



Arkansas Advisory Board for Interpreters for the Deaf

ADVISORY BOARD FOR INTERPRETERS BETWEEN HEARING INDIVIDUALS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF,  
DEAFBLIND, HARD OF HEARING, AND ORAL DEAF

Freeway Medical Building, Room 906 & Zoom Conference

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88520907377?pwd=gbbBlkdmiwJelVAbIxiM0Fn6aa55ti.1>

5800 W. 10th Street

August 1, 2025

2:01 p.m. -2:30 p.m.

- I. **Welcome and Roll Call: Meeting called to order 2:01 p.m.**  
**Board member:** Taylor Johnson, Stephanie Ott, Arthur Babin, Sebrena Westcott **Zoom:** Pam Taylor **Absent:** Shana Turner, Renika Witherspoon  
**Working Interpreter:** Jonathan Smith, Madison Price, Katelyn Wilson, Karen Owens  
**Community member:** Will Gorum, \*Carel Dunaway, SSP for Arthur Babin  
**ADH Staff:** Shannon Borchert, Craig Smith, Melissa Turner
- II. **Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2025, Meeting**  
Taylor Johnson moved to approve the minutes with corrections (of member name spellings); Stephanie Ott seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- III. **Subcommittee Updates**
  - a. **Licensure** (S. Ott, P. Taylor, T. Johnson): No updates currently.
  - b. **Investigation** (A. Babin, S. Westcott): The pending investigation has been closed due to no response from school district addressing the concern.
  - c. **Budget/Fee** (A. Babin, T. Johnson): No updates currently.
  - d. **Technology** (P. Taylor, S. Turner, R. Witherspoon): No updates currently.
- IV. **Old Business**
  - a. **Spenddown Update:**  
Shannon Borchert provided an overview of the budget request

process. While the board submitted a budget request in January/February of 2023 that addressed the needed spend down, the legislator did not appropriate the requested funds for fiscal year 2025. A request for \$100,000 to update the QAST testing was submitted to a later budget session and was appropriated in February of 2025. The program was notified in March of 2025 of the request for appropriations and the award of appropriation. Due to end of year fiscal deadlines and the amount of the funding for the QAST project meeting the \$100,000 threshold, the project was not implemented. QAST has submitted a plan for consideration moving forward to update the QAST testing that has been submitted to accompany any future requests to legislators for appropriation of these funds. The board was reminded the QAST Project sought to update language, signs, and technology for QAST Certification. The materials for QAST Testing currently used were developed between 1980-1990 with the technology being used is VHS tapes.

Shannon Borchert provided a timeline for future budget requests. It was explained that budget requests should be submitted in the fall of even number fiscal years for submission by the agency during the fiscal session of the legislature.

Any future needs regarding equipment, staff, supplies, and mileage reimbursement should be considered when the board is provided the updated board fund balance.

**b. Mileage reimbursement update:**

As the budget is currently allocated from appropriations, there is not mileage reimbursement included. The board will need to vote during the February meeting annually to address their mileage reimbursement needs in coming fiscal years.

**V. New Business**

**a. Community Updates/Outreach:**

ARID Biannual Conference: The board was able to provide \$1,000 sponsorship and booth at the Arkansas Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf Biannual Conference.

UALR Career Fair: The board was able to provide a booth for no cost at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Campus Career Fair.

AAD: The board is planning to provide a \$1,000 sponsorship and booth at the September 2025 Arkansas Association of the Deaf

Conference.

**b. Board Members terms ending 2025:**

Arthur Babin and Stephanie Ott will have completed their 3-year term of service to the board. Arkansas Department of Health will reach out to Arkansas Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf and Arkansas Association of the Deaf to recommendations for new board members to serve.

**c. Budget concerns/needs FY 27:**


Budget concerns and plans for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027). Shannon Borchert will submit the previous plan submitted by the board for consideration as well as an updated fund balance.

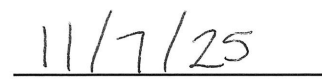
**VI. Public Comments**

None

**VII. Adjourn: 2:30 p.m.**

Stephanie Ott moved to adjourn the meeting; Taylor Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

  
Stephanie Ott, Secretary

  
Date