



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 22 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2022
2:00 pm- 4:30 pm**

- I. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson, Jay Isch
A. Roll Call – Commissioner & Secretary, Dr. Ashley Argrave

Commissioners Present: A quorum of Commissioners was present: Jimmy Gore, Dr. Ashley Argrave, Melissa Bayham, Dr. Heather Laine, Jay Isch, Candice Leblanc, LRID proxy Lynne Gomez, Kevin Monk, Brad Wellons

Commissioners Not Present: Senator Sharon Hewitt, Representative Scott McKnight, Chairperson Ernest Garrett, Devondra Brown

LCD Staff: Jana Broussard, Vanessa Magnon, Shane Bates, Victoria Regueira

Interpreters: Alvina Malcolm, Sylvie Sullivan, Lissa Gill

Captionist: Lynsey Hebert

II. **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION: (Argrave, Gore) add to agenda 1. Discussion on meeting time 2. Commission vacancies

Approval of Agenda to accept agenda

MOTION: (Laine, Gore) minutes approved, non opposed

III. **New Business:**

A. **Hearing Aid Program Discussion**

1. If program services all people this year on the waiting list would cost LCD about 3.5 million dollars which is not sustainable. One option can be to request 1.5 million from LCD fund to decrease the waiting list while also committing to find alternative funding methods through the year.

MOTION: \$1.5 million additional one time payment to cover hearing aids (Argrave, Wellons)

Vote: none opposed. Motion passes.



B. Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget (Shane Bates, program manager)

1. Since the tax has been raised to 5 cents we now have more than 3 million dollars in annual revenue. We will increase our budget in 2023 to 3.4 million. The one time increase of \$2 million will also be added.

- a. These additional funds can be used for more equipment, more trainings for interpreters and SSP services, etc. Invee strategies will also be added to contractual services this year for leadership training and the search for a director. We are also training to increase our staff to cover all the needs. Next year with all that mentioned included, the budget will be increased to \$5.9 million.

MOTION: to approve the budget (Gore, Laine) None opposed, motion passes

C. Barriers related to Deaf Leadership in Louisiana (Commissioner Jimmy Gore)

1. LAD would like to become a service provider center but cannot because of Commission seat- Generally, this is an example of issues with small deaf community and individuals in position in leadership

MOTION: LCD commission to request an advisory opinion from the Board of Ethics about resolving conflicts within the Deaf Community and also serving as commissioners (Gore, Gomez) none opposed, Motion passes.

Gomez withdraws because she would prefer if we asked the BoE for several different agencies and addressed all the areas. Motion is revised.

D. Leadership Development Cohort (Director Jana Broussard)

1. Due to a lack of leaders in our state and based on the strategic strategies that we developed last year investment is needed in leadership with the DDBHH community; Invee strategies also provides another training to provide leadership within our state. This training puts together a cohort of about 10-12 people with a minimum of 1 year. Proposal to contract with Inivee strategies that would start in January 2023 to develop leadership within our state.

- a. Commissioners discussed cost of the contract and proposed the idea of including interpreters in this group if possible.

MOTION: to approve the contract with Innivee Strategies for a Leadership Development Cohort (Gore, Brown/Laine) none opposed, motion carries.

E. Discussion of Meeting Times (added to Agenda)

1. LCD often runs out of time or don't have adequate enough time to discuss everything on agenda.
 - i. Commissioners discussed options such as all day meetings, more frequent meetings, etc. Concerns around board commitment ability and accommodation provisions



MOTION: extend meeting time 9:00am- 1:00pm for the July 22, 2022 meeting (Gomez, Argrave) none opposed, motion passed:

2.Commission Vacancies (Dr.Argrave)

- a. 4 vacancies:
 - i. 1. Deaf person
 - ii. 2. Professional who works with DDBHH persons
 - iii. 3. Parent of DDBHH child
 - iv. 4. Parent of DDBHH child (being held for Deafblind commissioner after passed in legislation.)
- *Encouraged commissioners to recruit and share that we are looking for commissioners.

IV. Announcements

A. Lynne Gomez: suggest that on the Registry of Interpreters that interpreter pictures are not posted on the website due to different reasons such as agism, racism, safety, etc.

V. Adjourn 4:24 pm

Draft of minutes prepared 7/13/22.
Minutes corrected on _____.

Ashley J Argrave

7/13/2022

Ashley J Argrave

7/13/22

Recorder

Date

Secretary

Date