



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf  
SFY 23 Regular Commission Meeting  
Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2022**

- 9:00 am- 1:00 pm**
- I. Call to order 9:15am
- A. Invocation/Silent Prayer
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Jimmy Gore
  - C. Roll Call: Secretary Dr. Ashley Argrave
    - 1. Commissioners Present: Dr. Ashley Argrave, Melissa Bayham, Jimmy Gore, Jay Isch, Sajata Varner, Candice Leblanc (last meeting), Davondra Brown, Denise Crochet, Dr. Natalie Delgado, Marissa Ramos, Cammy Caspar, Bambi Polotzola, Lynne Gomez
    - 2. Commissioners Not Present: Megan Wimberly, Rep. Scott McKnight, Sen. Sharon Hewitt, Brad Wellons
- II. Approval of Agenda:
- A. Commissioner Jay Isch: remove item Community Concerns from the agenda due to objection from stakeholder related to the way the item was worded on the agenda.
  - B. **MOTION:** (Bambi Polotzola, Jimmy Gore) add item "community concerns regarding Special School District (SSD)" to the agenda. No objections. Motion passes.
    - 1. Public Comment: (Ty Manieri, legal council for SSD): opposes to add SSD to community concerns, requesting a roll call vote)
    - 2. **MOTION** (Jimmy Gore, Cammy Gaspar) calling an executive session
    - 3. Executive session called 9:30 am
    - 4. Executive session closed. 10:31 am  
BREAK
    - 5. Resume Regular Meeting 10:48 am
    - 6. Jay Isch: board will not add community concerns regarding SSD to the agenda at this time. Board will add a special meeting at a date and time to be announced to discuss these concerns.
- III. Approval of Minutes (Jimmy Gore, Ashley Argrave)
- IV. Public Comments
- A. Dan Arabie: addition to another DeafBlind (DB) person on the commission, Deaf mentors, concerns with younger Deaf leadership, Louisiana School for the Deaf: asking the LCD board to be strong advocates for the Deaf community, request a town hall for more transparency, concerns with budget being spent to hearing aids instead of other services, request increase in telecommunications tax to \$.10
- V. Reports from Board
- A. Bambi Polotzola: announcement GODA hosting GODA awards December 7 with nominations due by October 31, 2022. .

- B. LAD: Jimmy Challis Gore: express concerns with the amount of letters they have received that indicate concerns from the community regarding the Special School District
  - C. LRID: announcement LRID fall meeting at the Covington CourtHouse November 4-5, 2022
- VI. Director's Report: Jana Broussard
- A. Statewide Interpreting Program: Innivee Strategies is conducting the Interpreter assessment. We have hosted 6 different focus groups of a variety of interest groups. Survey is still available until October 31, 2022.
  - B. LCD Leadership: Internal assessment is also being conducted by Innivee strategies. They are finalizing the report. LCD should be the model of other interest groups especially those with disabilities.
  - C. RFI for Region 9: Lighthouse Louisiana will be serving these areas.
  - D. Interpreting Program Manager: we officially made an offer, but it is not yet finalized.
  - E. Operations Report: Shane Bates: closing out 1st quarter at \$361,926 current operating expenses to date. Budget of this year was \$5.9 million.
  - F. Louisiana Relay Administration Board (RAB): Grant program is for non profit organizations that provide D/DB or for-profit organizations that is Deaf owned. Businesses can apply for a \$25,000 grant annually.
- VII. Old Business
- A. None
- VIII. New Business
- A. 1. Election of Chairperson
    - 1. **MOTION:** (Jimmy Gore, Marissa Ramos) Dr. Natalie Delgado as chairperson. All voted yes. Motion carries. Dr. Delgado will begin as chairperson at the next meeting.
  - B. LCD Administrative Code – Adhoc Committee Report: Shane Bates: final rough draft but has not gone through the legal process
    - 1. Bambi Polotzola: why can some commissioners have proxy and some not?
      - a) Shane Bates: Governor appointed commissioners are not allowed a proxy but we could look more into this. Government or state agencies can have proxy.
    - 2. **MOTION:** (Ashley Argrave, Davondra Brown) approve the LCD Administrative Code draft. None opposed, motion carries. BREAK 10 minutes
  - C. 2023 Meeting Dates: January 20, April 21, July 21, October 2
    - 1. **MOTION:** to approve 2023 meeting dates ( Lynne Gomez, Bambi Polotzola) none opposed, motion carries.
  - D. Adult Group Homes/Assisted Living: Jay Isch: proposed training for group homes or nursing homes of how to work with Deaf people and can contact LDH to research this issue
    - 1. Devondra Brown: Health Equity Action Team (HEAT) set up a meeting with this team to discuss solutions.
    - 2. Jay Isch: Jana will set up a meeting with HEAT.
  - E. Training for Existing Direct Service Professionals and

Agencies working with Deaf Clients/Patients: Jana Broussard:  
this is specific for training but I feel that it can be combined  
with first steps when we meet with HEAT

- IX. Announcements
  - A. Jimmy Gore: Rally/Protest 4:00pm across from LSD campus.
  - B. Jay Isch: Thank Dr. Laine for her service on the commission.
- X. Adjourn 12:35 pm

Draft of minutes prepared 12/28/2022 by Ashley Argrave, Secretary

Minutes corrected/approved on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

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