



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN BOARD OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF, DEAFBLIND AND HARD OF HEARING

February 14, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended, the Michigan Board of Interpreters for the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing met on February 14, 2024, at the Lansing Community College (LCC) West Campus, Cadillac Room (M-121 to 122), 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, Michigan, 48917.

CALL TO ORDER

Heather Keel called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mitch Holaly, Chairperson
Sarah Houston, Vice-Chairperson
April Davidson
Miriam Andrade Cuevas
James Cech
Rowan O'Dougherty
Linda Sykora

Members Absent: Leslie Pertz
Diana McKittrick

Staff Present:

Larry Horvath, Bureau Director, Bureau of Community and Health Systems (BCHS)
Steve Gobbo, Deputy Bureau Director, Bureau of Community and Health Systems BCHS
Heather Hosey, Division Director, Health Facility Licensing, Permits and Support, BCHS
Jason Scheeneman, Administrative Law Specialist
Jim Wiggins, Workforce Investigation Manager
Colleen Curtis, Qualified Interpreter Program, BCHS
Heather Keel, Analyst, Qualified Interpreter Program, BCHS
Katrina Johnson, Human Resources Developer, Qualified Interpreter Program, BCHS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Sykora, seconded by Houston to approve the agenda as presented.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION O'Dougherty, seconded by Sykora, to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting on October 25, 2023.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

NEW BUSINESS

A. Partner Update

1. Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (MDCR, DODDBHH)

Annie Urasky with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (MDCR, DODDBHH) provided a partner update to the Board. Urasky mentioned the community newsletter was posted and provided an update on the Promoting Equity in Health Care Interpreting (PEHI) project. For the project, they mentioned there is a need to recruit the Deaf community to share their healthcare experiences on camera.

Urasky mentioned that they would like to formally request to partner with BCHS for more education workshop opportunities to get the awareness out to the community of the programs that are available. DODDBHH priorities include expanding services for the aging population, and cross trainings with other agencies.

Urasky provided details on the PEHI project on promoting equity in healthcare. The project is aiming to elevate diversity including deaf interpreters and others. The assessment will provide details on what is missing from the training. The goal is to improve medical interpreting skills for interpreters in rural areas. The program training modules are available online for the public to view.

B. Department Report

Horvath introduced other Bureau staff that will be supporting the program. Gobbo provided some background information about his work history and the Bureau. Scheeneman was introduced and spoke about their enforcement experience, and the disciplinary action and appeal

processes. Wiggins was introduced and provided information and data about the investigation section.

Horvath reviewed the complaint process, focusing on the individual interpreter(s). They also discussed the administrative rules draft, proposed budget, and an updated online system. Horvath touched on a community and interpreter census and survey project that is in the early stages.

Hosey discussed recent program involvement in the community, including participation with the Signing Santa toy drive in Grand Rapids. Recent testing data was provided. They mentioned updates to the website layout and content.

Discussion

Davidson inquired about having the ITP programs present information and statistics on their programs. They noted that LCC has seen a decline in enrollment in the program since the pandemic.

Discussion occurred between Sykora and Holaly about the BEI Exam raters and whether there is value in having Michigan rating teams.

Davidson mentioned that LARA previously mentioned creating a deaf position and inquired what the status is.

Cech thanked the program for the website updates and the content of the presentation. They discussed collaboration with other BEI states. They also inquired about the Board and BCHS working together on some issues.

Holaly stated that there could be some discussions and the possibility of future board projects.

Discussion occurred about the voting process that will occur for the position of chair and vice chair of the board at the next scheduled meeting and how board discussion can take place.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was provided in-person:

Christopher Hunter provided comment to the Board. They thanked the Board for the wonderful job. They worked to initially set up the QA program and said the law is effective. Even if Michigan is strict, providing quality certified interpreters is a priority.

Comments provided via Zoom:

Jeanette (JJ) Johnson provided comment to the board. They inquired if some of the requested funds will be used for complaints to be submitted via video and if the interpreter rules will be done in ASL.

Diana McKittrick provided comment to the board. They said that interpreters are needed for both deaf and hearing individuals in a conversation. They would like to see the rules in English and ASL and more deaf engagement. There needs to be a push for more CDIs and more jobs for deaf residents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A vote will be held for the roles of chairperson and vice chairperson at the next scheduled meeting on May 8, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by O'Dougherty, seconded by Sykora, to adjourn the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

A voice vote was held.

MOTION PREVAILED

Prepared by:
Heather Keel
Bureau of Community and Health Systems

April 26, 2024