

Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission

Strategic Plan

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019



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September 2013: The IDHHC Commissioners met at the Illinois School for the Deaf to discuss the 5 year strategic plan.

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The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission shall promote system change, community education and collaboration to advance effective communication access for all individuals with hearing loss in Illinois.

Mission Statement

Introduction

The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) is an executive state agency that advocates on behalf of the interests of persons in Illinois who are deaf or hard of hearing. In addition to the Director and staff, IDHHC is governed by eleven (11) Commissioners. The Commissioners are appointed by the Governor's Office and represent different geographical areas of Illinois. Additionally, at least six (6) Commissioners must be Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind. IDHHC holds quarterly meetings each year. All meetings are open to the public and broadcasted live via IDHHC's website. IDHHC portrays the best practices in ensuring communication access at each meeting by providing live captioning and sign language interpreters.

Background & History

In 1995, various leaders in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community started discussing the desire for a governmental body to focus on the needs of individuals with hearing loss. This group developed into a Task Force to lobby for the formation of a new state agency. The Task Force intended for IDHHC to:

- 1) Be a state agency;
- 2) Interact with state agencies, Governor and General Assembly;
- 3) Provide training, education and consultation;
- 4) Provide Information and referral;
- 5) Remove communication barriers and improving accessibility;
- 6) Establish interpreter standards, evaluation and certification; and
- 7) Not be involved in the provision of direct services.

The Governor issued an amendatory veto to legislation establishing IDHHC as a state agency and changed it to an advisory committee under the Department of Human Services. Based on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community outcry, the House and Senate both overrode the Governor's veto. While officially established on January 1, 1997, IDHHC opened its office in November 1998, when the first Director was hired.

Core Functions

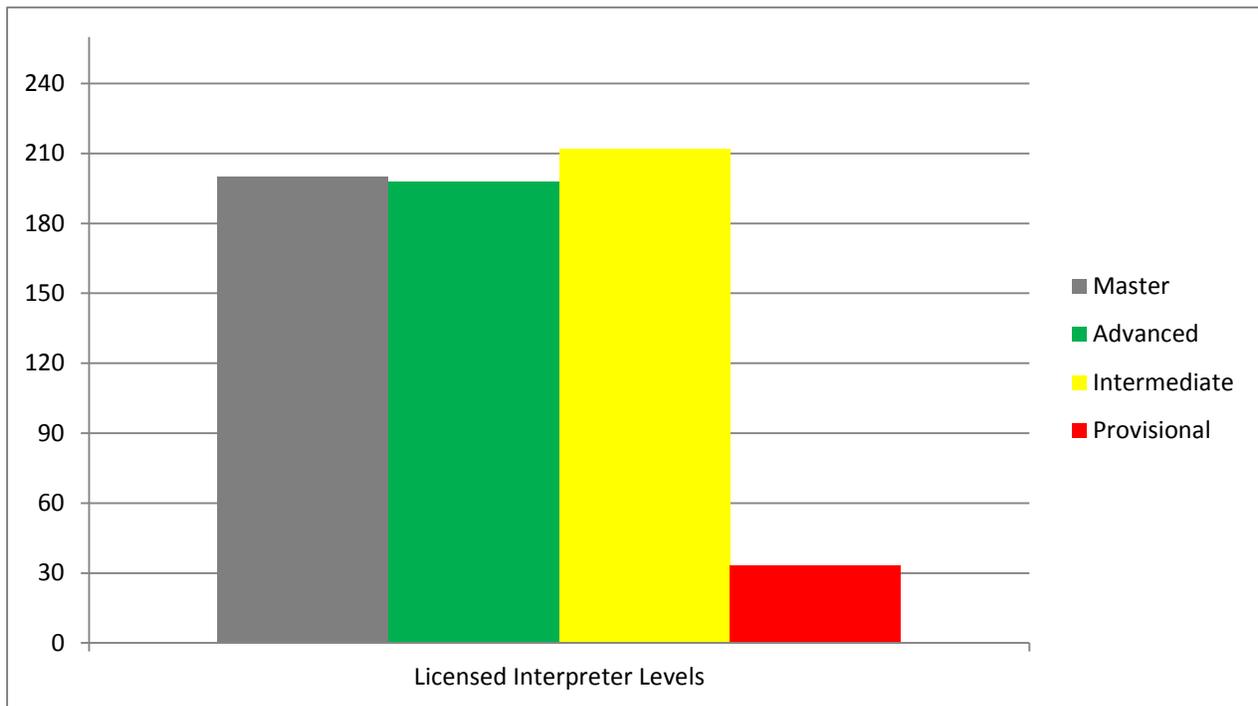
- Promote independence for individuals with a hearing loss;
- Increase quality and number of sign language interpreters and cart providers;
- Provide educational awareness regarding hearing loss; and
- Provide statewide resources.

Interpreter Licensure for the Deaf Act of 2007

Licensed Interpreters
(January 1, 2009 – December 2013)



2013 Active Licensed Interpreters



All Illinois residents with a hearing loss will enjoy the benefits of a fully accessible society enabling each person to participate in and contribute to all aspects of life.

Vision Statement

Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: To empower deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind individuals and families to advocate for themselves by providing targeted materials that address advocacy issue and hearing loss awareness.

Objective 1.1 Increase availability of information through the use of traditional and digital communication tools.

Objective 1.2 Expand and coordinate training opportunities for community service providers to increase outreach to the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind community.

Objective 1.3 Enhance guidance and develop new tools and resources for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind consumers to improve self advocacy.

Goal 2: To enhance the IDHHC's visibility and the resources available to the constituents of Illinois.

Objective 2.1 Provide accessible, accurate, timely and meaningful information via IDHHC's website and email alert.

Objective 2.2 Expand the use of technology to disseminate information.

Objective 2.3 Evaluate and track consumer assistance and referrals.

Goal 3: To identify and decrease the barriers to communication access.	
Objective 3.1	Be an exemplary example of best practices in providing communication access.
Objective 3.2	Increase communications and collaborations with stakeholders to coordinate awareness about hearing loss and communication access.
Objective 3.3	Coordinate and track IDHHC's partnerships and community outreach efforts.
Objective 3.4	Enhance the number of skilled licensed sign language interpreters and CART providers.

Goal 4: Increase community capacity for cultural competence.	
Objective 4.1	Conduct community based trainings and presentations that incorporates cultural competencies.
Objective 4.2	Create a culture of support for underserved populations within the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind community.

Assuring Equality, Self-Determination, Respect, Accessibility and Independence for All Individuals with a Hearing Loss

Value Statement



**Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission
5 Year Strategic Plan
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019**

Electronic Publication available at <http://www.idhhc.illinois.gov>