

**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf**

**SFY 21 Regular Commission Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2021**

1. **Call to Order –** Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Jimmy Gore.
   1. Invocation/Silent Prayer- Dan Arabie
   2. Pledge of Allegiance – Dan Arabie
   3. Roll Call – Commissioner Vice Chairman, Jimmy Gore

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

Commissioners Not Present: Rebecca Beard, Kevin Monk

LCD Staff: Jana Broussard, Vanessa Magnon

Interpreters: Sylvie Sullivan, Donovan Williams, Lissa Gill, Laura Sicignano, Sam Clifton

Captionist: Provided by CC Group

1. **Approval of Meeting Agenda** – (Isch, Melendez)
   1. **Motion:** Commissioner Isch??
2. **Approval of January 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes** – (Lisa Potter/Brad Wellons)
3. **Public Comment**
   1. Dan Arabie – DeafBlind Advocate
      1. Statement of difference of interpreter and SSP roles. Would like to encourage LCD to have a Deafblind representative on the Board. Suggest that LDH have home services that way the Deafblind community members can get COVID tested and more as they are unable to attend appts etc. Lastly, He wants Ms. Broussard to call him to talk about last issue.
   2. Barabara Lovas- LCD interpreter certification
      1. Statement of concern regarding new certification and would old certifications still be honored.
      2. Jana Broussard (LCD DIrector) responds by reassuring that any certification will not “go away” just that qualifications will be relooked at. There is an agenda item to discuss a Task Force for this later.
4. **Reports and Updates from Membership Committee** 
   1. Director’s Report (Jana Broussard) 2020 wrap up: created a Covid communication card, advocacy that all press conference had accessibility, this communication lead to strong inter-agency and cross agency relationships, SSP webinar, worked hard to get SSP and interpreters on priority list for vaccine, continue building customized database allowing remote work, revisions to the hearing aid program to allow shorter wait times, worked with Deafblind consultant and Deafblind task force to improve our quality of services, participation in the LRID town hall meeting, hired a new Project Coordinator.
   2. Officer reports: none
   3. Relay Administration Board Report (Jana Broussard)-Service centers received new equipment to try for use and provide feedback.
   4. Legislator Reports: Jana made a statement that a new representative Scott McKnight has been appointed to LCD.
   5. Commissioner Reports:
      1. Jay Isch: Made statements about advocacy and legislative efforts down and wants to push for new things in 2021. Statement about Police Officer Standard Training (POST), wants to legislate LCD and to add a Deafblind representative to the Board, recommend that LWF/LRS make materials, content, and website accessible in ASL for file unemployment etc. He adds later that LAD raised 33,000 for Deaf people impacted by the hurricanes in 2020.
      2. Lisa Potter: more support for interpreters, Deafblind rep. to be added, recommended changing some outdated policies.
      3. Jimmy Gore: Statement about more support for Deafblind including emergency situations.
      4. Dawn Melendez (LRID president): Statement that LRID goals for this year include professional developments including a fall conference. Additionally, working with LCD on state interpreter certification levels as well as collaborating with LAD more.
      5. Iva Tullier: proud to see accessibility coming from the capital in the last year during Covid.
      6. Brad Wellons: also proud of the accessibility and also would like to expand awareness of LCD in the community, changes in outdated Legislation. Lastly, he made a statement on the need for DHHDB being more visible and considered regarding Health Equity, look forward to working on new strategic planning for LCD.
      7. Dr.Ashley Argrave: report of The Louisiana DHH Education Guidelines.
   6. State Agency Reports:
      1. Louisiana Workforce Commission-Melissa Bayham: LWC working to differentiate and make materials more accessible, saw a decrease in applications this year due to COVID but are now starting to see an increase.
      2. Vocational Rehab (LRS)- Melissa Bayham spoke for Kevin Monk not in attendance- see above
      3. Louisiana Department of Health-Dr.Lee Mendoza: Statement on the great job interpreters did during COVID, report on COVID 19 cases-3700 new cases added to totals today, report on vaccines and when people are and will be eligible. Dr.Mendoza answers a few questions related to vaccines and eligibility.
      4. Louisiana School for the Deaf-Heather Laine: Entering Spring semester with more in person learning with safety restriction still in place, continuing to work on an Early Childhood Learning Center.
      5. Department of Child and Family Services- Candice Leblanc: no report at this time
5. **Old Business-** 
   1. Strategic Initiatives- Mission, Goals, and Values Ad Hoc Team
      1. Shane Feldman Presentation: shared a presentation on what is a Mission Statement and how it is effective. We will start with the Mission Statement then work to develop strategic planning for each individual department. By the next meeting we will have a Mission, Vision, and Values for the Commission to review and approve. Asked any interested parties to join the Adhoc to develop these 3 things. He also asked questions to stimulate ideas of what people think LCD roles is also suggesting we partner with other agencies. Areas of attention and improvement brought up by commissioners are interpreters, educational interpreter accountability, senior citizens, and better collaboration.
   2. Commission Priorities
      1. **Motion**: Jay Isch makes a motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. Heather Laine seconds.
      2. **Motion**: Jay Isch makes a motion to move up #2 item under New Business. Iva Tullier seconds.
6. **New Business**
   1. Interpreter Certification Level Ad Hoc Proposal-Jana Broussard: Statement that the next step for Interpreter Certification levels would be creating an Ad Hoc that will work specifically on this objective. This group consists of 9 people as an Ad Hoc. This committee would discuss if LCD would look at levels and determine if they should reestablish former levels or if they need to be revised and what is the process that needs to take place to make these changes. The Purpose of this point is to discuss who should be on this committee. These people may need additional qualification due to the high level of this matter and should include statewide representation. Jana then opens it up for commission and public suggestions.
      1. Scott Huffman: suggested pulling for the regional coordinator centers, he also suggest old licensure should be reviewed
      2. Barbara Lovas: she adds that people who received old licensure had to take RID and NAD and it was strict and that they worked hard for that licensure. It should be recognized and offered a grandfather clause.
      3. Dawn Melendez: suggest 1 hearing RID interpreter, 1 BEI interpreter, 1 Certified Deaf Interpreter, regional center director and a private interpreter organization representative
      4. **Motion** in comments by Jay Isch, Lisa Potter seconds.
         1. Dawn Melendez comments that 16 people is too many people.
         2. Jana Broussard: there are specific regulations about what these groups look like. If we want to include more people, then we may need to change it to a work group.
      5. **Motion** by Lisa Potter to change Ad Hoc to a task force, Brad Wellons seconds.
         1. Jana Broussard responds that both the Ad Hoc and task force are limited to 9 people.
      6. **Motion** by Jay Isch to modify his motion of an Ad Hoc to work group, Lisa seconds.
         1. Lisa Potter rescinds her motion.
         2. Dan Arabie explains his experience that working within an Ad Hoc is for a specific purpose.
      7. Jana Broussard proposes that we continue this discussion later. Will do more research on groups and then figure out how many people need to be on the team. Need to focus on the qualification of the people in these group more than just the amount of people or who they are. Put out a google form with a qualification matrix to determine who best fits in this group.
7. **New Business** 
   1. New Vice Chairperson: Jay nominates himself.

**Motion**: Jay Isch makes a motion for himself to serve as the next Vice Chairperson. Iva Tullier seconds.

* + 1. Jay Isch is appointed to Vice Chair.

1. **Old Business (resume)**
   1. Revision to Legislation: Jana Broussard gives update about informal conversation within the Department of Health. LCD did a presentation within the Department of Health to discuss why changes need to be made to legislation. We are waiting to hear back if they will include these recommendations in the Governor's packet.
2. **Announcements**
   1. Jay Isch announces that Deaf Focus is doing an interpreter training with MJ Bienvenue.

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

April 16, 2021 9:00am-12:00pm

**VII. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 12:26pm (No motion to end meeting was seen in captioning transcript)

Draft of minutes prepared 4/12/21. Minutes corrected on .

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Recorder Date Secretary Date