



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Kamamalu Building
1010 Richards St., Room 118
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date: October 10, 2017
Time: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Ed Chevy, Nikki Kepoo, Board Members; Francine Wai, Kirby Shaw, Colin Whited, Peggy Liang, Staff

ABSENT: Misella Tomita, Chairperson

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Darlene Baird and Sarah Comerford

GUESTS: Mala Arkin, Heather Benjamin

I. Call to Order

Board member Nikki Kepoo, as acting Chairperson in the absence of Chairperson Misella Tomita, called the meeting to order at 11:16 a.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of September 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the September 7, 2017 minutes (M/S/P Chevy/Kepoo).

NOTE: The minutes were written in the order the items were shown on the agenda, not as they were discussed at the meeting.

IV. Old Business

A. Hawaii Quality Assurance System – Update

Staff reported that there are currently thirty-one interpreters enrolled in the Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) Continuing Education Program (CEP). Four interpreters possess a current HQAS credential, but are not .

enrolled in the CEP program. Evaluated the HQAS test performance of one HQAS Level IV interpreter who achieved an HQAS Level V credential. Staff also announced that one HQAS test will be administered on November 3, 2017.

B. HQAS Continuing Education Unit Workshops

Staff announced that on September 15 and 16, 2017, the Hawaii Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf held DCAB-sponsored Continuing Education Unit (CEU) workshops at Kapiolani Community College. The following topics were presented: "Technology for Interpreters," "Social Media and Ethics," and "Vicarious Trauma and Burnout."

Staff also announced that DCAB has received Request for Funding applications from entities intending to host CEU workshops for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. Board member Nikki Kepoo raised a concern that having the Committee review and discuss the applications in an open meeting would not be appropriate, given the fact that some of the applicants would likely be present. She added that the goal of the Committee should be to respect the integrity of the review process. After some discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: The Committee recommends that staff review the applications and make a recommendation to the Committee at the next meeting (M/S/P Kepoo/Chevy).

C. Amend Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218, "Communication Access Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind" – Continued Discussion

At the previous Committee meeting on September 7, 2017, discussion focused on how to treat interpreters with credentials issued by other states or entities not recognized by the State who want to interpret for State agencies. In recognition of the difficulty in trying to achieve parity for purposes of job placement and pay rates, the Committee passed a motion at the September 7, 2017 meeting to establish a provisional credential category for interpreters with credentials issued by jurisdictions or entities other than credentials recognized by the State. Pursuant to the motion, staff presented the draft language below.

Provisional credential. Upon application, the state screening agency may issue a provisional credential to a provider of interpreter services who possesses a credential issued by a jurisdiction or entity other than the credentials recognized by the state, provided that the credential is valid and was issued within two (2) years preceding the application. The provisional credential shall be equivalent to the lowest level credential issued by the state agency. The provisional credential shall be valid for no longer than one (1) year.

A few questions came up regarding the draft language. First, there was a question about whether there would be a clear differentiation between a provisional credential and an HQAS Level III credential. Another question was raised about whether a form of payment will be required for a provisional credential to be issued.

Also, a guest suggested that staff consider clarifying use of the term "provisional." It was noted that some other states issue provisional credentials. These credentials might have a different function than what is intended by a DCAB-issued provisional credential, and such a situation could cause confusion.

In addition, there was discussion about providers of interpreter services who possess an Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) certification. A recommendation was made that DCAB issue a provisional credential to individuals with an EIPA 4.0 or higher. The basis for this suggestion was how the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. recognizes individuals who pass the EIPA at the level of 4.0 or higher as certified members.

After some discussion, it was determined that staff will consider the above questions and comments in drafting new language for the next meeting.

Additional discussion on the Hawaii Administrative Rules included a consensus that the rules continue to include language referencing other forms of communication access providers, such as computer-assisted note takers and real-time captioners. Also, relating to the DCAB recommended fee schedule, there was a comment from a guest that DCAB consider adopting a recommended fee range, rather than a recommended fixed fee (e.g., a range of \$55-\$75/hour instead of a fixed \$65/hour).

D. Senate Concurrent Resolution 32 Working Group

Staff announced that the Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 32 Working Group, which was convened to examine the need for regulation of sign language interpreters and sign language interpreter referral agencies, held its first meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017. There was no money given with SCR 32, which made the scope of the resolution too large given the limited timeframe and staffing (or lack of it). The group will focus on identifying concerns or problems that the community has encountered relating to the provision of interpreter services. The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2017. Toward the end of December, an informational meeting will be held at the Legislature to discuss the progress of the Working Group.

Staff added that if anyone wishes to be a part of the SCR 32 Working Group mailing list, they should contact DCAB Program Support Technician, Kamaile Hopfe, at (808) 586-8121 or kamaile.hopfe@doh.hawaii.gov.

E. Communication Access Fact Sheets

DCAB's practicum student, Peggy Liang, is continuing to develop vlogs and fact sheets relating to communication access.

F. Legislation on Open Captioning and Audio Descriptions at Movie Theaters

Staff announced that in coordination with the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, DCAB prepared a draft bill for inclusion in the Governor's Administrative package to restore the open movie captioning law to its original intention of two showings per week with no sunset date. The proposed amendments to the law are: 1) eliminating the sunset date; 2) increasing the number of open caption (OC) showings to two per week; and 3) removing language allowing "lightweight eyewear" as a substitute to OC showings. The bill is currently being reviewed/edited by other Departments before submission to the Governor.

Staff shared that DCAB also provided technical assistance and staff comment to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism on its proposed survey of movie theaters to learn the economic impact of offering open captioned movies.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at 1010 Richards Street (Kamamalu Building) in room 118.

VII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

VIII. Open Forum:

There were no comments from the public.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,



COLIN M. WHITED