

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

NOVEMBER 3, 2017 QUARTERLY MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ray James, Chair
Jami Hollingsworth
Debbie Pearce
Holly Ketchum
Karin Binko
J. R. Courtright

ADH STAFF PRESENT

Brooks White
Karley Altazan

GUEST PRESENT

Dr. Linda Stauffer, Interpreter
John West, Interpreter
Will Gorum, Interpreter

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ray James called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. James requested approval or changes to the meeting minutes from August 4, 2017. Ms. Jami Hollingsworth suggested a few grammatical changes to be made by Ms. Karley Altazan. Ms. Debbie Pearce made a motion to accept the minutes with the requested corrections. Motion seconded by Ms. Holly Ketchum. Motion approved.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Hollingsworth reported the Licensure Subcommittee met at 1:00pm on November 3, 2017. Going forward the meetings will begin at 1:30pm, due to short agenda items. It was verified by Ms. Altazan that the renewal notices were mailed at the end of September. As of the meeting date, a total of 13 interpreters have been renewed and the current total of qualified licensed interpreters is 233.

Ms. Altazan noted that Pacific Interpreters, a VRI company, applied for 43 new interpreter licenses. All were approved, bringing in a total of \$5,375 for the Board. Mr. James is glad there is a better understanding of VRI; thanks in part to hospitals such as

Mercy Health in Northwest Arkansas who make sure their services are provided by a qualified licensed interpreter.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Brooks White informed the Board the he and Ms. Altazan reviewed the statute and rules for interpreters. While there is no specification for VRI providers, it is the standpoint that if they are providing interpreting services to Arkansas they need to be licensed accordingly. However, there is a provision under Ark. Code Ann. § 20-14-808(b)(2) that states the licensure requirement does not apply to "a nonresident interpreter that holds a credential or a certificate valid in another state who in interprets in Arkansas less than twenty (20) days per year." Ms. Altazan spoke with our General Counsel, Mr. Robert Brech and it was determined to be twenty (20) individual, unique days. Mr. James explained that provision was put into place due to interpreters from other states that may come to Arkansas to provide work for a conference. He believes that as the consumer becomes more knowledgeable of their rights, the question of licensure will be asked more frequently and trigger those not licensed to pursue it.

Mr. James requested Ms. Altazan initiate a change to the renewals regarding signature line placement. Ms. Altazan will coordinate with Ms. Bethany McLaughlin to make the changes.

Ms. Debbie Pearce wanted to clarify from the last meeting; all complaints must go through ADH to the Board. Mr. James verified she is correct on the process. Because the Department of Education does not have a complaint process they must file the complaint with us and then we may send it to ADE.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. James requested a meeting schedule for the 2018 calendar year. Ms. Karin Binko made the motion to continue with the quarterly meetings on the first Friday of that month. Ms. Hollingsworth reiterated the licensure subcommittee will meet at 1:30pm on those dates. Motion seconded by Ms. Ketchum; motion approved.

Due to the upcoming vacancies, Mr. James requested an update regarding the nominations. Ms. Altazan confirmed the letters requesting nominations from ARID and AAD have been mailed, however there has been no response regarding those nominated. Mr. James explained the term limits and cycling of terms by members. The members that will be vacating their position January 2018 are: Mr. J.R. Courtright, representative of the deaf community and Ms. Debbie Pearce, representative of the interpreting community. Each member may serve three (3) year terms, but they may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. They may, however, cycle back after

another term. Ms. Hollingsworth received clarification that the chair of the ADH will make the selection of the nominations from AAD and ARID.

Mr. James requested Ms. Altazan provide a budget report for FY18 at the February meeting. The law requires the Board to be self-sufficient; therefore reviewing the budget is necessary to determine the fee structure. Ms. Altazan felt the fees were nominal compared to other licensure committees. However, Ms. Pearce has received comments regarding the cost of our licensure with the addition of CEU's may be higher than expected. Ms. Ketchum posed the question regarding the budget and if there is a surplus should we consider other projects or are there regulations regarding that option. Mr. James explained the rules and regulations do not identify how the money may be spent. Therefore if a portion of the budget is spent on videos/blogs providing information on licensing, there would need to approval for that spending. Mr. James confirmed with Ms. Altazan on the costs to the Board by ADH. Ms. Altazan explained that only postage is used from their budget. No staff members of ADH are reimbursed for working with the Board.

Mr. James expressed a need to make the website more accessible and user friendly for the deaf consumers. Additionally, there is the option of creating training videos for deaf and hearing consumers at large to help better understand the laws and their rights. Ms. Ketchum suggested providing more information to out of state interpreters on the process of applying for licensure.

OTHER MATTERS

There were no public comments.

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Binko and seconded by Mr. Courtright. Motion passes and meeting adjourned at 2:26pm.



Karin Binko, Secretary

Approved on _____