



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: March 7, 2017
Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Kim Duncan, Michele Morris

GUESTS: Heather Benjamin, Ann Ito, Debbra Jackson, Susan Kroe-Unabia, Kristine Pagano

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Misella Tomita called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Presentation: Proposed Communication Card, by Mona Higa, ADA Program Manager, City and County of Honolulu

Mona Higa gave a presentation to the Committee on a proposed communication card created by the Honolulu Police Department for use by its officers who interact with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing in traffic related matters. The Committee and guests provided numerous suggestions to improve the efficacy of the card. In addition, the Committee and guests suggested that she solicit input from the following organizations: the Aloha State Association of the Deaf, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board, and Signs of Self. Staff will provide their contact information.

IV. Approval of January 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes (M/S/P Chevy/Whited).

V. Old Business

A. Hawaii Quality Assurance System – Update

Staff reported that one person who took the Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) test in December earned an HQAS Level II credential. Discussion ensued concerning the HQAS test and status of HQAS Level II credentialed interpreters, of which staff noted there are two. Staff affirmed that the HQAS has only three tests, which means that candidates have three opportunities to obtain a Level III credential or higher. The consensus of the discussion was that Level II interpreters should be mentored by experienced interpreters and have learning opportunities to improve their interpreting skills in preparation for taking the test for a higher credential. The Committee voted on the motion below.

MOTION: DCAB staff shall contact the interpreters with HQAS Level II credentials to inform them that the HQAS Levels I and II will be eliminated under the amended administrative rules on communication access, that they will be able to maintain their credential by earning continuing education units (CEUs), and that they have two more opportunities to take the HQAS test and obtain a Level III credential or higher (M/S/P Kepoo/Whited).

B. Community Workshops – Update

Staff reported that the Big Island Association of the Deaf has not responded to our contractor to coordinate a workshop. Therefore, DCAB will forgo the workshop there. The contractor will now focus on producing a second video on “Effective Communication and Your Health Care Provider.”

C. CEP Workshops – Update

The Committee was referred to the staff summary distributed earlier via email, entitled “DCAB CEU Program and Workshops.” Pursuant to discussion, the Committee voted on the motion below.

MOTION: DCAB shall discontinue hosting and coordinating CEU workshops and instead provide annual funding support, determined at the beginning of each fiscal year in DCAB’s budget preparation process, through a memorandum of agreement to an entity(ies) for use toward coordinating CEU workshop(s), of which DCAB would still be a co-sponsor; recipient of funding support for use toward coordinating CEU workshops must be a Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Approved Certified Management Program (CMP) Sponsor if it plans to charge a fee for a workshop(s); DCAB shall remove the option for interpreters to pay an Annual Fee to earn CEUs at DCAB CEU workshops; and DCAB shall return all Annual Fee payments made by interpreters to attend DCAB CEU workshops in 2017 (M/S/P Whited/Kepoo).

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

Staff proposed that the amendments to the administrative rules on communication access should include changing the name of the "Hawaii Quality Assurance System" Test to a more generic name to allow DCAB to adopt any test that is more suitable for Hawaii's future needs. The Committee voted on the motion below.

MOTION: The name of the "Hawaii Quality Assurance System" Test is changed to the generic "Hawaii State Interpreter Test" to allow DCAB to adopt any test that is more suitable for Hawaii's needs, and any such adopted test shall be known subsequently as the "Hawaii State Interpreter Test" (M/S/P Kepoo/Whited).

E. Licensure Bills for Sign Language Interpreters and Referral Agencies – Update

Staff reported that the bills were deferred as intended and a Concurrent Resolution seeking a study on licensure of interpreters and interpreter referral agencies was introduced in both chambers. No hearings have been scheduled as of the meeting date. Staff noted that the resolution could be amended to determine whether regulation of some sort is appropriate instead of focusing solely on licensure.

- Remaining agenda items were not addressed due to time constraints.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 11:00 a.m.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,



KIRBY L. SHAW