

ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION



2012 Annual Report
Fiscal Year
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

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Message from the Director . . .

I am proud to present the 2012 Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission Annual Report. IDHHC works diligently towards achieving its Value Statement to assure equality, respect, accessibility and independence for all individuals with a hearing loss.

This year IDHHC expanded its annual Statewide Interpreter Conference to a full weekend providing interpreters the opportunity to earn the full twenty (20) hours of professional development required to maintain their license annually. The Conference attracts participants from numerous states and even as far as from



Arizona. During these difficult financial times, IDHHC is pleased it is able to offer this wonderful event for only \$100. Not only does this conference assist interpreters in gaining valuable skills but also provides professional networking opportunities.

IDHHC continues to partner with other agencies to develop accessible video related to programs and services for deaf, hard of hearing and Deaf-Blind in the State of Illinois. To increase transparency in government and encourage involvement statewide, IDHHC Commission Meetings can be viewed via the internet on our website. The meetings are fully accessible with both captioning and sign language interpreters.

On behalf of Illinois' deaf and hard of hearing citizens, I thank you for your strong support of IDHHC. I encourage you to visit IDHHC's website at <http://www.idhhc.illinois.gov>.

Sincerely,

John Miller
Director

Commissioners

- Nancy Abbott, Albion
- Tina Childress, Urbana
- Joseph Culpepper, Bloomington
- Emma Danielson, Springfield
- Tamara Hogue, Jacksonville
- Hershel Jackson, Rock Island
- Mindy Joy Mayer, Wheeling
- Benro Ogunyipe, Calumet City
- Anil Phadke, Schaumburg
- Laura Thomas, East Moline

Staff

- John Miller, Director
- Janet Lambert, Assistant Director
- Patty Greene, Personnel Manager
- Tonia Bogener, Legal Counsel
- Brandie Belford, Executive Secretary
- Brandy Hayes, Project Coordinator
- Becki Combs, Interpreter Coordinator



Established in 1997, IDHHC is an executive state agency that advocates on behalf of the interests of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

The first phase of the Communication Access Real-Time Transcription (CART) Task Force Recommendations were implemented by developing a dedicated webpage with new informational brochures and accepting applications for the Statewide Directory.

IDHHC expanded its offerings of ASL information videos by including *Everything You Need to Know About Interpreter Licensure*, *Standard Practice for Hospitals: Communicating with Individuals who are Deaf* and *How to File a Complaint in regards to "Communication Access" at Hospitals under the Language Assistance Service Act (L.A.S.A.)*

EVALUATION & MONITORING OF OUTSIDE PROGRAMS

IDHHC initiated discussions with the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health about the vacant Statewide Deaf Services Coordinator position. Both the essential nature of the position and the legislative mandate were acknowledged by DHS. This prompted DHS to provide in-depth presentation during the live web broadcast on how the deaf and hard of hearing can access mental health services..

In partnership with the Department of Corrections (DOC), IDHHC reviewed DOC's communication access training for both Correctional and Parole Officers. Additionally, IDHHC translated the corrections intake procedures into an ASL video which can be used statewide for deaf or hard of hearing individuals entering the correctional system.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

During the Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf Townhall meeting, IDHHC provided an interactive workshop on its programs and services to the deaf and hard of hearing community.

IDHHC participates in the Southern Illinois University – College of Medicine disability panel which educates medical students on various accessibility issues for patients with disabilities. Additionally, IDHHC contributed to the training video focusing on nursing and dental students about the importance of communication access for both deaf and hard of hearing patients and their families.



FY 13 Initiatives

- Formation of the Support Services Providers (SSP) Task Force to explore ways for Illinois to better serve the needs of its Deaf-Blind citizens.
- Launching of the sign language interpreter mentorship program under the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007 rules.
- Promote education and awareness of the importance of legislation mandating insurance coverage for hearing aids.
- Establish specialized training materials for use by various advocacy organizations on removing communication barriers and ensuring effective communication.
- Development of free online professional development opportunities on IDHHC's website.



Did you know that May 16, 1902, was the only time in major league history that 2 deaf players have ever faced each other (William Ellsworth Hoy of the Cincinnati Reds batted against pitcher Luther Haden Taylor of the New York Giants.)

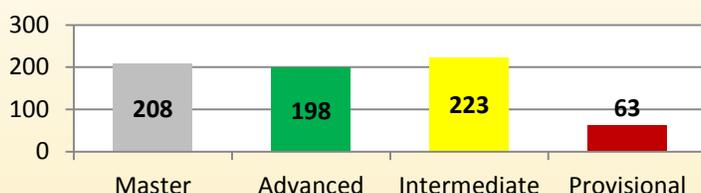
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Licensed Interpreters

2010	667
2011	682
2012	692

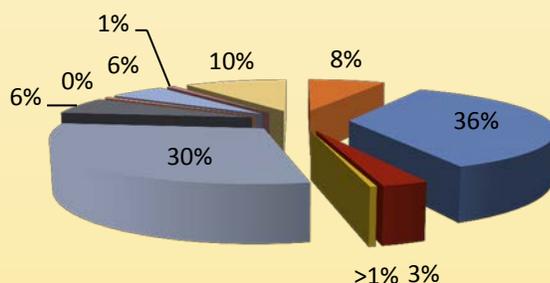
	New Licensees	Renewals	Proficiency Level Upgrade
2011	81	601	25
2012	48	563	26

Licensed Interpreters by Proficiency Level



Licensed Interpreters by Geographic Region

- Central
- Cook County
- East Central
- East Southeast
- Northeast
- Northwest
- Southeast
- Southwest
- West Central
- West Southwest



Illinois Board of Interpreters

Somone Bowman
Hazel Crest

Dana Craig
Chenoa

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel
Manhattan

Teri Hedding
Lombard

Karen Janssen
Lombard

Thomas Russell
Wood River

Sue Sanders
Peoria

Area Interpreter Training Programs

Columbia College, Chicago

Illinois Central College, East Peoria

John A. Logan College, Carterville

MacMurray College, Jacksonville

Quincy University, Quincy

Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville

St. Louis Community College,
St. Louis, Missouri

Waubonsee Community College,
Aurora

William Rainey Harper College,
Palatine

While the number of Provisional level sign language interpreters continues to decrease each year, the Interpreter Licensure Board recognized the need to develop learning opportunities which will allow sign language interpreters to further increase their skills in a supervised real life interpreting experience. To provide sign language interpreters with this unique opportunity, the Interpreter Licensure Board recommended IDHHC propose changes to the *Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007 Rules*, implementing a mentorship program for currently licensed sign language interpreters.

IDHHC has completed the rulemaking process and the mentorship program will be available starting July 1, 2013.