



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

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

**MAY 18, 2022**

### **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 May 18, 2022, at the G. Mennen Williams Building Auditorium, 525 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Kimmy Catlin, Board Support, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Barbara Hinson  
Sarah Houston  
Leslie Pertz  
Mitch Holaly  
April Davidson

**Members Absent:** Karen Bailey, Vice-Chairperson  
Michael Depcik  
Jahan Farzam-Behboodi

#### **Staff Present:**

Kimmy Catlin, Board Support, Boards and Committees Section  
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

#### **Staff Virtually Present:**

Larry Horvath, Bureau Director, Bureau of Community and Health Systems  
Steve Gobbo, Deputy Bureau Director, Bureau of Community and Health Systems



## **Department Report**

Curtis and Hosey presented a PowerPoint to the Board that detailed the transition to the Bureau of Community and Health Systems.

Pertz inquired about the draft rules.

Curtis stated the draft will come to the Board for review and discussion.

Houston inquired about the pass/fail rates of the BEI exam.

Hosey stated the Department can provide those numbers at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Davidson inquired if there will be a delay in renewals similar to previous years.

Curtis stated a delay is expected however, the Department will keep expired certifications posted if an application for renewal has been submitted in an effort to keep interpreters working.

Davidson inquired if a new rules committee will be assigned.

Curtis stated if the Board would like a committee assigned, that is something that can definitely be considered.

Hosey stated that the Board and Stakeholders will be included in the modifying of the draft rules.

Hinson inquired about the progress of online payments.

Hosey stated the MOIS system currently does not allow for online payments, but this is something the Department plans to change.

Pertz inquired about the status of the draft rules.

Curtis stated that the draft must be withdrawn and restarted.

Hosey stated that once renewals are caught up, the draft rules will be a top priority.

Pertz stated that they have never seen the draft rules.

Hosey stated to be inclusive, the Board and Stakeholders will be included in the modifying of the draft rules.

Houston inquired if state emails will still be the preferred choice of communication.

Hosey stated the Board members can send an email providing their preferred email address to use.

Davidson inquired if BEI results will still be sent via email.

Curtis stated they will continue to be sent via email.

Holaly inquired about what issues the Department faces when processing renewals.

Curtis stated that the issues are mostly a lack of required documentation such as a copy of a license, expiring card, transcript, along with the payment.

Holaly questioned if there will be a grace period if a renewal application gets denied.

Curtis stated that the interpreter will have time to submit whatever materials they are lacking.

Pertz inquired if there will be a continuing education audit process.

Curtis stated that is included in the draft at this time.

Davison inquired if exam results still come from Texas.

Hosey affirmed, however in the future, the Department will be working to get these processed in-house.

Holaly questioned what the current turnaround time is for the results.

Curtis stated at first, it was closer to 6 months; now it is closer to 3 months.

Pertz expressed her concern with the other Board members not attending and would like to ensure they are included.

Hosey agreed that it would be helpful for them to attend.

Holaly inquired if the Board can assist in getting the public vacancy filled on the Board.

Curtis indicated that people apply with the Governor's Appointments Office.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was provided in-person:

Valoree Boyer provided comment to the Board. Expressed concern with the lack of interpreters in the healthcare setting.

James Cech provided comment to the Board. Thanked the Department for working to catch-up through 2021, and hopes the progress continues to gain momentum. Stated that changes that especially need to be made to help the profession include the following:

- Making online renewals possible.
- Payment and document submission in one portal. The state of Nevada uses Certemy and many other professions in Michigan use an online portal system. Mentioned there is the need to look for funding to make this happen, and where such sources might be found.
- Included in the online renewal system there should be an online application process to request BEI approval for endorsement CEUs.
- Stated that a BCHS staff stated that there is a grace period of a renewal is found to be lacking in CEUs. This has not been the case in his experience and that including a grace period in the rules when they are re-drafted would go a long way for the profession that is anxious year after year around the time of renewal.
- Encouraged the Department to hire a Deaf person as part of the staff dedicated to handling qualified interpreter requests.
- The 2-minute limit for public comments when your comments are being interpreted is too short.

Deb Atwood provided comment to the Board. Inquired about how many people were waiting on results and asked what could be done to help improve the high fail rate. The extended renewals are appreciated and inquired if the Board will meet more than they usually do. Mentioned that there is a lack of representation from the west side of the state. Mentioned that nonprofit organizations are having funding issues due to lack of grants and are losing interpreters.

Erica Chapin provided comment to the Board. Stated that they would like to see more communication from the Department. The website does not show that BEI testing is available. Inquired what is being done to notify interpreters that they could continue to work before their renewal is accepted or rejected.

Rowan O' Dougherty provided comment to the Board. Informed the Board that they have lost confidence of the west side of the state and inquired if Deaf members are in the office assisting the Department.

Carlos Para provided comment to the Board. Emphasized that the community was in crisis due to the lack of interpreters. Stated that more resources were needed from LARA. Expressed frustration with the lack of advocates.

Theresa Miracle provided comment to the Board. Emphasized that it is concerning that the community is being pushed to use VRI remote interpreting services.

Public comment was provided via livestream video Zoom:

Sonja Harrison provided comment to the Board. Expressed interest in helping with the draft rules and thanked the Board for meeting.

Cindy Stemple provided comment to the Board. Requested clarification on the RID endorsement cycle and requested a longer window of time for the renewal period.

Diana McKittrick provided comment to the Board. Expressed concern with Texas providing the rates and the timeline of results. Stated the rules need to be in place sooner than later and that deaf individuals need to be included in the process.

Erin Parrish, the President of MIRID, provided comment to the Board. Thanked the Board and offered the Department assistance.

Miriam Andrade Cuevas provided comment to the Board. Inquired if a plan was in place to replenish the lack of interpreters.

Larry Horvath, Director of the Bureau of Community and Health Systems, introduced himself to the Board. He thanked the Board for attending and thanked staff for running the meeting. He expressed his excitement regarding working with the profession. He stated he hears the need for improved communication and looks forward to improving the MOIS system. He expressed his appreciation for everyone involved and welcomed any advice for improvement.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held October 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at a location to be determined.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Davidson, seconded by Houston, to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

A voice vote was held.

MOTION PREVAILED

Minutes approved by the Board on \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by:  
Kimmy Catlin, Board Support  
Bureau of Professional Licensing

May 19, 2022

