**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf- SFY 22 Regular Commission Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2021**

**9:00 am- 12:00 pm (virtual)**

1. **Call to Order –** Meeting was called to order by vice chairperson, acting chair, Jay Isch 9:04am
   1. Invocation/Silent Prayer- silent prayer
   2. Pledge of Allegiance – Dr. Heather Laine
   3. Roll Call – Commissioner & Secretary, Dr. A. Argrave.

Commissioners Present: A quorum of Commissioners was present: Dr. Ashley Argrave, Dr. Lee Mendoza, Mallory Brown, Iva Tullier, Bradley Wellons, Dr. Heather Laine, Kevin Monk, Jay Isch, Dawn Melendez.

Commissioners Not Present: Candice Leblanc, Melissa Potter, Ernest Garrett, III, Jimmy Gore, Senator Sharon Hewitt, Representative Scott McKnight, Melissa Bayham

LCD Staff: Jana Broussard, Vanessa Magnon, Shane Bates

Interpreters: Lissa Gill, Sylvie Sullivan, Alvina Malcolm, Shelby Fortenberry

Captionist: Provided by Evangeline Aymond with GulfCoast Stenography

1. Approval of Agenda (D. Melendez, I. Tullier)
2. Approval of Minutes (D. Melendez, M. Brown)
3. Public Comments: no public comment
4. Reports
   1. Director’s Report: LCD Interim Director (J. Broussard)-

SSP program RFP open for bid. Available LCD website, LDH website, and LaPAC website. Board has voted for strategic priorities. LCD has hired Innivee Strategies for the spring to do an Interpreter Assessment for standards. Open town hall meeting in November to discuss LCD and interpreting.

VI. Officer Reports

1. Chair: not present
2. Vice chair: LR and LWC- would like to see these agencies partner with large corporations for better employment. Also recommends website accessibility improvement.

-State budget: seems state has a 2 billion dollar surplus. Would like to see LCD work with the state to receive additional funding such as scholarship opportunities.

1. Secretary: no report at this time

VII. Commissioner Reports

1. Relay Admin Board report: J. Broussard –RAB-Hamilton still looking or additional trialists to test new equipment
2. LRID: D. Melendez- LRID had to postpone fall conference due to Hurricane Ida. Will reschedule for Spring. LRID is excited to partner with Ms Broussard for the Town Hall in November.
3. Legislator Report: Legislators not present
4. State Agency Reports
   1. Vocational Rehab: K. Monk: no report at this time
   2. La. Workforce: M. Bayham: not present
   3. Louisiana Dept. of Health: Dr. L. Mendoza: Now is a great time to take the Covid vaccine and Flu shot. There is currently a $100 stipend. October is also Breast Cancer Awareness month. October is also National Substance Abuse Awareness. Due to Medicaid expansion, more people can receive Breast Cancer treatment and substance abuse awareness. Resources on LDH website.
   4. LSD: Dr. H. Laine, no report
   5. SSD: E. Garrett, III, not present
   6. Dept. Child and Family Services- C. LeBlanc, not present

VIII. Old Business

1. Letter to Board of Regents- ASL Studies Program- Update from Interim Director J. Broussard: Melissa Lacour collecting information including an LCD letter to bring to the Board of Regents. Position is posted for a full time instructor for the ASL program. BRCC.
2. Letter to Ethics Board- Update from LCD staff, S. Bates: drafted and approved letter by the board in July and sent the letter to LDH so that a DB person can be added to the board while also receiving services. As of last week, there was some confusion with the receipt of the letter so Mr.Bates sent the letter again with supporting documentation. The issue seemed to be a problem with the fax although LCD did receive the notification of receipt.
   1. Rules/Admin Code and R.S.46:2351 update: Enabling statute: Projected timeline: draft by beginning of November. Typical process- LDH elevates to Governor, or board or public can work with Legislator to sponsor. For this statute, it is recommended the board works to identify a sponsor. Legislative session: will convene March 2022 12:00pm lasting for 60 days on June 6, 20222.
      1. Vice Chair Isch asks if LCD can be moved out from under the Louisiana Department of Health. S. Bates: That would have to be a larger conversation. We would have to decide to set up our own agency under the governor's agency or move to another agency and then figure out a budget process that way.

**Motion:** 15 minute break; back at 10:25 (Isch, Argrave)

IX. New Business

1. HCR 80- Best Practices in Medical Settings- Introduction of Corey Axelrod: Consultant for LCD to draft and publish a Best Practices handbook that focuses on communication access for DDBHH people. First part is a survey to ensure evidence-based decisions. He will work closely with a task force that will develop this handbook. Corey Axelrod email: corey@2axend.com
2. Budget- 6 month update by Shane Bates: LCD spent all of FY21 funding for the first time in a few years. Reviewed terminology and the budget process timeline for understanding. Fiscal year starts July1- June 30. To date, LCD spent ¼ of budget which is on target as we just closed out the first quarter of the year. Still have close to 5 million in reserve.
   1. Vice Chair Isch: Requests LCD to ask for grant from state surplus. Ex: insurance pays for speech therapists and audiologists but does not cover language specialists for Deaf children who use ASL; group homes for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, mental health, better employment, etc.
      1. S. Bates: ideas must be considered and determined if falls under LCD purview. Technically could ask for money from the state but we need to approach Legislators. Recommends we first look at dollars of surplus to see if they are designated for certain areas and determine how we need to spend those dollars. Then we can create a proposal of needs and ask for those funds.
3. Strategic Planning/Sub-Committees: Interim Director J. Broussard: Provided presentation update on Strategic planning. Proposed to restructure the Board meetings to include sub-committee meetings. Ex. Prior to the public quarterly meeting, subcommittees meet for 1.5 hours to discuss specific topics. Chair of sub-committee provides report to full board.

MOTION: for the meeting to be restructured starting January 2022 (Isch, Dr. Laine) majority for, motion passes

1. Election of Chair

MOTION: Ernest Garrett, III remains chairperson (Dr. Mendoza, Tullier)

1. 2022 Meeting Dates: Jan 21, April 22, July 22, October 21

MOTION: accept dates (Melendez, Wellons) motion carries

X. Announcements:

1. Vice Chair Jay Isch: LAAD celebrating 50 years, December 11th celebration gala
2. Interim Director Jana Broussard: 1. Corey Axelrod: watch out for the survey 2. Commissioners: Shane with Innivee will send a brief survey soon.

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

January 15, 2021 9:00am-12:00pm

MOTION: (no motion for adjournment)

**VII. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm

Draft of minutes prepared 11/24/2021.

Minutes corrected on .

Ashley J Argrave 11/24/2021 Ashley J Argrave 11/24/2021

Recorder Date Secretary Date