



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf  
SFY 21 Regular Commission Meeting  
Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2020**

**I. Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Ernest Garrett.

- A. Invocation/Silent Prayer- N/A
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – N/A
- C. Roll Call – Commissioner Chairperson, Ernest Garrett

Commissioners Present: Ernest Garrett, Jimmy Gore, Jay Isch, Senator Sharon Hewitt, Kevin Monk, Iva Tullier, Melissa Bayham, Candice LeBlanc, Dawn Melendez

Commissioners Not Present: Rebecca Beard, Lisa Potter, Dr. Lee Mendoza

LCD Staff: Jana Broussard, Nathan Vitale, Vanessa Magnon

Interpreters: Sylvie Sullivan, Laura Sicignano, Elisabeth Gill

Captionist: Evangeline Langston

**II. Approval of August 21, 2020 Meeting Agenda** – J. Isch/J. Gore

**III. Approval of February 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes** – None opposed

**IV. Public Comment**

- A. Dan Arabie – DeafBlind Advocate
  - 1. DeafBlind seat needs to be added to the LCD Legislation revisions.
  - 2. Concerns for DeafBlind in relation to pandemic. Prior planning to ensure population is protected should be considered.
- B. Angela Lee- President of Deaf Action Center Board in Shreveport
  - 1. Concerns with deaf children in Caddo parish experiencing language deprivation; lack of Educational interpreters; lack of quality interpreters; concerns with low interpreter pay for recruitment; desire for DHH students to be at one school rather than spread around the parish.
    - a. Response from Senator Hewitt- Will contact Senator in Caddo district to connect

**V. Director's Report**

- A. Jana Broussard (Interim)
  - 1. Hearing Aid Program redesign (from intake to invoicing) has been completed. Vendors have received increase for aid equipment from \$1150 to \$1500/pair. New policy begins September 01, 2020.
  - 2. Continue working with LA Interactive to shift all four LCD programs to a central, online database to support paperless goal for agency.
  - 3. LCD worked with a MD student intern from Tulane who has responsible for researching [HCR 80](#)  
Recommendation 2: Support the adoption of best practices to support effective communication



- in hospitals and nursing homes. Intern provided documentation of various state practices for LCD review. A new intern will begin in October.
4. LCD continues to work with two consultants on the Support Service Provider Program (SSP) Request for Proposal (RFP) for FY21.
  5. LCD new staff member, Vanessa Magnon, Project Coordinator. First project completed, LCD Facebook page as voted on by the Commission

## **VI. Business Requiring Commission Action**

### **A. Old Business - Commissioner J. Isch motioned to have number I and II moved to next meeting in the interest of time. Seconded by Commissioner J. Gore. None opposed.**

1. Vote for Secretary- postponed
2. Vacant Commission Seats- postponed
3. Commission Priorities- Commission voted Dec 2019 on priorities. Topics were reintroduced and voted on again due to pandemic impacts. Motion by J. Isch, seconded by I. Tullier. None opposed.
  - a. Lead-K- find out where it left off and if there is/will need legislative representation
  - b. Revision of LCD Legislation- DeafBlind Commission seat, interpreter certification- continued from Dec 2019
  - c. Captioning at the Capitol- continued from Dec 2019
  - d. Updated priorities- as time allows
    - i. Search for Ex. Director- postponed until Jan 2022
    - ii. Emergency Preparedness- as time allows
    - iii. Social/Community Engagement- LCD social media page completed Fall 2020
    - iv. Police Commission DHH communication- project completed Spring 2020

### **B. New Business- Commissioner D. Mendez proposed to add to agenda the Acceptance of BEI- Statewide Interpreter- potential establishment of identified levels for qualification clarification. None opposed- Added to agenda as time allowed.**

1. Strategic Initiatives- Proposed hiring of Strategic planning consultant. Motion by I. Tullier/ Seconded by J. Gore. None opposed. Purpose is to provide a specific direction and to have a way to measure LCD's progress and efforts. Principles include:
  - a. Understanding principles of effective strategic plan development
  - b. Building foundation of data analysis to utilize for informed decisions
  - c. Create purpose and goals leaders and staff can embrace
  - d. Clearly delineate accountability and oversight of plan
  - e. Engineer and implement processes to support goal attainment
2. Interpreter Certification- J. Isch- licensure to be included in LCD statute revisions. Interested parties as voted in Dec 2019 included: J. Isch, J. Gore, C. LeBlanc, L. Potter, D. Melendez, E. Garrett, S. Hewitt, LDH legal team, BFH and LCD leadership.
3. Budget- 2.7 million annual per legislators-



- a. Two, one-time projects include captioning at the capitol and Digital database
- b. Hearing Aid budget decreased from 2.4 million in FY20 back down to 1.5 million for FY 21 after one year increase to eliminate/reduce waiting list
- c. SSP Hours- FY20 provided 25 hours per consumer; FY21 hours are based on two-year average usage so vary by consumer.

**VII. Business for Information Purpose/Reports**

**A. Officer Reports-**

1. Chairperson E Garrett- will continue to work closely with LCD staff and Strategic Initiative consultants on the priorities of the commission
2. V. Chair- none
3. Secretary- Vacant

**B. Relay Administration Board Report-** E. Garrett and J. Broussard both joined the RAB recently

**C. Legislators Reports-** none

**D. Commissioners' Reports –**

1. Jay Isch – Louisiana Association for the Deaf soon will release newly developed website. Quarterly meeting will be on Sept 19 via Zoom.

**E. State Agency Reports-**

1. Melissa Bayham- Director of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services- work search requirements are back regarding unemployment insurance. Laworks.net has a video which can explain more (has captioning). LRS moved from Dept. of Social Services to La Workforce Commission- rule needs to be updated to reflect changes
2. E. Garrett- Louisiana School for the Deaf- Hoping to have a new LSD Rep as Commission for LCD by next meeting. State SSD team is working hard to meet new challenges while also restructuring. Working diligently with La. State Superintendent to prioritize needs of the district.

**VI. Date, Time, and Place of Next Commission Meeting –**  
November 20, 2020

**VII. Adjournment –** Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am. J. Isch/D. Melendez

Draft of minutes prepared 11/25/2020.

Minutes corrected on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date