



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

May 5, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Quarterly Meeting

Meeting called to order at 2:01.

Attendance:

Board Members: Daisy Dippel, Katie Becker, Arthur Babin, Carel Dunaway, Stephanie Ott, Sebrena Westcott

Via Zoom: Shana Turner

Guest: Karen Owens, Amanda Firth, Brian Nichols, Craig Smith, Ronica Leonard, Beverly Wade, Lindsay Hovermale, Libby Williams, Sydney Morriss

Approval of Minutes: Katie Becker made a motion to accept the February 3, 2023, minutes as typed. Art Babin seconded the motion. Vote was by a showing of hands. Motion carried.

Sub-Committee Updates:

None

Carel Dunaway asked to be placed on the Investigative subcommittee. With much discussion, it was explained by Brian Nichols that there aren't enough board members to expand the subcommittee. This is the reason that two board members should be on this committee.

Investigation Committee Draft was handed out for the full board to see what guidelines that the Investigative Committee uses when investigating a complaint.

Old Business:

Investigation Committee Draft was handed out for the full board to see what guidelines that the Investigative Committee has been using the last two years. The new committee

wishes to create a standard that can be added to the rules, which is posted on our website. We would like to have something not so cut and dry as there are different scenarios that could happen. This is to be used as a guidance standard. This will be useful when a new board member is placed on the committee, as to the process. Attorney Brian Nichols stated that “you can’t have it posted somewhere and what we follow specifically.” It can be used as a reference guide, not something mandatory.

Licensure Levels- It was brought to the attention of the committee that the current guidelines for levels are out of date. The committee was designed to help interpreters coming out of the ITP to gain more experience. After many hours of work the committee had different members of our community, interpreters and agency owners looked at the new levels to make the levels harder. It is not going to make it easier for interpreters graduating the other programs. The committee realize that we can’t bring standards down. The current levels are not accurate. The proposed changes are necessary. The changes will have to go for legislative approval. With this approval, the changes would be put in place. Interpreting for the Deaf is becoming a profession. The Deaf community deserves the best quality of service in an interpreter. We are not responsible for mentoring and bringing an interpreter up to meet our licensure requirements. There was a consensus that some of the levels need to be raised. It will probably take about one and a half years to get the completed.

Brian Nichols recommended that the item be tabled and making a second motion. This was not on the agenda. With it on the agenda will have it on record. We should not make any changes until next year. Item was tabled until the August meeting.

Digital Renewals: Daisy spoke with Ashley Williams, the previous ADH Supervisor over the program, about possibly changing to a digital renewal. Craig Smith ADH Attorney stated that ADH is looking into some different programs at possibly no need for a large investment. We should have an update closer to the August meeting. Item tabled for the August meeting.

New Business:

Provisional License- Our provisional license is only for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The wording said QAST and EIPA, that is something that is not Deaf-friendly. Deaf individuals wanting to be an interpreter cannot take those two tests. The only two tests available to them are national tests, RID and BEI. Stephanie motioned to change section D3 under provisional license, from EIPA and QAST to be replaced with RID and BEI. Sebrena Westcott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget:

Concerns about the cost of meetings including Zoom, interpreters, transcribers were raised. The cost of interpreters and transcriptionist runs about \$3,000 a meeting. Katie Becker motioned to make future board meetings in person only for members. Brian Nichols stated that the board doesn’t need a motion and second. However, ADH is

moving to Microsoft Teams for virtual meetings. Craig Smith stated we may need to table this. Questions were raised about Teams. Katie rescinded her motion. Item is tabled and moved to the August meeting. Communications Plus will be charging an equipment fee for supplying the and setting up laptops for the virtual interpreters.

Extra Funds- all funds must be appropriated. Arthur Babin would like to see some of the extra funds to be used for paying for student mentorship opportunities. This would need to be well thought out before asking the money to be appropriated.

Our next meeting will be August 4th. If anything needs to be added to the agenda, please send it ahead of time.

Meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 3, 2023



Secretary's Signature

8.15.23

Date