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**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf  
SFY 21 Regular Commission Meeting  
Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2021  
9:00 am- 12:00 pm**

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- I. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Ernest Garrett 9:00am
- A. Invocation/Silent Prayer- Dan Arabie
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance – Jimmy Gore
  - C. Roll Call – Commissioner & Secretary, Dr.Ashley Argrave

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, Dr. Heather Laine, Kevin Monk, Jay Isch, Walker Estes proxy for Dawn Melendez, Representative Scott McKnight

Commissioners Not Present: Candice Leblanc, Brad Wellons, Melissa Potter

LCD Staff: Jana Broussard, Vanessa Magnon, Shane Bates, JaLisa Lee

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

Captionist: Provided by Gulf Coast Stenography

- II. Approval of Agenda (Commissioner Isch, Commissioner Gore)
- III. Approval of Minutes (Commissioner Isch, Commissioner Tullier)
- IV. Public Comments

A. Dan Arabie:

- 1. Respect DeafBlind people when making decisions for that population
- 2. Interpreters for DB: encourage more workshops and training for DB interpreters

B. Chad Cormier

- 1. February 2020, prior to Covid-19, hoping DB representative on commission, still no representation. Feels that DB population was forgotten, and after contacting several times there was little response.
  - a. SSPs changing, more consistent
- 2. LCD bylaws state LCD does not allow DB person to be on commission so if DB joins commission, that person can no longer benefit from services. Feels it discriminatory.
  - a. Need more leadership, more representation. All approved to have a DB person on the commission, but we need a DB commissioner NOW! 2007/08 approx. When the board approve to not have a a DB on the board, who was that?



- b. Response: Ernest: response to let him know that we will address these issues during the Director update and reports

C. Amy Shamburger:

- 1. Discussed mask requirement for DB and SSPs, feels this should be choice.
- 2. Need training for DB and how to work with DB
- 3. Need more recruitment for SSPs
  - a. Response: Comm. ISCH: ABL is responsible for providing more training. Promises to look into those improvement suggestions.

V. Reports

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

- 1. Address Chad Cormier: update DB chair on the board. We have drafted a letter to the Ethics Board. The LCD Board has approved it. Internally, we will bring it to the Ethics board. We will be going to that review meeting, if you want to come; please do. It is crucial to be represented on the Board.
- 2. Patient centered communication in medical settings: HCR 80 made recommendations to establish best practices. We have hired an organization to develop this. 2axend (proposal shared with the board via email)
- 3. RFP: For SSP program will be published soon. Any agency can bid and send in a proposal
- 4. Request for an organization to come to the capital and make some accommodation/technology recommendations. Hewitt will provide additional information.
  - a. ISCH: who will be on the RFP evaluation team? Someone here or more neutral outside of La?
    - i. Jana reply: must be comprised of 3-4 parties, state workers who specialize in business, content experts (DB person) in DB services, as well as myself

B. Staff: introduce our new staff member, Jalisa Lee, handling billing

VI. Officer Reports

- A. Chair: no report at this time
- B. Vice chair: thrilled about new bill that passed, looking forward to progress
- C. Secretary: no report at this time

VII. Commissioner Reports

- A. Relay Admin Board report: trial for upcoming new equipment, use new equipment and give feedback. Looking for new participants who can be Deaf, DeafBlind (with sufficient sight to read captioning)
- B. Legislator Report:
  - a. Senator Hewitt: we are working to provide more accessibility, the meeting here today is the first step. Appointed to a technology committee to evaluate technology and make improvements
    - i. Address DB participation: not intended to discriminate against the DB population, but it is an issue to be addressed. Willing to write a letter on letterhead to support the change. If not able to get a waiver, she will commit to work with McKnight to address it this Spring in legislation.



- b. Rep McKnight: technology committee, would like to be included. Also commits with Hewitt to write a letter to ethics .
  - i. Update on the Special school district bill which creates its own district and is supervised by its own board. Still working on MFP, securing funds, and continuing to get other funding.
- c. Melendez proxy Walker Estes: LRID and Tulane developing a legal interpreting program. Just started advertising for it. Search for mentors and mentorship programs. LRID conference will be held this fall. LRID.org for more information
- d. State Agency Reports
  - i. Vocational rehab: Kevin Monk 6/2019, 216 individual, 506, 6/2020 194,490 6/2021 196, 591

#### VIII. Old Business

##### A. ITP update: Board of regents

- a. ASL Studies Program Update: Missy LaCour. LCTCS had 1 ASL program at Delgado. In April, we approved a new program through BRCC. Delgado will begin collaborating with Bossier. Found 200K to support the new growth, BRCC is on agenda for BofR in August, they would like to collect additionally info on that program
- b. Dr.Superbill, Dean of liberal arts BRCC: ASL studies, BofR asked us to reach out to boards for support, employer partners, looking at 4 year schools to develop articulation program they can transfer to a 4 year program.

**MOTION:** LCD will develop a list of recommendations or suggestions for appropriate colleges to establish 2 year and 4 year degrees. Will write a letter to BofR. (Hewitt, Estes) none opposed, motion carries

#### IX. New Business

##### A. Budget Presentation: Shane Bates:

- a. Telecommunications for the Deaf fund: background originally proposed at 4.5- passed at 5 cent. 3.9-2.9million traditionally collected
- b. Last year budget: 2.7 budget, spent 1.6 million, as of April.
  - i. Hewitt: looking at budget and expenditures, what are the encumbered funds?
    - 1. Bates: There is still 800,000 left to spend
  - ii. Hewitt: are there other needs we can use that money for?
    - 1. Bates: this is the most LCD has spent this year in the last 5 years. Looking at additional opportunity in other areas in fiscal year 22
  - iii. Hewitt: what was the balance of the telecommunications bill?
    - 1. Bates: Report from treasury yesterday was around 5 million dollars. After taking out current budget it will be about 2.2.
  - iv. H: Fund keeps growing, if there are more needs, we can make sure in the budgeting process we can increase the budget

##### B. Mission Vision Values (Shane Feldman, Davin Searls)

- a. Update: Strategic Plan: Created an AdHoc group which met about 8 times and included community input. Discussed what priorities should be included. New Mission, Vision, Values and three year strategic priorities identified and brought to vote.



MOTION: to adopt the mission, vision, and values (Isch, Gore) none opposed , motion carries

b. Strategic Priorities:

1. Enhance Community engagement
2. Modernize the telecommunication access program
3. Address gaps in mental health services
4. Address racial disparities in LCD services
5. Establish interpreting standards and systems
6. Continued improvement and enhancement to SSP program

Hewitt: Mentioned the need for timeline and action steps. Innivee explained we are having additional trainings to follow up and establish steps moving forward

**MOTION:** to accept the 6 priorities (Isch, McKnight) none opposed, motion carries

X. Announcements: Announcements:

- A. Comm. Isch: GODA conference: Deaf panel: education, interpreters. [tinyurl.com/ goda2021](http://tinyurl.com/goda2021)
- B. Gore: LAD open to public August 14

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

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

**MOTION:** Adjourn (Gore, Argrave) 11:58 pm

**VII. Adjournment –** Meeting adjourned at 11:58 pm

Draft of minutes prepared 10/04/2021.

Minutes corrected on \_\_\_\_\_.

Ashley J Argrave

7//2021

Ashley J Argrave

10/4/2021

Recorder

Date

Secretary

Date