



ARKANSAS ADVISORY BOARD FOR
INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF



**Advisory Board for Interpreters Between Hearing Individuals and Individuals Who
Are Deaf, Deafblind, Hard of Hearing, or Oral Deaf**

Minutes

November 3, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Quarterly Meeting

Meeting called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Attendance:

Board Members: Arthur Babin, Daisy Dippel, Carel Dunaway, Stephanie Ott, Shana Turner, Sebrena Westcott

Via Zoom: Ashley Beaty, Libby Williams, Captioner

Guest: Shannon Borchert, Ronica Leonard, Brian Nichols, Craig Smith, Beverly Wade

Working Interpreters: Karen Owens, Katelyn Wilson, Sydney Morriss, Megan Beaty

Approval of Minutes: Arthur Babin made a motion to accept the August 4, 2023 minutes as typed. Carel Dunaway seconded the motion. Vote was by a showing of hands. Motion carried.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Investigation Committee: None

Technology Committee:

There was discussion on changing some of the wording on the website "We are the Board of Interpreters for the Deaf." Changed to ASL video/transcripts. This is to let the Deaf community know that the information is there. Stephanie Ott stated that the script has to be on the YouTube channel for those who can't access the video or captions.

Ad Hoc Committee: None

Licensure Committee: Due to an issue we had with one interpreter, we have looked into the requirement of having an interpreter who does not reside in Arkansas but in a state that mandates interpreter to possess a license. We now ask for a copy of that license to be submitted with their renewal/application each year. Renewals are not technically obligated to send them, but we still request them. However, we cannot make the license a requirement or deny it based on this. All initial applicant residing in one of those states will be required to submit a copy of their current state license.

Budget Committee: None

Old Business:

Digital Renewals - Unfortunately we were not able to have the renewals sent electronically. We want to do everything we can to try to have that ability to send electronic renewals next year. Shannon stated that we (ADH) has purchased the scaffolding for the website. Our goal is to digitize everything. We are unsure as to what the pace this will happen. I will be working with IT on this matter.

Mileage Reimbursement –We have one board member, Shana Turner, traveling from Northwest Arkansas that requested reimbursement. We can't provide this until fiscal year 2025, as we have not budgeted this item previously. We will have to request it in our budget for next year. We have the one board member now and possibly two more with the new members that will begin in February. Daisy asked if we could have an emergency clause for Shana Turner. Shannon stated “no, it's not in the budget. However, we have just had an agreement adjustment with Communication Plus. I will get back with you after I talk to Geray. I will need to know how much mileage reimbursement you want to provide so that I can ask for that when I talk with Geray. The question “Do we have to wait until the February meeting to make the motion and vote on that?” Brian stated “yes, you can go ahead and get an idea of what you want to put in the budget for next year. The Budget Committee will work together to get an idea of how much to request.

New Business:

Spend down - Craig or Brian, and can you explain the act and need for this? Craig said Yes, one of the acts that were passed this spring in the legislature was looking at each board and the balance they may be carrying over year to year. They were able to reduce their fees up to 95% until the balance was brought down. I think earlier this year, Shannon worked with the renewal to do that. She'll continue to do so until the balance is at an appropriate amount. As of February, the fund amount was about \$249,000. We need to get some ideas to spend the funds. The tech committee can work with the ADH IT Department to make it more user friendly.

1. Sponsoring workshops possibly \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year. Maybe extend to more than one. The organization(s) would probably have to be named.

2. A total revamping of the state testing. Can that be on the table? The current test is so out of date and is not fair to interpreters because the signs have changed from when the current test was developed. This would have to be done through the Ad-Hoc Committee. It would have to be detailed.
3. Possibly buying some equipment that would go with the board (laptops, Wi-Fi, etc.).

New Board Applicants – We have three nominees for Katie’s replacement. The board chose the one they would like to recommend for appointment. There were none that responded to fill Carel’s position. Beverly will continue to work on this position and bring back some names.

Katie’s Secretary Replacement – Daisy asked if there are any volunteers Stephanie Ott accepted her term will begin at the February 2, 2024 meeting.

Katie’s Replacement on the Licensure Committee will be taken care of in February.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p. m.

Next Meeting: February 2, 2024

Secretary’s Signature

Date