

May 7, 2021

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS LICENSURE BOARD OF INTERPRETERS

The Interpreter Licensure Board held its regular meeting remotely on Friday, May 7, 2021.

Call to Order:

Chairperson, Laura Braucht, called the meeting to order at 1:09pm.

Members Present:

Laura Braucht	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Yes	Hershella Ashford	Yes

Public

Remote Live Broadcast

IDHHC Staff Present:

Benro Ogunyipe, Director
Janet Lambert, Interpreter Coordinator
Dana Craig, Program Coordinator

Approval of Minutes:

Barbara Pawlica *moved to accept the February 28, 2020, minutes as corrected; Seconded by Rachel Kruk. Motion Passed.*

Laura Braucht	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Yes	Hershella Ashford	Yes

Interpreter Coordinator Report:

Janet Lambert presented her Interpreter Coordinator report:

- The Commission has a new Director Benro Ogunyipe who assumed his role on November 2020, and he looks forward to working with the Licensure Board.
- The Commission recognizes two Licensure Board members who are no longer serving on the Board: Michele Cunningham and Debbie Sampson. The Commission thanks both for their contributions to the Board and wishes the best in their future endeavors.
- The Commission welcomes three new Licensure Board members: Hershella Ashford, Rachel Kruk, and Teri Hedding who just returned to the Licensure Board. The Commission looks forward to their expertise and knowledge brought to the Licensure Board. There is one vacant seat (Interpreter position) on the Licensure Board.
- The Commission reported Interpreter Licensure Statistics from year to date:
 - 10 Provisional License Interpreters.
 - 225 Intermediate Licensed Interpreters

- 282 Advanced Licensed Interpreters
- 222 Master Licensed Interpreters
- In total, there are 739 Licensed Interpreters. Compared to 2019, there were a total of 705 Licensed Interpreters.
- There was an increase of proficiency levels from Intermediate License level moving into Advanced License level.
- The Commission reported that due to the ongoing pandemic, there has been no BEI Testing administrated since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. However, between January 2020 and March 2020, the Commission administrated 16 TEPs and 15 Performance Exams for a total of 31 BEI Testing administered.
- The Commission has been working with the Illinois Department of Public Health on reopening the IL BEI Interpreter Testing with its health and safety protocols to be followed.
- The Commission continues the commitment to increase the number of licensed and educational interpreters; increase quality and skill level of interpreters; and increase subject matter competencies.
- The Commission reported spending authority and expenditures of the FY20 Interpreter Licensure Program.
- The Commission presented on the proposed plan to file an emergency rulemaking with the Secretary of State to include new Illinois Short-Term Interpreter Conditional (Orange) License that addresses the indefinite suspension of the interpreter testing and certification process for graduates and prospective sign language interpreters from seven (7) Interpreter Training Program colleges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals graduating from Illinois Interpreter Training Program unable to schedule their BEI – TEP or BEI Basic Performance exam. BEI Testing has been on hold since March 2020. This will grant additional time to process backlog of BEI test candidates. A memorandum and notice of rulemaking will be sent to the interpreting community and the public. These emergency rules will be effective immediately within 10 days once filed. The rules will be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules to be assigned to the Commission at June 2021 JCAR Board Meeting. The emergency rules will be published in the May 2021 edition of the Illinois Register and subsequently replaced by a permanent rulemaking when the emergency rules are no longer in effect. Qualifications for a Short-Term Conditional Licensure including: Must be an ITP graduate during the COVID-19 pandemic from an Illinois ITP last year and this year (2020 and 2021); can only accept assignments within the Intermediate settings and required to team with Advanced or Master License Interpreter for all assignments. Application for the Short-Term Conditional Licensure will on the ELP platform, the same application procedure as other applications for licenses.

New Business:

Election of Officers

Chair Laura Braucht opened the nominations for elections for the positions of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary.

Nomination for Secretary position was opened from the floor. Donna Elliott accepted the nomination. Teri Hedding moved to accept Donna Elliot as Secretary; Seconded by Hershella Ashford. Motion Passed.

Laura Braucht	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Yes	Hershella Ashford	Yes

Nomination for Vice-Chairperson position was opened from the floor. Barbara Pawlica accepted the nomination. Hershella Ashford moved to accept Barbara Pawlica as Vice-Chairperson; Seconded by Rachel Kruk. Motion Passed.

Laura Braucht	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Yes	Hershella Ashford	Yes

Nomination for Chairperson position was opened from the floor. Laura Braucht accepted the nomination. Teri Hedding moved to accept Laura Braucht as Chairperson; Seconded by Barbara Pawlica. Motion Passed.

Laura Braucht	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Yes	Hershella Ashford	Yes

Short Term Conditional (Orange) License

The Commission requests Licensure Board approval to file an emergency rulemaking with the Secretary of State to include new Illinois Short-Term Interpreter Conditional (Orange) License that addresses the indefinite suspension of the interpreter testing and certification process for graduates and prospective sign language interpreters.

Laura Braucht moved to approve the Commission Director to file an emergency rule on the Short-Term Conditional (Orange) License; Seconded by Donna Elliot. Motion Passed.

Laura Braucht	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Yes	Hershella Ashford	Yes

Teri Hedding moved to extend individuals with provisional license for additional 12 months before they can schedule for the BEI performance exam; Seconded by Rachel Kruk. Motion Passed.

Laura Braucht	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Yes	Hershella Ashford	Yes

Restoration Request (expired/inactive 5+ years)

The Commission has received and reviewed the applications for restoration request. In accordance to the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act Rules, the restoration requests for expired or inactive licenses for more than 5 years must be brought up to the front of the Licensure Board for restoration approval. Individuals whose application for restoration must

meet the following criteria for restoration including: pay accumulated fee of \$150 per expired or inactive year (per law, a total max of \$1,500 lapsed fees) in addition to \$75 restoration fee, and provide proof of having earned 20 CEU hours within the previous 24 months prior to the restoration request.

Hershella Ashford moved to restore Julie Runyan, Interpreter License upon payment of all lapsed fees being submitted. Seconded by Rachel Kruk. Motion Passed.

Laura Braucht	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Yes	Hershella Ashford	Yes

Barbara Pawlica moved to restore Nicole Aubuchon, Interpreter License upon payment of all lapsed fees being submitted. Seconded by Teri Hedding. Motion Passed.

Laura Braucht	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Yes	Hershella Ashford	Yes

FY2022 Licensure Board Meeting Dates

The Commission proposes to the Licensure Board the FY22 Meeting dates: September 10, 2021, January 14, 2022, and April 8, 2022.

Rachel Kruk moved to accept the following FY22 Licensure Board Meeting dates: ~~September 10, 2021~~ September 17, 2021 (Amendment motion passed to change from September 10th to September 17th), January 14, 2022, and April 8, 2022. Seconded by Barbara Pawlica. Amendment Motion and Motion Passed.

Laura Braucht	Not Present*	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Not Present*	Hershella Ashford	Yes

*Technical difficulties.

Open Discussion

- Licensure Board discussed with the Interpreter Coordinator on the emergency rules for the Short-Term Conditional (Orange) License and usage of individuals with the Orange License if it becomes effective.
- Licensure Board and Interpreter Coordinator discussed on strengthening the promotion of the IDHHC Mentorship Program with the potential of modifying or clarifying the mentor and mentee's relationship, roles and responsibilities in accordance to the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act and its Rules. To be added in the next meeting agenda for further discussion and possible recommendations.

Announcements:

None

Public Comments:

None

Adjournment:

***Barbara Pawlica moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:00p.m.; Seconded by Teri Hedding.
Motion Passed.***

Laura Braucht	Yes	Teri Hedding	Yes
Barbara Pawlica	Yes	Donna Elliot	Yes
Rachel Kruk	Yes	Hershella Ashford	Yes

(Signature on file)

Chairperson

Date

(Signature on file)

IDHHC Open Meetings Act Designee

Date

APPROVED