



State Board of Sign Language Interpreters Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

In Attendance

SLSBI Board

Susan Beaver, Community Member
 Pamela Collins, Community Member (arrived 6:19 p.m.)
 Shane Feldman, Maryland Association of Deaf
 Jacob Leffler, Community Member
 Trudy Suggs, Community Member
 Kaylee Teixeira, Potomac Chapter Registry for the Deaf

Governor's Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Katherine Breen, Policy Manager
 Usherla DeBerry, Acting Director
 Payal Sharmacharya, Communications and Policy Manager

Others

Krystal Quinlan, Assistant Attorney General
 Gavin Gobble Baker and Anna Rose, Interpreters
 Community members (non-participating; viewers only)

The meeting was called to order by GODHH Acting Director Usherla DeBerry at 6:12 p.m.

The December 6, 2023, meeting minutes were approved by the board.

Old Business

GODHH Communications and Policy Manager Payal Scharmacharya shared information about the Open Meetings Act training the board members must complete as soon as possible.

GODHH Policy Manager Katherine Breen provided an overview of the 90-day turnaround period for early Spring 2024. She also provided an update on the vacant DeafBlind position on the board; the appointment process through the Governor's Office of Appointments has been postponed until after the legislative session concludes. In the meantime, we will solicit input on the regulations from DeafBlind groups and community members.

Breen then reviewed that the deadline for submitting any changes to the legislation by Friday, January 19, 2024, along with the benefits and drawbacks for making changes:

- Even if we submit the law as it is, with no changes, we can still make changes to the regulations.
- If we submit changes to the legislation, this may weaken its standing, especially with the court system's desired changes.
- Any amendment to the law after January 19 will require open vote in both legislative chambers.

Breen also reviewed resources available to the board for development of regulations, and then discussed the board's responsibilities. She, along with DeBerry reviewed the GODHH's role throughout this process, and the timeline of SBSLI implementation.

New Business

The board agreed to keep the law as is for the January 19, 2024, deadline, and to focus on the regulations.

The next board meeting will be on March 6, 2024, at 6:00-8:00 p.m., and it will be held virtually once again.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Payal Sharmacharya