

**SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2011**

- PRESENT:** Carlos Jaramillo, Joel Mankowski, Steve Smart, Christopher Woodfill, Debra Gorra Barash
- EXCUSED:** Faye Jordan-Peters and Suzette Garay
- ABSENT:** Marge Liberski-Aznoe
- INTERPRETERS:** Amber Mullett and Amy Fryman
- STAFF PRESENT:** Michele Miller Hayes, Legal Counsel; Michelle Solem, Bureau Assistant
- GUESTS:** Karen Dishno, Chantel Young, Kristine Alarie, Deb Cooper and Kris Orkin

CALL TO ORDER

Michele Miller Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum of 5 members was present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Amendments:

- Add under Other Council Business
 - Council Member Attendance
 - Communication Methods
 - Workshop on 1/28

MOTION: Carlos Jaramillo moved, seconded by Christopher Woodfill, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections:

- Revised minutes were included in the red folder
- Revise Interpreters name
- Motion for page 2 – authority to proceed with the rule
- Motion on page 2 – pursuant “to”
- Add to Public Comments
 - Grant Foster, Dean Clinic, discussed VRI options with the Council

MOTION: Carlos Jaramillo moved, seconded by Joel Mankowski, to approve the Minutes of November 23, 2010, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Michele Miller Hayes noted the annual policy review that was included in the packet.

LEGISLATION/ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Review Final Code of Ethics

Michele Miller Hayes noted that the rules related to Sign Language Interpreters will be incorporated into Department rules and be numbered at RL 201, RL 202 and RL 203. She told the Council that the rules that are going forward are different from those approved by the Council at the last meeting in that the items that would be very difficult to enforce have been removed from the version by former Secretary Jackson. The rules will be published as Emergency Rules and shortly thereafter, they will be published so that they can move forward to becoming a permanent rule.

Review Final State Exemption Rules as Approved by the Council

Ms. Miller Hayes noted that the packet shows what was approved at the last meeting. She suggested that the council approve a change defining unlicensed interpreter and changing the rule to use the defined “unlicensed interpreter” term in the rule to indicate which individual is applying for licensure.

MOTION: Christopher Woodfill moved, seconded by Debra Gorra Barash, to change the rule as outlined by Michele Miller Hayes during the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss timeline for Publishing of Emergency Rules and Permanent Rules

Michele Miller Hayes explained the process by which the Emergency Rules and Permanent Rules will move forward. Kristine Anderson indicated that the next step in the process for the emergency rules should be published by the end of next week. The emergency rule is effective for 150 days and is subject to (2) 60-day extensions. She explained the process by which the rules will go forward. A public hearing will be scheduled for the May 3, 2011 meeting barring any complications.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Introduction of the Secretary

Michele Miller Hayes introduced Department Secretary, Dave Ross to the Council. He provided the Council with a brief biography and encouraged the Council to come to him with any questions or concerns.

Final FAQ's for Interpreting at any School or "School – sponsored Event"

Michele Miller Hayes noted that the FAQ's are near complete. After a discussion with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), it was decided that the FAQ's were unclear as to "require a state license" and Ms. Miller Hayes noted that there will be a change indicating "requires a state DRL license."

Christopher Woodfill and Joel Mankowski expressed their concern over item 16 of the FAQ's in that anytime law enforcement is involved, a licensed "community" interpreter not a "school" interpreter should be providing services. Mr. Woodfill suggested that the Department work with DPI to develop and understanding that School Interpreters would NOT provide interpreter services when law enforcement is involved unless it involved obtaining a description of a perpetrator and then only until a "community" interpreter is secured.

Ms. Miller Hayes will work with DPI to develop and understand and in the meantime, that item will be removed from the FAQ's that get posted to the site.

Discussion with RID Regarding Verifications

Ms. Miller Hayes noted that she had a conversation with RID. They noted that they were struggling with being able to provide the information. They have provided us with a report of the certified interpreters with Wisconsin addresses and another report that showed the certification status of applicants that have applied but were not listed as having a Wisconsin address.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

"Supervising Interpreter" for restricted license #2

Debra Gorra Barash asked what the Supervising interpreter is required to do as a supervising interpreter. Michele Miller Hayes

will review the legislation and determine if and how the form might be changed to address this issue.

Exemptions Requests Received

Michele Miller Hayes noted that 2 requests have been received and, based on circumstances, have been approved.

Regulation of VRI and VRS Services

Ms. Miller Hayes offered that the law applies to those providing interpreting services for someone in Wisconsin no matter where the person providing the service is physically located. It was suggested the Department contact the VRI and VRS providers to make them aware of the licensing requirement in Wisconsin.

Public Comments

Karen Dishno - She noted that most interpreters providing VRI are located out of state. She also asked about the process by which the public hearings are scheduled.

Kristine Alarie - She is in the process of getting her national certification and noted that the national organization is currently processing exams from July and August 2010. She has been unemployed since December because of this and is seeking an exemption but was unable to locate how one would apply for an exemption and what information needs to be submitted with the exemption request.

Deb Cooper – She asked where the exemption information can be found. She also asked how the law that impacts so many can be enacted before the rules are in place.

Kris Orkin – She thanked the council for granting her in-state exemption. She noted that her experience comes from working with deaf and hard of hearing persons. She has tried to take the test on many occasions but due to emergency issues, she needed to cancel. She cannot take the exam until October. She indicated

that the short timeline did not allow working interpreters enough time to comply with this law. She noted that this law has turned interpreters against each other. She has been threatened (as have her employers) by other interpreters with unlicensed practice.

Council Member Attendance

Christopher Woodfill noted that there are members who have not been in attendance at the majority of the meetings. Ms. Miller Hayes will follow up with the DRL staff responsible for appointments and get back to the Council at the next meeting.

Workshop on 1/28

Joel Mankowski noted that he has been providing town hall meetings surrounding the profession. He has now been asked to provide a workshop for education interpreters explaining the background of the law. Christopher Woodfill asked who would be providing this type of service in the future. Debra volunteered her services to assist with these meetings. Christopher Woodfill suggested that there are a few entities where a presentation would be beneficial. It was suggested that the presenters include a deaf or hard of hearing person, an interpreter and a representative from DRL.

MOTION: Christopher Woodfill moved, seconded by Carlos Jaramillo, to authorize Joel Mankowski and Debra Gorra Barash to speak on behalf of the council to talk about the law and upcoming rules with educational interpreters in Kenosha on January 28, 2011 and refer any legal issues to Michele Miller Hayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Michele Miller Hayes will communicate with the Council members with regard to each speaking arrangement for approval. Motion carried unanimously. She asked members to submit the locations for presentations that will reach the largest number of affected

persons. Ms. Miler Hayes will discuss outreach with the Department administration and provide the council with an update at the next meeting. It was also suggested that articles be published in newspapers to inform interpreters of the new law and a letter to those that hire a large number interpreters. The council members will provide a list of addresses for entities that would potentially hire a large number of interpreters to provide information related to licensure for interpreters.

There was discussion surrounding the method by which someone would file a complaint related to an interpreter. It was suggested that the VLOG and presentations include a section on "How to file a complaint." It was noted that the interpreters on the council might be able to provide interpreter services for video complaints that might be received by the Department. Kris Orkin noted that the complaint process should be included in the presentations.

Communication Methods

Joel Mankowski suggested that he would be willing to create a Video Blog (VLOG) with review by Michele Miller Hayes outlining the FAQ's related to Sign Language Interpreters.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Joel Mankowski moved, seconded by Christopher Woodfill, to adjourn the meeting at 1:46 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.