



State Board of Sign Language Interpreters

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Meeting Minutes #1

Hybrid meeting:

- Zoom Link: Meeting ID: 880 1888 6392 Password: 8HUCC4
- Location: Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) Columbia, Denton Building, MPR
 - 8169 Old Montgomery Rd, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Members present:

- ★ Maryland Association of Deaf (MDAD) representative, Shane Feldman
- ★ Potomac Chapter Registry for the Deaf (PCRID), Kaylee Teixeria
- ★ Community Member, Jacob Leffler
- ★ Community Member, Dr. Pamela Collins
- ★ Community Member, Trudy Suggs
- ★ Community Member, Sue Beaver

Members absent:

- ★ Deaf Blind Representative: vacant

Governor's Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GODHH) present:

- ★ GODHH Acting Director, Usherla DeBerry
- ★ GODHH Policy Manager, Kate Breen
- ★ GODHH Communications & Policy Manager, Payal Sharmacharya

Office of Attorney General (OAG) present:

- ★ Assistant Attorney General Krystal Quinlan

Guest present:

- ★ Deputy Legislative Officer (DLO), Office of Governor Wes Moore, June Chung

- I. The meeting was called to order by Acting Director DeBerry at 6:09 P.M.
- II. The introduction was called by all present.
- III. Assistant Attorney General Krystal explained about the Open Meeting Act (OMA).
- IV. Policy Manager Breen reviewed the Maryland Sign Language Interpreter Act
 - A. Regulations for licensure will be submitted by or before July 1, 2024.
 - B. Interpreters working in Maryland must be licensed effective January 1, 2025.
 - C. Legislative Office and its roles in Moore Administration.
 - D. Timeline of legislative process with the submission of regulations.
 - E. Deputy Legislative Officer Chung is concerned with the extensive process and establishing a licensure board and its different types of licensure requirements



within the time frame. If board members want to extend the licensure board deadlines, can get private sponsors to extend the licensure through legislation.

- V. Acting Director DeBerry reviewed the board responsibilities.
 - A. The board shall establish and publish licensing requirements for sign language interpreters in all settings.
- VI. Policy Manager Breen summarized the previous (Legislative) Joint Chairmen reports responses from ODHH from 2020 and 2022.
- VII. Policy Manager Breen explained the issues to address as soon as possible for legislative deadlines:
 - A. K-12 interpreter concerns
 - 1. High percentage of K-12 interpreters are not certified or do not maintain certification. Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) is not a certification.
 - 2. Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpreters (CASLI) testing delays
 - B. RID for certification
 - 1. Can get together with RID director Star Grieser to discuss the CASLI testing and Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) certification.
- VIII. Acting Director DeBerry reviewed the introduction roll call due to the recording purpose.
- IX. Chair Voting Session
 - A. Communications and Policy Manager Sharmacharya explains about the nomination process along with the help from Assistant Attorney General Quinlan.
 - B. Members recommended postponing the chair voting session to the next board meeting.
- X. Discussion
 - A. Shared document location
 - 1. Maryland Gov email (account) do not allow sharing documents with non-maryland gov email account.
 - 2. Assistant Attorney General Krystal will look into whether @maryland.gov emails can be created and assigned to board members.
 - B. Future Town Halls
 - C. Need to know information
 - 1. Deadlines for submitting regulations.
 - 2. Board meetings- 4 times during the fiscal year.
 - 3. Submit a bill amendment via private sponsor before January 19, 2024 after the legislative sessions opens on January 10, 2024.
- XI. Next Meeting
 - A. Will not take place during the weekend.
 - B. Will be virtual.
 - C. January 2024-might be the first week. Communications and Policy Manager Sharmacharya I will send calendar doodle.



XII. Adjournment at 8:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Communications and Policy Manager Sharmacharya.

SBSLI