



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

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

April 18, 2023

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 April 18, 2023, 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 10:09 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Miriam Andrade Cuevas
Leslie Pertz

Staff Present:

Larry Horvath, Bureau Director, Bureau of Community and Health Systems
Heather Hosey, Division Director, Health Facility Licensing, Permits and Support, Bureau of Community and Health Systems
Colleen Curtis, Qualified Interpreter Program, Bureau of Community and Health Systems
Heather Keel, Analyst, Qualified Interpreter Program, Bureau of Community and Health Systems

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Davidson, seconded by McKittrick to add to the agenda discussion regarding the scheduled July 26th meeting date.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

ELECTIONS

Keel ran the election for Chairperson.

MOTION by Houston, seconded by Davidson, to nominate Holaly as Chairperson.

A roll call vote was held: Yeas – Houston, Davidson, McKittrick, Cech, O'Dougherty, Sykora

Nays – None
Abstained – Holaly

MOTION PREVAILED

Keel ran the election for Vice-Chairperson.

MOTION by McKittrick, seconded by O'Dougherty, to nominate Houston as Vice-Chairperson.

A roll call vote was held: Yeas – Holaly, Davidson, McKittrick, Cech, O'Dougherty, Sykora

Nays – None
Abstained -- Houston

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Davidson, seconded by Houston, to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting on January 31, 2023.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

APPROVAL OF MEETING CHANGE

MOTION by Davidson, seconded by Sykora, to approve the canceling of the July 26, 2023, meeting and reschedule the meeting to August 9, 2023.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

NEW BUSINESS

A. Department Report

Hosey welcomed the group and new Board Members. Details were provided on test scheduling and statistics from the last two quarters. Discussion on the upcoming renewal season and highlights on the renewal application requirements. Information was reviewed regarding endorsement application submission and CEU requirements that are often overlooked. Frequently asked questions were reviewed and discussed. Other areas of focus that the Department is working on were mentioned, includes reviewing the act and revising the rules.

Discussion

Discussion occurred about Deaf Interpreters (DI) and Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI) and that more research should be conducted regarding statistics of out of state and in state DIs and CDIs.

Houston inquired about offering the EIPA written test in Michigan.

Davidson stated that there are some Michigan colleges that are looking at being able to proctor the EIPA written and performance exams.

Discussion occurred amongst the Board regarding the volume of certificates that expire on June 30 and when those individuals should be submitting their renewal applications. Questioned how long they can work while the listing has an expired date.

Holaly asked for clarification on an expired listing.

Cech suggested some type of visual graphic with the renewal timeline.

Sykora discussed that the registry print-out of interpreters lacks cohesion in the printed list.

Houston inquired about providing reminders to the four-year cycles.

The Board circled back on DI and CDI and having more options for deaf individuals to interpret at performances or in another professional capacity.

O'Dougherty stated that several deaf individuals on the west side of the state might have challenges with English proficiency. Going to a doctor's office or hospital may be difficult

for the interpreter and deaf consumer to understand each other. Flexibility may be useful in using DIs and CDIs or other interpreters in this type of situation.

Sykora agreed that there are times when access to other interpreters is needed in certain situations.

Davidson inquired if a CDI test could easily be added since there is a contract with Texas.

Further discussion occurred. Holaly called a five-minute break.

McKittrick inquired about presentations for consumers. They need information on how to use an interpreter and what the different certification levels mean.

Discussion occurred regarding trainings and workshops. Several members agreed that the deaf community needs the resources on what services are available and what their rights are.

Cech suggested that there be goal prioritization and community input for the meetings.

Discussion occurred about replacing the Michigan Online Interpreter System (MOIS)

B. Partner Update

Holaly requested that the letter from MIRID be presented.

Keel read the statement from MIRID President Humann about the organization's current activities and available statistics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was provided in-person. Comments provided via Zoom:

James provided comment to the board. They inquired if there is a count of deaf interpreters that are certified.

Alayna Lail provided comment to the board. Inquired how a Deaf person or their advocate who finds out an interpreter's certification isn't valid should proceed.

Theresa Miracle provided comment to the board. Stated they appreciate Cech's suggestions about allowing the community to give more input.

Deb Atwood with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services provided comment to the Board. Stated their agency is supportive and will assist with bringing more deaf interpreters and interpreters to the west and east side.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held August 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Cech asked for a clarification on announcements and asked about a community post or announcement.

Board discussion occurred regarding recording a video announcement in ASL that could help more people understand the purpose of the board meetings and encourage participation.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by O'Dougherty, seconded by McKittrick, to adjourn the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

A voice vote was held.

MOTION PREVAILED

Minutes approved by the Board on August 9, 2023.

Prepared by:
Heather Keel
Bureau of Community and Health Systems

April 20, 2023