



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 21 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2020
9:00 am- 12:00 pm**

- I. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Ernest Garrett
- A. Invocation/Silent Prayer- Dan Arabie
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance – Dan Arabie
 - C. Roll Call – Commissioner & Vice Chairperson, Ernest Garrett

Commissioners Present: A quorum of Commissioners was present: Ernest Garrett, III, Jimmy Gore, Dr. Ashley Argrave, Senator Sharon Hewitt, Dr. Lee Mendoza, Mallory Brown, Iva Tullier, Melissa Bayham, Dawn Melendez, Bradley Wellons, Dr. Heather Laine, Lisa Potter, Candice Leblanc, Kevin Monk, Jay Isch

Commissioners Not Present: Rep. Scott McKnight, Melissa Bayham

LCD Staff: Jana Broussard, Vanessa Magnon, Shane Bates

Interpreters: Sylvie Sullivan, Rachel Miller, Donovan Williams, Laura Sicignano

Captionist: Provided by CC Group, Evangeline

- II. Approval of Agenda (Commissioner Potter, Commissioner Isch)

MOTION: Commissioner Melendez suggested a possible time limit for comments. None opposed.

- III. Approval of Minutes (Commissioner Isch, Commissioner Tullier)

- IV. Public Comments

1. Tulane University Update

- a. Tulane sent a short video.
- b. Denise crochet: presentation from Tulane service learning project. New project: Tulane University students are assisting with the Louisiana Access Plan in partnership with Brian Wiggins. We are doing research to show the qualified and certified interpreters for court and legal situations. We also keep data on a state database for certified, qualified interpreters as well as CEU requirements and pay rates.

- V. **Reports**

- A. Director's Report: LCD Interim Director (J. Broussard)-

- 1. Update: successful in putting terps, ssp, DB people to the top of the list



2. Hearing aid program: sent out satisfaction survey since new policy in September. It showed a 94% experienced highest level of satisfaction
3. RFP: SSP program. Office of state Procurement is in process with that and when it is completed it will be published. Before the announcement, we will have a meeting for the RFP and what qualifications are required.
4. Captioning at capital and other accessibility. LCD will partner with the governor's office of Disabilities Affairs, LCD will outsource that to investigate governors' budgets to decide who will be responsible for that cost and where funds will go.
5. New staff: Shane Bates, Bureau of Family Health and returned to provide business and legislative support for LCD. Shane: I will be assisting with operations for budget, finance, business, and legislative issues.

B. Officer Reports

1. Chairman Ernest Garrett: Comm. Beard left the commission. We are now taking applications for that role. Last hour of the meeting Isch will be chairman.
2. Vice Chair Jay Isch:
3. Secretary Dr.Argrave: no announcements at this time.
4. Director Jana Brossard: LA Relay is looking for people to trial a new piece of equipment and provide feedback.

C. Commissioner Reports

1. Comm. Gore: LAD book fair for all DHH students in the state.
2. Comm. Isch: LAD conference postponed to June 2023.
3. Melendez: LRID is working with Tulane, directed by Denise Crochet, trying to improve the legal interpreter program. Helping ASL interpreting for courts but also other languages. LCD is helping LRID for workshops. Coming up: Mental Health for interpreters. New News: LRID is now starting to establish ground breaking plans for a mentoring program.
4. Comm. Tullier: no report
5. Comm. Wellons: no report
6. Comm. Dr.Argrave: no report
7. Comm. Brown: no report

D. State agency report:

1. Louisian Workforce: Comm. Bayham- not present
2. LRS: Comm. Kevin Monk: LRS is open for business virtually or by appt.
3. Special School District: moved on to try and become its own district. The hearing is Thursday and it is open to the public.
4. Dept. of Family Services: Comm. Leblanc: no report
5. Dept. of Health: Comm. Dr.Lee Mendoza 51k with 10k deaths. More than 1 million vaccinations.

VI. Old Business

A. Commission Priorities Update: LCD legislation revisions

1. Revision of Legislation



- a. Commission placement: Deciding on changing the roles for the seats on the commission. This change would be replacing one person from Louisiana vocational rehabilitation services to replacing them with a GOHSEP position for security and emergency preparedness. Also suggesting that we need someone from the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs as well. Note: The larger the commission the harder it is for a quorum. LCD could ask one of those agencies to serve an advisory role to the commission.

MOTION: To replace the GOHSEP positions with a GODA position on the commission.

(Isch, Gore) Vote: (Isch, Wellons, Gore, Laine, Potter, Brown, Argrave, Mendoza, Bayham for. Melendez opposed, Motion passed based on votes.

Vice Chairman Commissioner Isch takes over as Chairman as Chairman Garrett steps away from the meeting.

MOTION: that we invite a member of GOHSEP to every LCD meeting as advisory. (Mendoza, Melendez) none opposed. Motion carries.

MOTION: table the further revisions to the Legislation reviews. (Melendez, Wellons) none opposed, motion carries.

2. HCR 80: The wording of who pays for interpreting services ie. the agency/provider or the insurance company is vague. LCD is working with legislation to figure out how to make the responsibility of payment more clear. LCD is also investigating other states to see how they handle this matter.
3. Promoting understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We are working with Bambi from GODA to add an ADA coordinator at the state level. HB446 or HB466 state that it would add an ADA coordinator within the Office of Administration. GODA is also working on setting up a link on their website to provide current updates to the public.

VII. New Business

A. Mission and Vision Update: Shane Feldman

1. Commissioner Brad Wellons shares the Mission "Louisiana Commission for the Deaf is to engage, empower, and enrich the lives and opportunities of Louisiana Deaf, deaf blind, and hard of hearing people."
 - a. Discussion of Speech Impaired people being included in this population.
2. Commission Mallory Brown shares the Vision: "A Louisiana that embraces the inclusion of a diverse deaf community through full access to information, communication, and opportunities."
3. Next in the strategic plan is to create the Values of LCD. This will be presented at our next meeting.

MOTION: To accept the Mission and Vision of LCD (Gore, Wellons) none opposed, motion carries.

A. Interpreter Certification Level Update

1. Interpreter Program Plan: Director Jana Broussard
 - a. Phase 1: Establish a registry of interpreters in the state. This would be a search database also available to the public.
 - b. Phase 2: Interpreter Standards
 - c. Phase 3: Establishing Interpreting Trainings: including training programs, professional developments, mentoring, etc.



- i. Melissa Lacour (the Director of new markets with the Louisiana community and technical office) shares that there is currently only 1 interpreting program in the state. They sent out a survey. results were that 97% of respondents said they were in support of adding another ASL interpreting program. They are working with Baton Rouge Community College and Bossier Parish Community college to establish this program.

MOTION to accept the Vision: (Commissioner Gore, Commissioner Wellons)passed, none opposed

MOTION: to extend meeting 15 minutes. (Commissioner Wellons, Commissioner Tullier)

-did not pass due to unavailability of interpreters and commissioners

- d. Phase 4: Certification requirement,Credentials requirements.

VI. Date, Time, and Place of Next Commission Meeting –

July 9, 2021 9:00am-12:00pm

VII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 12:01pm (No motion to end meeting was seen in captioning transcript)

Draft of minutes prepared 06/28/2021.

Minutes corrected on _____.

<u>Ashley J Argrave</u>	<u>4/16/2021</u>	<u>Ashley J Argrave</u>	<u>06/28/2021</u>
Recorder	Date	Secretary	Date