

Open Session Meeting Minutes
IOWA BOARD OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS & TRANSLITERATORS
August 19, 2013
Lucas State Office Building, 5th Floor Conference Room #526
Des Moines, Iowa

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 by Pierce Wilson.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Susan Tyrrell, Licensed Interpreter
Diana Kautzky, Licensed Interpreter
Cindy Crawford, Licensed Interpreter
Bill Ainsley, Licensed Interpreter

Members Absent:

Stephanie Lyons
Brent Welsch
John Gannon

Staff Present:

Pierce Wilson, Board Executive
Barb Huey, Bureau Chief
Karla Hoover, Licensed Specialist
Julie Bussanmas, AAG

Guests Present:

Review Agenda:

Board reviewed the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Kautzky to approve the meeting minutes from May 20, 2013. Tyrell seconded. All ayes, opposed none, motion carried.

Reports:

Chairperson: No Report

Board Executive - Pierce Wilson stressed to members the importance of attendance at each meeting.

Bureau Chief – Barb Huey – No Report

AAG – Julie Bussanmas – No Report

Interpreters Present:

Peggy Chicoine

Jeff Reese

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

Barb Huey – Board Executive will notify Beth Jorgenson to send a letter of notification to the licensee that a complaint has been received if Pierce, after review of the complaint decides it should be further looked at, such as requesting a personal narrative, or sending the complaint directly to DIA for an investigation. Anything dealing with the complaint will still be considered confidential.

“No probable cause” complaints would not be sent a notification. The Board Executive would make the determination as to who will get sent the notice of a complaint being received. Additional clarification will be received from the AAG’s office, but some of the notification has started, and some notification has been going on for years. Pierce clarified that he will at times ask the licensee to send in a personal narrative, legal documents, etc. so that these will be available for board review at future meetings. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.

New Business: Specialty setting interpreting discussion, hospital, legal, etc.

Stephanie Lyons asked that this issue be put on the agenda for discussion. Guests from Mercy Hospital were in attendance today to hear the discussion, but had no comment at this time. Pierce stated that in the rules an interpreter is not to accept a job that they are not qualified for.

During the discussion the board stated that there are times when an interpreter is instructed to do a job that they do not feel qualified to do, but because of contracts or agreements the employer is required to provide an interpreter. There are no laws covering who the employer sends or that the employee is equipped for every aspect of interpreting at every level. The board discussed that Temporary Licenses may sometimes be a part of the problem, as well as the different levels of experience of employees. Diana Kautzky stated that she felt the legal system has sufficient policies for an interpreter in the legal setting. It seems that maybe the problem lies in the medical setting.

It was reported that Iowa Association for the Deaf is willing to encourage the enhancement of the programs being offered. It is apparent that the deaf community is not receiving quality interpreting. It was agreed by members that outside organizations need to focus on changes to the profession that need to be implemented. Rules can be changed but those changes need to comply with Iowa Code. Pierce Wilson explained the process of changing the rules, and stressed the fact that the role of the board is not to serve as an advocate for the profession, it is to protect the public.

A guest commented that a score of 3.5 is not a good score for Medical and Mental Health interpreting responsibilities.

Also, supervision seems to be an issue and would be a good idea to research the possibility of requiring more supervision time. Cindy Crawford brought up the fact that mentoring could be done electronically but Pierce Wilson stated mentoring would be best completed in a face-to-face setting.

Bill Ainsley stated that the interpreters just don't know what to do regarding the situation. You wouldn't go to a hairstylist who provides you with only 40% of a haircut, so likewise an interpreter should be able to provide the deaf individual with top notch interpreting. Interpreters need to know more specifics before accepting a job. Julie said that the board could form a rules review committee. The committee could use the old rules as a starting place. Pierce said that he would contact Brent Welsch, Chair about forming a committee to look at the rules. The board was reminded that the Code cannot be changed without legislature approval.

Subcommittee report on practice issues: Members are Diana Kautzky, Stephanie Lyons and Sue Tyrrell

An ad hoc committee was formed to develop and report recommendations of questions to be included in an investigation against a sign language interpreter. It was noted that after review of the investigations conducted by DIA of complaints active at this time it was felt that more information needed to be collected for the board to evaluate. The ad hoc committee developed questions to aid the DIA investigator and investigative process. Two noted items were identified by the committee: In order to conduct a qualified investigation in many instances it will be necessary to interview a person who is deaf. In the past investigation interviews have been carried out using written notes, or questions were posed to those working around the deaf person rather than approaching the deaf person directly. It is imperative the investigator use the highest quality of interpreter during the interview. Item number one recommends that the board would expect the investigator be required to use a highly credentialed and qualified interpreter when interviewing a deaf person/s involved in an investigative case. Also, because many of the complaints received by the board involve allegations of a lack of adequate interpreting skills, the

idea of a “monitor” was discussed as a solution in evaluating competency of an interpreter. Item number two suggests the board completely support the utilization of a Sign Language Monitor when investigating complaints involving competency issues of interpreting skills. Pierce recommended that the report from the committee members be shared with DIA. Julie does not agree with DIA being in on the process, she feels the report should be processed through the board. Julie does not see this as a kin to an investigation completed by DIA. The board would like for Pierce and Julie to further research the issue of using a language monitor, and possibility of drawing up an RFP to cover this process.

Applications: – None

Board took a short break before entering closed session.

Closed Session:

A motion was made by Kautzky to enter into closed session at 11:22a.m., to discuss confidential material related to applications and complaints according to Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(1) a and d. A second was received from Tyrell. Roll call was taken.

Crawford – Aye

Ainsley – Aye

Kautzky – Aye

Tyrell – Aye

Motion Carried.

Closed Session:

There were no deaf board members in closed session so the interpreters left the meeting room.

Open Session at 12:25p.m.

Kautzky made the motion to close cases 10-001, 10-002, 12-001 and 13-004. Tyrell seconded the motion. Roll call taken

Ainsley – Aye

Crawford – Aye

Kautzky – Aye

Tyrell - Aye

Unanimous approval of the motion.

Kautzky made the motion to approve the May 20, 2013 closed session meeting minutes.

Crawford seconded the motion. Roll call taken.

Ainsley – Aye

Crawford – Aye

Kautzky – Aye

Tyrell – Aye

Unanimous approval of the motion.

Kautzky made a motion to adjourn. Crawford seconded the motion. Unanimous approval of the motion to adjourn.