



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 20 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of February 14th, 2020**

I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ernest Garrett.

A. Invocation/Silent Prayer

B. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Dan Arabie

C. Roll Call – Commissioner Ernest Garrett – no quorum only (8) Commissioners are present.

Commissioners Present:

Dr. Lee Mendoza	Jimmy Gore	Jay Isch
Kevin Monk	Iva Tullier	Rebecca Beard
Candice LeBlanc	Ernest Garrett	Jana Broussard

Commissioners Not Present:

Sen. Yvonne Colomb	Melissa Bayham	Lisa Potter
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LCD Staff: Jana Broussard Nathan Vitale

Interpreters:

Sylvie Sullivan	Laura Sicignano	Elisabeth Gill	Donavan Williams
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Captionist: Evangeline Langston

II. Approval of Feb.14th, 2020 Meeting Agenda –J. Isch/I. Tullier

III. Approval of Sept. 25th, 2019 Meeting Minutes – None opposed

IV. Public Comment

I. Chad Cormier – Mr. Cormier talked about how he has been around the Commission for a very long time and after looking at the agenda he saw a bunch of seats were vacant. He was wondering why there is not a seat for a deaf-blind representative or those with ushers or low vision.

A. Also, someone to represent the deaf-blind for ABL – to inform the commission of SSP issues.

II. Dan Arabie – establishing the difference in interpreting services and SSP services and establish a deaf blind specialist position.

V. Welcoming Remarks

I. Special Guest: Amy Zapata – spoke on the direction of LCD under the Interim Director Jana Broussard.

A. The technological improvements that have been made, specifically the database that was built by LA Interactive.

B. The improvement of our billing procedures.



C. The Commission has formed an Executive Committee (HCR 80) – 8 major findings have come from the HCR80 meetings with 4 major issues that were identified related to communication access in nursing homes and hospitals.

1. Use of technology – VRI
2. Gaps in the states interpreter workforce
3. Systems that don't make it easy for patients to communicate
4. Cost for accommodations from hospitals

II. Recommendations

- A. Removing payment barriers
- B. Accessing language needs
- C. Creating quality standards for agencies that provide interpreting services
- D. Create a centralized system for patients to arrange their own interpreter
- E. Establish Credentialing requirements for Interpreters
- F. Establishing a licensure requirements for state interpreters
- G. Establishment of educational development pathways for Interpreters
- H. Understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act

VI. Business Requiring Commission Action

A. Old Business

- I. Communication cards for the police officers and for the public.
- II. Trying to revise the legislation of the commission itself which may mean moving it from under the health perspective
- II. LCD Facebook page.

B. New Business

- I. Tulane University Student Project Presentation- Led by Denise Crochet
- II. No new business- no quorum

V. Business for Information Purpose/Reports

B. Director's Report –Jana Broussard –

LCD office has continued to work over the last couple months to strengthen the internal processing of our office and to identify ways to make every action more efficient. With this goal in mind, we have worked over the last year or so to create an electronic, internal database to house consumer information statewide, and are pleased to announce it went live mid-January. Moving forward, we are working with our Business Unit and also LA Interactive, the company responsible for building the database, to create a contract which would allow LAI to provide critical revisions and enhancements to the system. Our goal is to alleviate unnecessary paperwork and other timely requirements on our Regional Service Centers and ultimately to enhance the overall experience of the consumer at each visit.



LCD Hearing Aid Program has not been updated in many years, so we are working with a consultant doing research and looking at some budgeting comparisons. One of the things that we are looking to update are payments to vendors. We are also looking at the SSP services to include individuals who were born blind but became deaf later.

Our new website has gone live and an accessibility feature has been added. The feature has also been added to the entire Louisiana Department of Health website. Some of the updates are font adjustment in order to make it easier to read. You can space letters, words and align the page. You can invert the colors to change the color of the background and the words. It has screen reader adjustments and it offers seven different language options. We are looking to be able to provide ASL videos on our webpage soon.

C. Relay Administration Board Report– Ashley Poche resigned

D. Legislators Reports, Sen. Y. Colomb – Not Present

E. Commissioners’ Reports –

Jay Isch – Deaf Focus will be hosting an American Sign Language Performance at Louisiana School for the Deaf on February 29th

Jimmy Gore – none

Kevin Monk – Baton Rouge Office of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services is in the process of moving from Cedarcrest Avenue to 950 North 22nd St with Louisiana Workforce Commission

Dr. L. Mendoza – Dr. Rebecca has left LDH and Steven Russo is serving as Interim Secretary.

Iva Tullier – We are having the National Speech Association Board meeting in New Orleans on the weekend of March 28th and 29th. I will be teaching a two day workshop on 26th and 27th. Another instructor will be teaching on the 28th and 29th and its free. Deaf Alliance is hosting a Summit connecting the dots home, classroom and community on May 7th.

VI. Date, Time, and Place of Next Commission Meeting –

TBA

VII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:10 pm.

Draft of minutes prepared 05/28/2020.

Minutes corrected on _____.

Recorder

Date

Secretary

Date