



State of Louisiana
LOUISIANA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF
Interpreter Ad Hoc Committee

Wednesday September 20, 2023
3:30PM – 6:30PM
Hybrid (In-person and ZOOM)

Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to order**
a. Meeting called to order by Committee Chair Lynne Gomez at 3:32PM
- II. Roll Call**
A. Denise Crochet (Present)
B. Earl Harden (Present)
C. Natasha Aymami (Absent)
D. Milissa Welch (Present)
E. Lynne Gomez (Present)
F. Walker Estes (Present)
G. Leslie Knowles (Present)
- III. Approval of September 6, 2023 Minutes**
a. **Motion:** Leslie Knowles/Walker Estes to accept the 9/6/2023 minutes as corrected. Passed unanimously
- IV. Approval of September 20, 2023 Agenda**
a. **Motion:** Walker Estes/Denise Crochet moves to approve the agenda. Passed unanimously
- V. Public Comments**
a. Wendi Coker - Deaf Action Center in Shreveport is requesting Arkansas licensure to be accepted in Louisiana. My understanding is that the committee is currently proposing that RID Certifications, BEI or EIPA be the forms of Certification/License that will be accepted until a Louisiana State test is “invented” We (DAC Shreveport) currently send our interpreters that are not certified to Ark for testing. I have one that is licensed through Arkansas. She took a written (passed) and then took the performance test in front of a live panel (Passed). I am requesting that Arkansas Licensure be considered as well. They have proven to be an

adequate measure of interpreting skill. They also have a strong ITP at the University of Arkansas and all working interpreters in their state must have this license. Thank you for your consideration.

VI. Old Business

- a. **Educational Interpreter Administrative Code** **Motion:** Earl Harden/ Milissa Welch to move into Committee as a whole. Passed unanimously.

Motion: Leslie Knowles/ Earl Harden to come out of committee as a whole. Passed unanimously.

- i. **Section 3 Minimum Qualified Interpreter – Standards qualifications requirements and registration.**
- ii. **Section 4 Provisional Educational Interpreter Standards**
- iii. **Section 6 Accepted Certificates**
- iv. **Section 7 Renewal Guidelines and Continuing Education requirements**

Motion: Denise Crochet/ Earl Harden to accept the changes made during today's meeting as listed in the motion. Passed unanimously.

Section 3 Minimum Qualified Interpreter – Standards qualifications requirements and registration

Qualified Interpreter Certificate

The Commission shall approve registration for sign language interpreters to work in educational settings.

Certificate is valid for five years from date of issuance.

Applicant must submit verification of one from each of the following sections:

Section A. Educational Requirements

1. *Associate's degree (or higher) issued by a regionally accredited institution of higher education*
2. *Minimum of 60 semester hours of college credit from one or more regionally accredited institutions of higher education*

Section B. Knowledge/Written Exam Requirements

1. *Pass the EIPA Written Test*

Section C. Performance Requirements

1. *Level 4.0 or above on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA)*
2. *Valid certification from the national certifying body of interpreters*
3. *Valid Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Advanced Certification or higher issued by a state that is a licensed user of the BEI system*
4. *Valid National Association of the Deaf (NAD) certification level 4 or 5*

Section 4 Provisional Educational Interpreter Standards

Provisional Interpreter Certificate

The Commission shall approve a provisional registration for sign language interpreters to work in educational settings.

Certificate is, valid for up to three years from date of issuance in duration and is non-renewable pan-

Applicant must who submit verification of one from each of the following sections:

Section A. Requirements

1. Educational requirements

- 1. Certificate of Completion or degree from an interpreter educational program (IEP) issued by a regionally accredited institution of higher education*
- 2. Minimum of 30 semester hours of college credit from one or more regionally accredited institutions of higher education*

2. Performance Requirements

- 1. Valid certification from the national certifying body of interpreters or*
- 2. Valid Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Basic Certification or higher issued by a state that is a licensed user of the BEI system*
- 3. Valid National Association of the Deaf (NAD) certification level 4 or 5*
- 4. Pre-Hire screening of the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA)*

Section 6 Accepted Certificates

Deferred to next meeting after reviewing Louisiana Law requiring reciprocity

Section 7 Renewal Guidelines and Continuing Education requirements

Renewals are prohibited for provisional certificates

Qualified Educational Interpreter Certificate Renewal Guidelines

Certificate may be renewed upon presentation of the following:

Section A. Certification

- 1. Valid interpreter certification (See Section 3A.)*

Section B. Continuing Education

Interpreters must engage in professional development that enhances skills, theoretical knowledge, and ethical decision-making.

- 1. Approved continuing education units/professional development (100 hours) accrued from the date of issuance of Qualified Educational Interpreter Certificate.*
 - a. BEI RID Approved minimum of 75 hours*

- Note: Requesting exemptions perhaps put in this section. (Good faith effort)*

The Commission shall send a notice of renewal at least 60 calendar days prior to the expiration date. See Section 8

a. This section was not addressed. Deferred to the next meeting

IX. Adjourn

a. Chair Lynne Gomez Adjourned at 6:30PM

Note: The order of the agenda may not be followed as listed in order to accommodate presenter schedules.

American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters and live/remote captioning will be provided. Presenters, members, and guests may submit requests for additional accessibility and accommodations prior to a scheduled meeting. Please submit a request to **jazmyne.lemar@la.gov** at least **one week** prior to the meeting with details of the requested accommodations.

In lieu of verbal public comment, individuals may submit a prepared statement in accordance with Senate Rule 13.79. Statements should be emailed to **jazmyne.lemar@la.gov** and must be received at least **24 hours** prior to the meeting to be included in the record for the meeting.

Approved