



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 Street, Room 118
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date: November 15, 2017
Time: 10:00 a.m.

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

ABSENT: Misella Tomita, Chairperson

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Darlene Baird, Sarah Comerford

GUESTS: Mala Arkin, Jone Augustin, Ann Ito

I. Call to Order

Board Member Nikki Kepoo, as Acting Chairperson in the absence of Chairperson Misella Tomita, called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of October 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Acting Chairperson Nikki Kepoo pointed out that the minutes of the previous Communication Access Committee meeting should reflect discussion regarding providers of interpreter services who possess an Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) certification.

The Committee approved the October 10, 2017 minutes as amended (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 announced that one Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) test was administered on November 3, 2017. During this test, there were some procedural disruptions. Staff explained that while the HQAS test does not have a grievance mechanism for conduct of an HQAS credentialed interpreter, there is a mechanism to question aspects of the test itself (e.g., the results, the procedure, etc.). Staff is currently working with the test-taker to determine the next steps.

B. HQAS Continuing Education Unit Workshops

Staff announced that they reviewed the applications for hosting a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) workshop and has the following recommendation: Award \$1,600 to “Hand Ninjas” (Laura Safranski, owner) to sponsor CEU workshops on Medical Terminology (Medical Workshops, Ethics, End of Life Hospice Care) over a 2–2.5 days for 1.0–1.5 credits. Training would be held in 2018 before the end of the fiscal year. The rationale for this is that medical and health situations have been identified as settings where more training is needed.

After some questions and discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Award \$1,600 to “Hand Ninjas” (Laura Safranski, owner) to sponsor CEU Workshops on Medical Terminology (Medical Workshops, Ethics, End of Life Hospice Care) over a 2–2.5 days for 1.0–1.5 credits. Training would be held in 2018 before the end of the fiscal year (M/S/P Kepoo/Chevy).

Staff added that through the application process, another area was identified that merited funding. This was through an application from the Kapiolani Community College (KCC) Interpreter Education Program in conjunction with Isle Interpret. DCAB believes that this is an important activity, though not necessarily in the form of a workshop because of the more restrictive or limited interest. Interpreters may not be interested in the workshop if they are not interested in being a mentor or mentee.

Staff noted that during the process of amending DCAB’s administrative rules, the Committee determined that: (1) HQAS Level II interpreter credentials would no longer be honored and that HQAS Level II interpreters should improve their skills to retake the test, with mentoring identified as one means of improving skills, and (2) the Committee initially wanted to have a mentoring requirement for HQAS III interpreters in the CEU program but determined that it would be too difficult to monitor. On the other hand, staff recognized that the KCC/Isle Interpret proposal would be a way to offer CEUs for participating in a mentoring program.

The Executive Committee set aside an extra \$2,000 in this fiscal year for Interpreter improvement when DCAB learned that its restriction was less than originally budgeted.

Thus, staff recommended to the Committee that DCAB support a mentoring “program” in 2018. The emphasis (first offering) would be for HQAS Level II and III interpreters as mentees with the money to be used for mentor stipends. Staff noted that there are currently 14 HQAS Level II and III interpreters. After some questions and discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: Pursue entering a Memorandum of Agreement in the amount of \$2,000 to support a mentoring ‘program’ in 2018. The emphasis (first offering) would be for HQAS Level II and III interpreters as mentees with money to be used for mentor stipends (M/S/P Kepoo/Chevy).

NOTE: Participation in a mentor program is eligible for CEUs and thus DCAB staff will work with the sponsors to help formulate the program and to determine the appropriate number of CEUs to be offered to both the mentors and mentees. The Committee directed staff to pursue this with the applicant and report back at the next meeting.

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

Staff provided a timeline of the remaining steps in amending the administrative rules. Feedback regarding amendments to the rules will continue to be gathered until the end of December 2017. The Committee will meet one more time before the DCAB Board convenes on January 18, 2018. All changes to the administrative rules will be finalized at this Committee meeting for approval by the full DCAB Board at the January 18, 2018 meeting.

Staff reviewed handouts that were distributed prior to the meeting. These handouts consisted of a summary of the changes to the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) made since the Committee’s last meeting, as well as a “clean” draft of HAR Title 11-218.

After some questions and discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: The Committee approved the 6 changes to the last version of the Administrative Rules as discussed (M/S/P Kepoo/Chevy).

The 6 approved changes are as follows:

1. Retain the name of the test as HQAS, rather than change to Hawaii State Interpreter Test. Based upon the feedback and to minimize confusion, leave the test name as is until we change the test. The draft dated November 13, 2017 uses the name "HQAS."
2. Name the Credential as "Hawaii State Interpreter Credential" to distinguish the possession of a state credential from the HQAS test. Since we are issuing a provisional credential at the lowest level to people who have not taken the HQAS test, the credential should have a name different from the test.
3. Provide a state credential at 4 levels: Tier 5, Tier 4, Tier 3, and Provisional. The numbered tiers will correspond to the HQAS levels to minimize confusion of inverting the number to reflect a high to low ranking. It will also continue to use numbers instead of letters or other distinctions such as 'master', etc.
4. Create a Provisional Credential and issue it as a separate tier at a level equivalent to the lowest state credential, which would be a Tier 3. The credential will be valid for "one credential cycle" so that the credential will lapse on a December 31 date concurrently with other credentials, making it easier to issue and manage.
5. Create four Credential Levels with descriptions in Appendix A.
6. Revise the language under §11-218-12.6 and §11-218-13.5 to include a \$50 fee for the issuance of a Provisional Credential.

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 second meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2017. At this meeting, subgroups were formed to consider ways to gather data from specific stakeholder groups in the community. Since the meeting there has been discussion among the working group. There are differences in how to approach gathering data from the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind (DHHDB) community.

As announced at the previous meeting, there was no money given with SCR 32, which made the scope of the resolution too large given the limited timeframe and lack of staffing. The Working Group's current focus is on identifying concerns or challenges that the community may have encountered relating to the provision of interpreter services. Toward the

end of December, an informational meeting will be held at the Legislature to discuss the progress of the 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.

A question was asked about the makeup of the Working Group, and whether it has been reconsidered. There were comments about how the group's composition potentially impacts the level of comfort people – especially those who are DHHDB – may experience by participating in Working Group-related discussions. Staff shared that DCAB has received similar comments, and that DCAB Executive Director Francine Wai has kept the Legislature abreast of the Working Group's progress and dynamics.

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 the proposed bill is currently being reviewed by the Governor. By the beginning of December, it should be known whether the bill will be included in the Governor's Administrative Package for the upcoming session of the Hawaii State Legislature.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at 1010 Richards Street (Kamamalu Building) in room 118.

VII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

VIII. Open Forum:

Acting Chairperson Nikki Kepoo relayed a request from the Early Language Working Group that DCAB staff research the status of Hawaii's "Rights of Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind." The Working Group is co-convened by the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the Governor's Executive Office on Early Learning. Staff will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,



COLIN M. WHITED