



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

January 31, 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 January 31, 2023, at the Lansing Community College (LCC) West Campus, Cadillac Room (M-119 to 120), 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, Michigan, 48917.

CALL TO ORDER

Heather Keel called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Barbara Hinson
Sarah Houston, Vice-Chairperson
Mitch Holaly, Chairperson
April Davidson
Miriam Andrade Cuevas

Members Absent: Jahan Farzam-Behboodi
Leslie Pertz
Diana McKittrick

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 Hinson to add to the agenda discussion regarding the scheduled July 26th meeting date.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

MOTION by Davidson, seconded by Houston, to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of discussing the July 26th meeting date.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Davidson, seconded by Houston, to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting on October 26th, 2022.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

NEW BUSINESS

Department Report

Horvath and Hosey provided details on primary BCHS functions, testing statistics from the last quarter, and other notable information about school district substitutions and exemptions. The process on how to file a complaint was detailed, along with the navigation paths to access complaint forms online. Discussed the possibility of holding a new Board Member orientation, where the new member(s) are provided background. Mentioned some of the other things that the Department is working on includes reviewing the act and revising the rules.

Discussion

Discussion occurred regarding the TEP and the difference between Michigan and Texas and the study guide.

Davidson stated they would love to know if an exam applicant went to an ITP, and if the person graduated.

Houston inquired about the protective exam sleeves and the six-month window between taking the written portion and if it is necessary. Indicated it might be a barrier to those trying to get certified. Mentioned demographics on the testing.

Department confirmed that the tests have been removed from the folders and protective sleeves.

Holaly asked about the six-month wait time between exams.

Davidson inquired if there is a waiver that families are required to fill out to receive services with a substitute interpreter.

Discussion occurred amongst the Board regarding schools using a waiver, if they follow an IEP and allowing families to be part of the conversation about the child having access to a QI.

Davidson inquired if schools required to submit the form for approval every year.

Andrade Cuevas inquired if any data is gathered about underqualified interpreters being used? How does this impact the community?

Davidson stated we might have interpreters working in the schools with less than a 3.5. If that person isn't in the system, how can we manage them or file a complaint.

Andrade Cuevas stated maybe the school districts can help each other. It is possible the Board needs to provide support or suggestions to MDE to improve this problem.

Houston stated they would like to know what the process is to get MIRID involved with our meetings.

Davidson stated that coming from the college perspective, where does it state that someone needs an associate degree?

Holaly inquired if it is something that is in the rules or a Texas requirement? Department confirmed it is a rule requirement.

Andrade Cuevas stated that education is needed with the community and providers and provide some accountability.

Additional discussion occurred regarding the July 26th meeting. The board would prefer to discuss or table it for later. Recommendation of the Board was to discuss at the next board meeting.

MOTION by Holaly, seconded by Hinson, to table the discussion on the July meeting to the next Board meeting.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was provided in-person:

Bethany Faulkner with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services provided comment to the Board. They are looking into the gap between BEI I and II and are looking at workshops and developing programs on the west side of the state.

Deb Atwood provided comment to the Board. Appreciates the fabulous job that department is doing. They stated that we must educate people, schools, and agencies. They have been dealing with this constantly and are educating people again. Younger people need to learn about the process. Let's talk about doing a census again and with an agency that knows the population.

Public comment was provided via Zoom:

Diana McKittrick provided public comment to the Board. Their experience with VRI is lacking, mostly with the operator of the equipment not being skillful. Also, they were not allowed to personally control the equipment or allowed access to an in-person interpreter.

Janet Jurus provided public comment to the Board. Requested that the Board review the Texas BEI tri-lingual/BEI/CDI. When agencies bid with schools, they aren't meeting the criteria or rules.

Myles Hudkins provided public comment to the Board. Recommended that VRI should be controlled and regulated outside of the actual business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held April 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Houston, seconded by Hinson, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

A voice vote was held.

MOTION PREVAILED

Minutes approved by the Board on April 18, 2023.

Prepared by:
Heather Keel
Bureau of Community and Health Systems

February 2, 2023