



Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 22 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2022
9:00am-12:00pm

Interpreters: Alvina Malcom, Sylvie Sullivan, Lissa
Gill Captionist: Evangeline Langston

A. Call to order 9:23

B. Invocation/Silent: Prayer Dan Arabie

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Roll Call

E. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Argrave, Isch add FY 23 budget review to new business, none opposed, motion passed

F. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: (Isch, Laine) minutes approved, non opposed

G. Public Comments:

a. Jayce Romara: SSP and tactile interpreting, Issue: SSP can also be an interpreter but can not be paid for both, possible solutions allow DB person to have a choice to be allowed to make that decision to have 1 person or both.

i. Jay Isch: recommend mentioning this issue to Affiliated Blind

b. Chad Cormier: Since gas prices are rising as well as general inflation, there are concerns for SSP driving and their pay is not reflecting the rising prices of gas and other expenses

i. Jay Isch: recommend increase in pay for SSP

ii. Argrave: Clarification: pay must either come by their hourly rate or milage/travel. It can not be both

iii. Broussard: new contract June 30th, SSP do get paid their rate during travel time but their rate has not been changed for a long time. We are looking at that for FY 2023.



- c. Dan Arabie: DB are more comfortable people speaking to LCD and not ABL. We need a town hall to discuss.
 - i. Jay Isch: Recognize the issues and I think LCD should have their own centralized SSP program so that we can manage the funding directly and so SSP can also receive their rates

Motion: write and send a letter ABL (Gore, Isch) motion passes

H. Reports and Updates from Membership Committee

- a. Chairperson Earnest Garret III: N/A
- b. Vice Chair Jay Isch: N/A
- c. Secretary Dr. Ashley Argrave: N/A
- d. **Director Report: Jana Broussard:**
 - i. Capital accessibility report: Submitted, no update at this time
 - ii. SSP contract to begin July 1, 2022. All revisions will be included
 - iii. LCD staff has been working on legislation follow up items; New contracts and a new budget for FY23; Three current staff at LCD. Soon to add 3 more positions. 2 full time and



- 1 part time.
- iv. Subcommittees: I want to see the establishment of subcommittees to achieve our strategic priorities. However, we need staff to facilitate. So subcommittees are on hold until we have more staff to support and achieve the strategic priorities.
 - v. We are in the process of hiring a communications person to help revamp our social media and website. This will allow us to have more accessible information including videos in ASL on the website.
 - vi. Budget and roles of our staff and what we are working on are included in your packet of information.
 - vii. I have been working with the DHH on providing more accessible information
 - 1. Vaccination in their home. I have provided information to them on how to interact with a patient who is D or DB. Reach out to us if you would like to receive a vaccination at your home.
 - viii. Responses to Director Report:
 - 1. Jay Isch: Asked question about funding for Deaf mentor
 - a. Response: Was not included in the 6 priorities the board voted on
 - ix. Video from Tulane University: under the leadership of Denise Crochet

Break 10:29

I. Quarterly Report: Shane Bates

- a.** Legislative Snapshot: Currently in the 3rd quarter and we are in legislative sessions. We have a few bills we are following. HB 1, HB299, HB 315, HB 14, SB 14, SB 98, SB 176, HCR 14
- b.** Revenue Report: Powerpoint
- c.** Program Budget: Powerpoint
- d.** Contractual Services: Current- 1.3 million, balance 175,000.
- e.** Health Equity Contract: HB 80, how best for medical professionals to work with D and DB individuals will be out later this fall
- f.** Waiting for RFP service provider final decisions. We will announce. the new vendor for SSP services once a decision has been made.
- g.** Technology contracts: later in the agenda, website is also being update and revamped



- h. Contract renewals: looking for regional support center for region 9
- i. New Hires: Marketing officer: Introducing Victoria Reguira; still working on finalizing other hires such as program monitor, and administrative program coordinator

J. Old Business

- a. **1. Legislative Revisions :** Update Director Broussard (for Senator Hewitt) If you have any questions about bills please email me. All bills are on our website. Next, when legislation passes our bill we will need to update and revise LCD's Administrative Code.
 - i. Commissioner Jay Isch: Currently, our director isnt able to interact in



legislation due to state laws. So my recommendation is for our next Director to have a different role/job title so that they are able to interact with the community and legislation more.

- b. 2. Ex Director Succession Planning-** Update: Previously, we approved to set up sub committees. One of these subcommittees would discuss and draft what the role of the new director would look like. That job title looks a little vague at this time. At this time, I recommend that LCD should hire a consultant to determine what this job title and role would look like. It would take about 3 months starting in July. It may delay the search. Then we can put this item on the agenda at that time. This would be out October meeting.
- i. Commissioner Jay Isch: we need to have our new director to be more active in our legislation. Currently, other advocates are doing this for free.

(there is no longer a quorum- discussion held)

- c. 3. Interpreter Registry- LA Interactive:** Jana Broussard: At our last meeting, we discussed and approved that we would move forward in establishing an interpreter registry.
- i. LA Interactive: Kevin Minor DOO, LA digital partner, we have been working with LCD for 4 years in other areas such as the equipment management. Jason Selzer: project manager, the application is to establish a tool that can manage an interpreting manager. There are only a few of these in the country. This will be heavily focused on accessibility. There will be an ability to change font size and view on the consumer side.
 1. This will be a searchable and sortable list where users can find an interpreter based on needs. This can include a picture, a bio, and an intro video. (if they decide to share one)
 2. User friendly as well as interpreter friendly. They will fill out an application then will have access to their own dashboard to make and edit changes (which must be approved) then will appear on the dashboard.
 3. Administrative Control: LCD will approve these application and then also can guide them through that process to become approved. LCD can also post needs for events and other needs in the interpreting community.



4. Timeline: July 1, 2022. First release will be voluntary.

ii. Commissioner Comments:

1. Isch- Request for agencies to be included. Response: will in phase 3

Jana: Request for the board consider to hold a special meeting to discuss the remaining topics on the agenda. Items will include:

K. New Business

- a. **1. Barriers Related to Deaf Leadership and Provision of Services in La. 2. Leadership Development Cohort**



b. 3. Hearing Aid Program Proposal
L. Announcements
M. Adjourn 11:57