



State Board of Sign Language Interpreters Board Meeting
Emergency Meeting
Thursday, September 26, 2024
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

In Attendance

Board Members

Susan Beaver, Community Member
Ritchie Bryant, Maryland Association of the Deaf
Trudy Suggs, Community Member and Board Chair
Leslie Puzio, Community Member
Absent: Jacob Leffler, Community Member and Board Vice Chair

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

Tanea Brown, Outreach/Interpreter Coordinator
Laura Lugar, Executive Assistant

Others

Ethan Sonnenstrahl, Assistant Attorney General
Judith Boswell and Heather Knight, Interpreters
Community members (non-participating; viewers only)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Trudy Suggs at 5:30 p.m.

Chair Suggs stated that this would be a short meeting focusing only on one item per the agenda. The August 26, 2024, meeting minutes will be approved at the next board meeting on October 9, 2024. The board agreed to the agenda.

Suggs explained that tonight's meeting is to identify a way to compensate for excessive delays at the state level. Although the board approved the regulations at the last meeting on August 26, the board recently learned that the GODHH had not yet completed the financial disclosure and required memorandum documents requested by the Assistant Attorney General's office. As a result, the board will tonight focus on how to address this while respecting the timeline as set forth by the law. It is the board's priority to ensure that constituents have time to provide feedback on the regulations, which are to be published in the *Maryland Register* for one month.

2024-11: Leslie Puzio moved to keep the general licensure requirements (general full license and general provisional license) and the educational and educational provisional license specialty licenses in place for the January 1, 2025, start date according to the stipulations in the law. The six-month grace period as voted upon previously will remain in place until July

1, 2025. All other specialties will go into effect January 1, 2026. Ritchie Bryant seconded.

Leslie Puzio, Jacob Leffler, and Susan Beaver attended some of the GODHH portal demonstrations and had the opportunity to talk with stakeholders. Many were concerned about the delays in the timeline and many also expressed interest in understanding the implications of the regulations. It is in the Board's interest to make sure that the community is involved at every step of the regulations discussion, and so this step helps the board ensure we receive this feedback.

Board Chair Suggs emphasized that with this new staggered schedule, the July 1, 2025, deadline is still in place for the general full license, general provisional license, and educational and educational provisional speciality license. Given that the regulations have been approved and then modified to accommodate GODHH's delays in completing the necessary paperwork, there should be no reason for any further delay in the regulations' publication in the *Maryland Register*.

All public comments, requests, and inquiries should be sent to the new board email address at sbsli@gmail.com. The next board meeting is on October 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.; check the GODHH website for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paige Franklin