



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

October 26, 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 October 26, 2022, at the Lansing Community College (LCC) West Campus, Cadillac Room (M-119 to 121), 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, Michigan, 48917.

CALL TO ORDER

Heather Keel, called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Jahan Farzam-Behboodi
Leslie Pertz

A quorum was established.

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

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF BOARD MEMEBERS

MOTION by Holaly, seconded by Houston, to add an additional agenda item under new business for introduction of the board members who are present.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Holaly, seconded by Houston, to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting on May 18th, 2022.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Introduction and Background

The attending Board members introduced themselves and provided background.

Department Report

Horvath and Hosey presented a PowerPoint that provided an overview of the Bureau of Community and Health Systems (BCHS) primary functions. In addition, they mentioned highlights and happenings such as two new board members, the program transition to BCHS, working through the testing backlog, renewal process and Qualified Interpreter Program staff. Notable statistics for the Program were provided, as well as 2022 Program accomplishments and other information, including proposed future actions. The rulemaking process for draft administrative rules was discussed, as well as the legislative authority and the contract terms for rating services. Some goals were

provided, such as testing frequently, number of qualified interpreters, stakeholder input and working with our state partners such as the Department of Civil Rights and Department of Education. One indicated goal is to have clear, concise rules that the average person can understand.

Discussion

McKittrick stated that would like to be part of working on the rules and the process. McKittrick indicated they want to make sure the Deaf community has full access to the rules.

Houston recommended McKittrick be part of working on the rules and the second person recommended is Holaly. Houston urged partnership with Department of Civil Rights. Houston inquired about testing for Deaf interpreters and expressed concern with schools and underqualified interpreters.

Discussion occurred regarding underqualified interpreters, the waiver system, the complaint process, and rules.

Hinson agreed with the idea of simple, easy to understand rules, but they also need to be easy for the community to understand. Rules should be accessible to the Deaf audience.

Andrade Cuevas mentioned access to qualified interpreters and community access to resources.

Holaly discussed the BEI testing, the passage rates and whether Michigan should do rating again.

Further discussion occurred regarding the testing process and if it would be helpful to train Michigan raters again. It was noted that data regarding what parts of the exam people struggle with most would be useful. There was general discussion on BEI testing and the national RID testing.

Several members discussed access to interpreters qualified to do medical work and increasing qualified interpreters for the Deaf community.

Davidson discussed the current database and concerns with accessibility and any plans to replace it.

Discussion that the board to meet quarterly. Holaly stated that there appears to be a consensus that the board should meet quarterly.

MOTION by Houston, seconded McKittrick, to meet quarterly, every three months.

A voice vote followed.

MOTION PREVAILED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was provided in-person:

Deb Atwood provided comment to the Board. Appreciated the love shown towards the deaf community at this meeting. Voiced concern with the testing failure rates and struggles the community faces with VRI.

Nancy Piersma provided public comment to the Board. Hopes for education in the future for the community regarding endorsements.

Public comment was provided via Zoom:

James Cech provided public comment. Stated that online renewals should be an option. It is stressful to interpreters and would benefit everyone involved.

Valoree Boyer provided public comment. Thanked the Bureau and would like to echo the discussion on the process made today and mentioned the link on a form.

Carlos Para provided public comment to the Board. Stated that Michigan is not the only state sending exams to TX and relying only on this vendor could backfire in the future.

Linda (no last name given) provided public comment to the Board. Questioned if there are any deaf people sitting on the LARA Board and stated they would help improve the Board.

Natalie (no last name given) provided public comment to the Board. Asked if there will ever be a testing site for the BEI, other than Lansing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The dates for the next regularly scheduled meeting(s) in 2023 is to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Davidson, seconded by Houston, to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

A voice vote was held.

MOTION PREVAILED

Minutes approved by the Board on January 31, 2023.

Prepared by:
Heather Keel
Colleen Curtis
Bureau of Community and Health Systems

October 31, 2022