

**John Bel Edwards**

GOVERNOR

**Lynne Gomez**

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**

LOUISIANA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF

Interpreter Ad Hoc Committee

**Wednesday October 25, 2023**

4:00PM – 5:30PM

Hybrid (In-person and ZOOM)

**Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to order** 
   1. Meeting called to order by Committee Chair Lynne Gomez at 4:00PM
2. **Roll Call** 
   1. Denise Crochet (Present)
   2. Earl Harden (Present)
   3. Natasha Aymami (Present)
   4. Milissa Welch (Present)
   5. Lynne Gomez (Present)
   6. Walker Estes (Absent)
   7. Leslie Knowles (Present)
3. **Approval of October 25, 2023 Agenda**
   1. Motion: Denise Crochet/ Leslie Knowles to accept the October 25, 2023 agenda. Passed unanimously
4. **Approval of October 4, 2023 Minutes** 
   1. Seeing no corrections, the corrections stand as amended.
5. **Approval of October 18, 2023 Minutes** 
   1. Seeing no corrections, the corrections stand as presented.
6. **Public Comments (2 minute limit per person)**
   1. Richy Benson
      1. Certified interpreters over 20 year and worked in school system. Average EIPA score in the nation is 3.6. No support for K-12 educational interpreters. Workshops are expensive to attend. I would like to remain in Louisiana. Asked to be grandfathered in to the system.
   2. Cammy Gasper
      1. I am Deaf. On LCD Board as a parent of Deaf Child. In order for Deaf children to thrive, language deprivation must come to a halt. Interpreters flying under the radar do not meet the current standards and contribute to the deprivation. It is important to have these qualified and certified interpreters in educational setting because of the lack of (inaudible) already there. Interpreters create the bridge that bring together hearing and Deaf world. We are in agreement for better standards and it needs to be put in place so that we can do much better than this.
7. **Old Business** 
   1. Educational Interpreter Administrative Code Motion: Leslie Knowles/ Denise Crochet to move into Committee as a whole. Passed unanimously.
      1. Alternative Pathways

**Qualified Interpreter in an Educational Setting Certificate**

*Applicant submits verification of one from* ***each*** *of the following sections:*

***Section A. Educational Requirements***

1. *Associate's degree (or higher) issued by a regionally accredited institution of higher education*
2. *Minimum of 60 semester hours of college credit from one or more regionally accredited institutions of higher education*
3. *Alternative pathway: 15 hours formal education, 45 hours experiences using RID calculations.*

*Note: Alternative pathway for existing and will be allowed July 1, 2025. Coming in will have to follow the new standards, IF LCD takes over.*

*Meredith Jordan shared information about Property Rights. It is undetermined if the Louisiana of Department of Education (DOE) will issue and still hold the rights to the certificates or if these rights will be under LCD’s purview. If DOE continues to own the property rights then the rules cannot go into effect prior to July 1, 2025. If LCD takes over then the rules can go into effect July 1, 2024.*

*The committee was unable to come to a general consensus on an alternative pathway at this meeting.*

1. **New Business** 
   1. Para Educator role vs. Educational Interpreter role
      * 1. This section was not addressed.
   2. Questions from LCD Public Meeting on October 20, 2023 regarding recommended standards presentation
      * 1. This section was not addressed.
2. **Announcements** 
   1. No time for announcements due to meeting ending promptly at 5:30PM
3. **Adjourn**
   1. Meeting ran out of time, Chair Lynne Gomez adjourned at 5:30PM

Note: The order of the agenda may not be followed as listed in order to accommodate presenter schedules.

American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters and live/remote captioning will be provided. Presenters, members, and guests may submit requests for additional accessibility and accommodations prior to a scheduled meeting. Please submit a request to **jazmyne.lemar@la.gov** at least **one week** prior to the meeting with details of the requested accommodations.

In lieu of verbal public comment, individuals may submit a prepared statement in accordance with Senate Rule 13.79. Statements should be emailed to **jazmyne.lemar@la.gov** and must be received at least **24 hours** prior to the meeting to be included in the record for the meeting.