



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Disability and Communication Access Board
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 103
Honolulu, HI 96814

Date: October 3, 2016
Time: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Misella Tomita, Chairperson; Colin Whited, Board Member; Francine Wai, Kirby Shaw, Kurstin Chun, Staff

ABSENT: Ed Chevy, Board Member

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETER: Patty Sakal

GUESTS: Mala Arkin, Heather Benjamin, Ann Ito, Roni Schack

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Misella Tomita called the meeting to order at 11:13 a.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of August 29, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the August 29, 2016 meeting minutes (M/S/P Whited/Tomita).

IV. Old Business

A. Workshops for Individuals with Disabilities, Service Agencies and Program Providers – Update

Kurstin Chun shared the results of the September 21, 2016 workshop entitled "Fair Housing Rights for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing" which was attended by twenty seven (27) participants. Their evaluations included

requests for more examples and resources shared during the workshop. Staff noted that community reaction to the workshop indicated a greater need for this topic to be presented than initially thought.

The workshops presented by Emily Jo Noschese will also happen on the neighbor islands:

- Maui – October 23, 2016 at the University of Hawaii Maui College. Staff has been coordinating with Maui Deaf Friends and the Pacific Disabilities Center.
- Kauai – November 19, 2016. Staff is working with Angie Molina.
- Big Island – December 10, 2016. Staff is working with the Big Island Association of the Deaf.

B. Legislation – Update

Two (2) bills have been submitted to the Deputy Attorney General for review:

- Licensure of Sign Language Interpreters
- Licensure of Communication Access Referral Services

Francine Wai explained that the initial step is to propose a licensure bill, which needs to demonstrate a need based off of the licensure of another profession, then a resolution asking for a study by the Auditor. Questions about how the Auditor will evaluate the bills were brought up. Staff shared that the Auditor will probably look at other states that have passed licensure and how it impacts them, will interview selected people, and try to weigh the consequences of not having licensure. Once information is gathered, the Auditor will then make a recommendation.

Colin Whited expressed his concern about a recent bill regarding hearing aids and licensure that did not pass because there was such a low number of people involved. He asked if this would mean that these two (2) bills would have the same fate. Francine Wai shared that the smallest number of persons in a profession that has been licensed is eight (8), so in this situation a small number did not impact the need.

Heather Benjamin asked who the Auditor would question. Kirby Shaw explained that the Auditor may look to people who testified on the two (2) bills.

Kurstin Chun reminded everyone that this is just the initial stages of a process that will take at least three (3) years to complete.

C. DCAB Contributions to Pacific Disabilities Center E-Newsletter – Update

Kurstin Chun shared that DCAB contributed four (4) articles to the Pacific Disabilities Center newsletter:

- New HQAS Credentialed Interpreters
- Communication Access Workshops presented by Emily Jo Noschese
- Interpreter Survey Results
- Interpreter Workshop presented by Jennifer Johnson

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

Kurstin Chun distributed a diagram titled "HQAS Test Procedure," and explained the process for a Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) candidate. She then distributed another handout titled "HQAS Test Procedure Options." After discussion, the following motion was passed.

MOTION: The Committee agreed to an option to replace the written test with a requirement for the candidates to watch a standard ethics video(s) after the performance test but before they can receive their credential. The Committee also agreed to add a printable form for candidates to sign indicating that they have watched the videos(s) and to include an HQAS +H training video as a part of this standard exposure (M/S/P Whited/Tomita).

Ann Ito raised a concern that the community might perceive that we are eliminating ethics entirely, thus there should be an effort to inform the community that ethics will be maintained through continued education. Kirby Shaw explained that it is important that we keep a code of ethics in the administrative rules, however, there must a more substantive code than what is in place now. Hopefully a video will be more valuable than a multiple choice test.

Referring back to the "HQAS Test Procedure" diagram, Kurstin Chun asked the Committee what the HQAS Test Fee should be. The fee must be a minimum of three hundred dollars (\$300) to cover the costs of evaluators. After much deliberation, the Committee decided to table the HQAS Test Fee until the next meeting.

Kurstin Chun then explained that in a previous motion at the August 3, 2016 Committee meeting, the members voted to remove the HQAS Level Description from the administrative rules. Staff shared that the HQAS Level Description should be put back into the administrative rules because HQAS is the test administered by and specifically for Hawaii. Staff distributed two (2) handouts, one showing the "Functional Description of HQAS Levels" as currently in the administrative rules, and one titled "HQAS Levels – Functional Description," as proposed by staff, to reflect discussions in the last three (3) months.

AMENDMENT to a previous motion passed in the August 3, 2016 meeting: The HQAS Level Description will be reinstated into the administrative rules (M/S/P Whited/Tomita).

MOTION: The current “Functional Description of HQAS Levels” will be replaced with the “HQAS Levels – Functional Description” in Hawaii Administrative Rules (M/S/P Whited/ Tomita).

Staff confirmed that by its vote to reinstate the “HQAS Levels – Functional Description” back into the administrative rules, the matter will no longer be within the purview of the Task Force. Thus, the Task Force will focus on the remaining three (3) objectives: (1) recommended fee schedule, (2) simplified level descriptions (all certifications/credentials accepted by the State), and (3) job acceptance in relation to the simplified level descriptions. The Committee was in agreement.

Kurstin Chun distributed another diagram titled “Credential/Renewal.” Kurstin Chun noted that the Committee did not make a motion to formally separate the HQAS test procedure from the HQAS credential procedure. The Committee voted on the motion below.

MOTION: The HQAS test procedure will be separate from the HQAS credential procedure (M/S/P Whited/Tomita).

Staff explained that once a candidate passes the HQAS at a level III or above, the candidate must apply for a credential. Staff asked whether a fee should be charged for the credential. The Committee discussed the matter, noting that the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) charges \$180 annually for a national certificate. Staff suggested that the credential could be issued by the state on a biennial basis and recommended a biennial fee of fifty dollars (\$50). This fee would cover the cost of issuing the credential, access to hqas.org, and updating of the interpreter roster.

MOTION: DCAB shall charge a fifty dollar (\$50) biennial fee for a person applying for a state credential/renewal (M/S/P Whited/Tomita).

Francine Wai expressed that HQAS interpreters occasionally request a duplicate credential because they lost or misplaced their credential. The Committee discussed whether to charge a fee for a duplicate credential.

MOTION: DCAB shall charge a twenty five dollar (\$25) fee for each duplicate credential issued (M/S/P Whited/Tomita).

Kurstin Chun distributed another handout titled “EIPA & BEI Acceptance (Simplified Credential Levels).” Kurstin Chun explained that the number of interpreters on the neighbor islands is very low and that this concept is being proposed as a way to increase the number of freelance interpreters. Staff mentioned that whether the Committee accepts the

recommendations or not, the Task Force will have the responsibility to recommend how all of the certificates and credentials that the state accepts will fit into the simplified level description and recommended fee schedule. After some discussion, the Committee voted on the motion below.

MOTION: The Committee will consider accepting the Board of Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI), Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA), and other state certificates/credentials (M/S/P Tomita/Whited).

There was further discussion on how to filter these other certified/credentialed interpreters into the state credentialing cycle.

Due to time constraints, the Committee tabled the rest of the Old Business items and skipped to New Business.

V. New Business

A. Task Force Information

Staff reported on responses to invitations to serve on the Task Force:

- Disability and Communication Access Board (2) = Colin Whited and Ed Chevy
- Aloha State Association of the Deaf = Darlene Ewan
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deaf-Blind Community Member = Dr. Lucy Miller
- Hawaii Quality Assurance System Interpreter = Patty Sakal
- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf = Heather Benjamin
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation = Diane Yamamoto
- University of Hawaii = Vanessa Ito
- Hawaii Interpreting Services = Sabina Wilford
- Isle Interpret = Susan Kroe-Unabia or Tamar Lani

Heather Benjamin shared that Denise Green, a nationally certified interpreter from the Island of Maui, was interested in being a part of the Task Force as an interpreter from another island. The Committee agreed that having an interpreter from a neighbor island would be good to have on the Task Force. Staff shared that including Denise Green would mean that there would be five (5) hearing people and four (4) Deaf/Hard of Hearing persons. The Committee asked staff to send an invitation to the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind to ensure that the ratio of hearing to Deaf/Hard of Hearing is equal.

Staff also shared with the Committee that Jan Fried of Kapiolani Community College (KCC) expressed an interest in being a part of the Task Force. After discussion, the Committee agreed that KCC could

attend as a part of the public, but did not want to open up another voting position for KCC.

VI. Next Meeting

Francine Wai encouraged the Committee to meet again before the full Board meeting on November 17, 2016. The Committee will hold its next meeting on November 1, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

VII. Announcements

Heather Benjamin distributed a flyer to announce a fundraiser being held at The Old Spaghetti Factory on October 6, 2016 for the Hawaii Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

VIII. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda, but to be considered for placement on a future Committee meeting agenda.

No public comments were made.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,



KURSTIN CHUN