaf” will be excluded from the title. Instead, it will be “Advisory Board for Interpreters”. The minutes were accepted.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

New board members: Arthur Babin, Debbie Pearce, and Stephanie Ott.
Carel Dunaway stated that they are searching for one additional member to take Michael McMahon’s position on the board. A request was made to ARID President. They are trying to locate someone to serve in that position for us before August 14th. Up until now, we’ve had quorum.

Old Business

Daisy Dippel stated that the subcommittees need to be restructured. There are many subcommittees with just one person, but with a full board, this needs to be addressed.

Nancy Quinn: Stated that on the Investigation Committee, she investigated a complaint submitted by Holly Beth Smith about Brittany Hogan. It was not what it seemed between Brittany Hogan & the deaf consumer hugging at the Social Security office in Conway. The outcome from that encounter, was in fact, an agreement between the two of them.

Nancy stated that the interpreter's boss, Karen Lange, from the School for the Deaf was present. She also stated that she wrote a letter to everyone with her "findings"
Nancy stated that she felt uneasy that she was a party of one to decide, but she knows she has the committee in case she needs backup. She also stated that there needs to be an expansion for people on that committee about protocol that will make it more structured and maybe switch to the Licensure committee.

Nancy: Stated that she & Daisy both felt the same way about the Licensure committee. It would make it easier for the people on committees if there was a protocol or a set of rules and regulations to go by.

Daisy Dippel: Stated that there were talks the Licensure committee would start a working document via email to approve applications or renewals within the guidelines. Daisy also mentioned revisiting the qualifications for levels of licensure.

Carel Dunaway: Asked how the board felt about the letterhead.

Nancy Quinn: Stated that she uses ADH Letterhead with the board's name, but she believes it would be more formal to have our own letterhead.

Art Babin: Presented his idea for the logo. Instead of using ADH logo, he stated that we can have the text around the circle show the Department of Health with abbreviations for the name of the board and then a symbol of interpreter hands.

Carel Dunaway: suggested drawing an example to distribute to the committee.

Debbie Pearce motioned that the board pay someone \$150 to develop a letterhead and create a logo. Stated that she has a good friend who is skilled at creating logos.

Brian Nichols: before any rulings are made to incorporate the ADH logo with the Advisory Board for Interpreters logo, it needs to be approved.

Daisy Dippel: Asked Brian if he would give an update on the fee change since renewals are coming up. She stated that she wanted to make sure that the information has been changed & the website is updated with those changes.

Brian Nichols: The rules were approved at the April Board of Health meeting. It's been submitted to the legislature and the governor's office. The public comment period is scheduled for September & it should be published in the paper in the upcoming weeks.

Brian Nichols also stated that the change was made, but it's not official until it's approved by the governor's office. The fees are currently the same, but he doesn't anticipate that there will be any issues with it being approved.

Daisy Dippel: As soon as we visit this in new business, we will assign that to someone.

New Business

Carel Dunaway: Carel needed to know who wanted to stay on their committee before starting the process of transferring? He also stated that he wants to transfer from the Investigation committee to the Tech committee because he knows a lot about CAD.

Carel Dunaway: Investigations committee chair will rotate with each subsequent complaint.

Daisy Dippel: Prefers to have an interpreter on the Licensure committee along with her. She will also serve on the Investigations committee. She stated that both committees need to be revamped & there is a lot of work to do on the bylaws.

Nancy Quinn: Stated that she will remain on the investigation committee.

Arthur Babin: Stated that he doesn't mind being on Investigation & Budget committee.

Stephanie Ott: Stated that she would love to be on the Licensure committee with Daisy.

Carel Dunaway: We have two on the Licensure subcommittee. Three on the Investigation committee and two on the budget committee.

Debbie Pearce: stated that she will be on the Licensure Committee.

Carel Dunaway: The committees are as follows:

1. Licensure –Stephanie Ott, Debbie Pearce, Daisy Dippel (Chair)
2. Investigations –Arthur Babin, Daisy Dippel, Nancy Quinn
3. Budget/fee Ad Hoc –Arthur Babin, Nancy Quinn
4. Tech committee –Stephanie Ott, Carel Dunaway (Chair)

Will Gorum: Stepped out of his role as Transcriber to address the complaint process. He stated that the deaf person has a right to choose their own interpreter. It's a logistical nightmare for agency owners and free lancers, but if the deaf person approves the lower level interpreter who doesn't meet qualifications, there needs to be an agreement for all involved and a documentation system in place so that freelance and agencies can protect themselves. He also stated that he would like an ad hoc committee to revisit the levels as it relates to reciprocity. There are gaps that need to be reviewed as a community. Mr. Gorum's third concern is how licensure is applied to video relay services. He stated that if an interpreter is using VRI, they must be licensed to work in our state.

Daisy Dippel: Stated that Will Gorum's concerns can be assigned to the different committees. Licensure can address the levels. Ad hoc can also help. Documentation can be assigned to the Technology committee. A document that doesn't hold the agency liable.

Arthur Babin: Stated that there should be a document that the deaf consumer and the hearing agency both sign to take care of liability.

Will Gorum: Stated that the hearing person would sign documentation as well. Both parties need to agree.

Stephanie Ott: Stated that the deaf person may like the interpreter but it's only fair to do good by everyone and be the bad guy for the betterment of everyone.

Daisy Dippel: Stated that the previous attorney, on the Advisory board, had already approved that anybody doing VRI work in the state should be licensed.

Nancy Quinn: Stated that she thinks documentation educates the hearing person more and puts more responsibility on whomever is hiring or involved in the process.

Stephanie Ott: Stated that adding the step to signing the form may make all parties think twice about not providing a qualified interpreter.

Arthur Babin: Asked for more information about an email sent via Admin support on behalf of Kim Scott & Family Health Branch requesting financial support for personnel.

Brian Nichols: Stated that it can be put under New Business at the next board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:27

Next meeting: may be on Zoom due to COVID-19.

Signature: 

Date: 11-6-2020