



## DEAF SERVICES COMMISSION OF IOWA

Commission Meeting  
Friday, February 7, 2014  
Lucas State Office Building  
Conference Room 201  
Des Moines, IA  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The DSCI Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Theresa Legg at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Theresa Legg, Mark Hersch, Jennifer Keaton and Bob Vizzini

Members absent: Nathaniel Garrels and Tina Kastendieck

Staff members present: Heidi Smith, Administrator, CAS Division, Jill Fulitano Avery, Executive Officer, Office of Deaf Services, San Wong, Director, Department of Human Rights and *Ex-Officio*, Stephanie Lyons and Lysie Hanssen, Disability Consultants, Office of Deaf Services and Linda Scott

Interpreters: Peggy Chicoine, Susan Hardine, Laura Lord and Jeff Reese

Commissioners, staff and interpreters were introduced, visitors recognized and ground rules for the meeting established.

### **Approval of Minutes from November 2, 2013:**

**MOTION #14-04:** There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, motion to approve minutes as presented. **Vizzini/Keaton.** All in favor, motion carried.

### **Commissioner/Committee Reports:**

**Culturally Affirmative Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Aftercare Services:** No report.

### **Accessible Legal Representation:**

Hersch updated the commission on VRIowa. They are still in the process of trying to obtain grants. At this time, their goal is to get into the 117 hospitals in Iowa. They seem to be getting a lot of resistance from the EMTs and they are not able to get any interest in putting in a system. The ADA and JACO accreditation appears to be the driving force in getting hospitals to put it in their facilities.

### **Licensed Sign Language Interpreters Meeting Competency Standards:**

Vizzini provided a brief report regarding licensing requirements. At this time, it appears that if interpreters have passed their EIPA, they interpret at the K-12 level, but can also interpret other than in the schools. The only place they cannot interpret is in the court system. Vizzini feels that the deaf should recommend that an amendment be added to the law to keep EIPA interpreters only in the schools. At the present time, there appears to be a number of EIPA interpreters interpreting in hospital settings and he would like to see the law amended to use only RID certified interpreters in hospitals.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Old Business:**

Avery reported

- that Superintendent Patrick Clancy reached out to the department to appoint Theresa Legg to the superintendent search committee for the Iowa School for the Deaf and the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School. Mr. Clancy will be retiring at the end of June and the first meeting of the search committee will be held this afternoon in West Des Moines.
- we are searching for a Hard of Hearing candidate to become a part of the commission. Upah has resigned her position and applications are out there to be completed and forwarded to the Governor's office to fill this vacant position. Hopefully by the next commission meeting we will have a new commissioner to fill the vacancy.
- Avery met with a gentleman who sells a software application to be used in the emergency response system. She told him of the commission and he would like to present at an upcoming commission meeting. He may contact Hersch to talk about the application of VR Iowa. Hersch questioned whether it was a CAD system. Since there are 120 public safety dispatchers, the presenter would need to understand that and it may work. Avery did not get into that much detail with him, but could explore it further and gather additional information if the commission would like. If the commission would like to have him present, just let her know.

Vizzini wanted to talk about the search committee for the new superintendent. He would have liked having additional Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals on the committee other than the two that have been appointed. There are 17 on the committee and only two Deaf or Hard of Hearing people representing the community. That's a big disparity and only one of those in the group from ISD. Some states are going for equal 50/50 representation to serve on those boards or committees and he feels that the community is not being represented. In the future, they need to take that into consideration. He suggested that the commission send a letter to that affect. There are four (4) parents that are on the committee as well. One has a deaf child at ISD and a parent who has a child who is mainstreamed. This committee needs people who support ISD.

Hersch: How many blind or visually impaired are on the committee? One or two public and one woman who is blind. There is a mother of a blind son but will find out more later this afternoon. One-third (5 or 6) should be deaf or hard of hearing or a parent of an ISD student; 1/3 blind and 1/3 educators.

Lyons added that as commissioners they could write a letter to the ~~search committee~~ **Board of Regents**.

**MOTION #14-05** Vizzini makes a motion to put together a letter to be presented outlining our concerns and to work together to write one letter. **Vizzini/Keaton** All in favor, motion carried.

Keaton will begin putting together something, along with Vizzini and Hersch with the remainder of the commission reviewing the finished product. Vizzini then asked how they could expedite it quickly? Avery responded that if they wanted to draft it and get it to her, she would edit it, get in on letterhead and get it sent like has been done in the past.

Lyons and Hanssen both updated the commissioners on their work the past quarter. Some of the highlights are:

- Lyons reminded everyone of **Deaf Capitol Day, April 14, 2014**, which cuts close to the end of session. Deaf Services is not involved in Deaf Capitol Day but will set up a display at the Capitol that day.
- Wong added that it's not too early to begin thinking about setting a date for next year's Deaf Capitol Day. They book events a year in advance and you can't wait until the beginning of the session to set the schedule. By the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, the legislators will be in their final days and in committees pounding out budgets, etc. and the Governor will be involved in that as well.
- Lyons reminded Hersch that he will be the next commissioner to write an article for the E-News. Deadline in getting his information to Lyons will be February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Hanssen

- has been receiving training on updating the website in a more timely manner. Hopefully she can start those updates soon.
- recently attended a meeting on federal law requiring that at least 7% of a company's employees be disabled.

Commission discussed this new federal law. Vizzini would like to have this information e-mailed to all commissioners

**Contractual Interpreting 2014:**

Avery reviewed the third quarter requests for the contractual interpreting program. There were eleven (11) requests for the period October 1 – December 31, 2013. Seven (7) for funerals/visitations and four (4) for weddings. Total funds requested for the second quarter 2014: \$1570.00. For the first two (2) quarters of SFY14 total expended \$3205.00.

With another four (4) requests received through January 17, 2014 (\$600.00), there remains \$1195.00 in the fund available through June 30, 2014.

**New Business:**

**New Department of Human Rights Board Member:**

**MOTION: #14-06:** Keaton made a motion to select Hersch as the representative to serve on the DHR Board. Hersch declined, stating that he felt the commissioner should be deaf. Wong indicated that in the past, it has been the Chair of the commission. Keaton amended the motion to move that Legg be selected as the representative to serve on the DHR Board. Legg agreed. **Keaton/Vizzini** All in favor, motion carried.

**Announcements:**

Wong invited the commissioners to attend the DHR Open House on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. with Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds in attendance speaking to attendees at 8:30 a.m. DHR Board meeting will be held right after from 10:00 a.m. –Noon here in the Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

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Theresa Legg, Chair

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Linda Scott, Secretary