



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: April 25, 2017
Time: 3:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Misella Tomita, Chairperson

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Jenny Blake, Laura Safranski

GUESTS: Mala Arkin, Kevin Bernadt, Sarah Comerford, Jan Fried, Rebekah Hoopii, Tamar Lani, Patty Sakal, Sabina Wilford

I. Call to Order

Colin Whited called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of April 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the April 11, 2017 minutes (M/S/P Kepoo/Chevy).

IV. Old Business

A. Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) – Update

Staff reported that reimbursement checks were delivered to the last three interpreters who paid \$150 to enroll in the now defunct DCAB Annual Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Program. In addition, staff reported that

DCAB will hire the former Communication Access Specialist, Kurstin Chun, on a contractual basis, to administer the Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) Test to an interpreter on May 13, 2017. The DCAB web site will notify the community that requests to take the HQAS Test will be accommodated upon the availability of a contractor or staff to administer it.

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

Staff distributed copies of the amended administrative rules in clean format (as amended by the Committee at its April 11, 2017 meeting), the new Appendix A – Hawaii State Interpreter Credential Levels, and a draft of section 11-218-6 Cancellation of services.

Staff noted that a couple of comments received after the April 11, 2017 meeting merited discussion concerning section 11-218-8. The first comment concerned subsection (b), which reads:

"Any state agency shall hire the preferred providers of the person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind to effectively communicate when possible. If no preference is stated, providers with the highest level of credentials shall be first, followed by providers with lesser levels of credentials."

The commenter proffered that it is important to ensure that the preferred provider is qualified for the job. Thus, the commenter suggested adding "if the preferred provider is qualified" to the end of the first sentence of subsection (b). After extensive discussion, the Committee voted to amend the language.

MOTION: In subsection (b), the permissive verb "should" shall not replace the affirmative verb "shall" in the first sentence, and the adjective "qualified" shall be inserted as appropriate to instruct state agencies that preferred providers must be qualified to perform the job for which they are hired (M/S/P Kepoo/Chevy).

The commenter's other concern was with the length of assignment used as a threshold for hiring a second provider in subsection (e), which reads,

"For assignments of more than one and one half hours in length, and with continuous work (for example, a workshop or meeting), the state agency shall request two providers for the total time of the assignment to actively work for alternate periods of twenty minutes each."

The commenter stated that one and one half hours may be too long for more intensive assignments of shorter length that tend to place an inordinate physical strain on interpreters. Thus, the commenter requested the removal of “more than one and one half hours in length, and with” as the threshold for hiring a second provider.

MOTION: The threshold language shall be removed from subsection (e) (M/S/P Kepoo/Chevy).

- Staff will provide new language in the next draft.

C. Legislation for Sign Language Interpreters and Referral Agencies – Update

Staff reported that SCR 32 SD1 HD1, the resolution calling for a working group to examine whether sign language interpreters and interpreter referral agencies should be regulated was adopted by the House with amendments, and transmitted back to the Senate. A hearing to determine whether the Senate would agree to the House amendments was deferred until April 26, 2017.

IV. New Business

A. Hawaii Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf-Disability and Communication Access Board-Kapiolani Community College Sponsored Sign Language Interpreter Workshop

Staff reported that DCAB will contribute \$2,400 to the Hawaii Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf as a co-sponsor of three workshops for sign language interpreters, to be held at Kapiolani Community College on September 15 and 16, 2017. The workshops are titled, “Technology for Interpreters,” “Social Media and Ethics,” and “Vicarious Trauma and Burnout.”

B. Staff Summary on Federal Communications Commission, Proposed Rule on Establishing Performance Goals and Service Quality Metrics to Evaluate the Efficacy of the Video Relay Services Program

Staff referred members to the staff summary mailed to all members. Staff highlighted a few of the main provisions of the proposed rule and noted that because of the technical nature of the comments sought by the Federal Communications Commission, staff recommended monitoring the proposed rule’s development.

C. Staff Summary on Federal Communications Commission, Final Rule on Improving the Quality of Video Relay Service

Staff referred members to the staff summary mailed to all members. Staff highlighted a few of the main provisions of the final rule and noted that some of the pilot programs are very exciting for Video Relay Service users. Staff will monitor the outcomes of the pilot programs and report back to the Committee.

V. Next Meeting

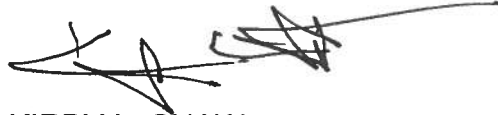
The Committee asked staff to email suggested dates for the next meeting. Staff noted that the next agenda will include a review of the Communication Access objectives for the Plan of Action for fiscal year 2017–2018.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Shaw', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

KIRBY L. SHAW