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| **traad**black&whitestateseal | **DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD** |
|  | 919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129 |

**MINUTES**

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Disability and Communication Access Board

 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 103

 Honolulu, HI 96814

Date: August 29, 2016

Time: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Misella Tomita, Chairperson; Ed Chevy, Lucy Miller (via Face Time), Colin Whited, Board Members; Francine Wai, Kirby Shaw, Kurstin Chun, Staff

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Michele Morris and Patty Sakal

GUESTS: Mala Arkin, Heather Benjamin

# Call to Order

Chairperson Misella Tomita called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

# Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

# Approval of August 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of the August 18, 2016 meeting (M/S/P Miller/Chevy, Abstain: Whited).

Francine Wai suggested changing the motion establishing annual fees for the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) workshops approved at the August 18, 2016 meeting after input from Mala Arkin. Staff suggested lowering the annual fee for Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) interpreters from $150 to $100 and lowering the annual fee for non-HQAS professionals from $200 to $150.

**MOTION:**  The annual fee for CEU workshops for HQAS interpreters and non-HQAS professionals will be reduced from $150 to $100 and from $200 to $150 respectively (M/S/P Whited/Chevy).

# IV. Old Business

## A. Hawaii Quality Assurance System – Update

Kurstin Chun gave an update on the HQAS test held on August 25, 2016. Six candidates took the written test and four passed. Two of the candidates who passed took the performance test on August 26, 2016. The other two will take the performance test on September 2, 2016.

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

Francine Wai presented a diagram that reviewed some of the progress made at the Committee’s August 18, 2016 meeting.

Colin Whited inquired about the possibility of interpreters having a local language CEU requirement. Francine Wai noted that staff discussed the idea of removing the HQAS+H credential because the +H did not appear to make a difference on requests for interpreters. She suggested that the HQAS+H could be a part of a training presented by the Deaf community. Mala Arkin stated her agreement and suggested that local language CEUs could be offered in a variety of ways and suggested developing relations with the University of Hawaii and the Hawaiian Studies program. The Committee agreed and voted on the motion below.

**MOTION:** The HQAS+H will be removed from the HQAS test and local language exposure will be added as a part of the Continuing Education Program for HQAS interpreters (M/S/P Miller/Whited).

Kurstin Chun presented a proposed concept for the State HQAS Credential that she distributed to attendees.

* Regarding applicants for a State HQAS Credential, Colin Whited inquired about having a screening disclosure for people who want an HQAS Credential. Francine Wai explained that licensure would help with this, but that staff would have to ask the Deputy Attorney General about what can be done in the interim.
* When discussing whether HQAS interpreters should keep their credential on their person, Mala Arkin and Heather Benjamin said that they have never been asked to show their credential. Heather Benjamin also shared that Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) now issues electronic credentials. Further discussion on this topic was tabled for a future meeting.
* In discussing the issue of HQAS interpreters practicing when their credential expires, Mala Arkin said that Utah does not have licensing, but still has some authority to recognize/unrecognize their interpreters permitted to work in that state. Francine Wai again noted that staff would have to discuss the matter with the Deputy Attorney General.

Due to time constraints and the need to get to other items, the Committee postponed discussion of the fees until the next meeting.

Kurstin Chun proposed that applicants for the HQAS test be required to have the endorsement of one Deaf community member and one local interpreter. This requirement would demonstrate that the applicant is working to make connections with the local population before becoming an interpreter. The Committee agreed and voted on the motion below.

**MOTION:** As a part of the application process for the HQAS test, the applicant must have one Deaf community member endorsement and one local interpreter endorsement (M/S/P Chevy/Whited). Note: The vote was taken after Lucy Miller left the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Francine Wai recapped the motion approved at the Committee’s August 18, 2016 meeting that called for a Task Force to research (1) recommended fees, (2) HQAS functional descriptions, (3) simplified level descriptions, and (4) appropriate jobs for each level. She described the pros and cons of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) and a Task Force to help the Committee select the best organizational structure to conduct the research. After discussion, the Committee decided to proceed with a Task Force, with Colin Whited and Ed Chevy as the two Committee representatives. The Committee listed entities that will be asked to participate as Task Force members:

* One HQAS Interpreter
* One RID Representative
* One Aloha State Association of the Deaf (ASAD) Representative
* One Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deaf-Blind Community Member Not Representing ASAD
* One Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Representative
* One State Agency with High Interpreter Usage
* Two Committee Members
* Non-Voting = Hawaii Interpreting Services and Isle Interpret
* Staff as appropriate

# V. New Business

Establishment of Task Force on HQAS Level Description, Fees, Credential Levels, and Job Acceptance based on Credential Levels

Agenda Correction. Topic discussed under Old Business, item IV.

# VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

# VII. Announcements

No announcements were made.

# 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 1:31 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Kurstin Chun