



LOUISIANA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF

Board of Commissioners

April 21, 2023 9:00am-1:00pm

Minutes

I. Roll Call & Introductions

- a. Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Jay Isch 9:17 am
- b. Members Present: Dr. Ashley Argrave, Melissa Bayham, Brad Wellons, Sajata Varner, Jimmy Challis Gore, Vice Chair Jason Isch, Sherry Powell, Davondra Brown, Denise Crochet, Marissa Ramos, Cammy Gaspar, Bambi Polotzola, Megan Wimberly, SSD proxy Ty Manairi, Lynne Gomez
- c. Members Absent: Representative Scott McKnight, Senator Sharon Hewitt, Dr. Natalie Delgado
- e. LCD Staff: Jana Broussard, Vanessa Magnon, Jazmyne Lemar, Victoria Reguiera, Brittany Welch
- f. Ancillary support: Interpreters: Malachi Mooney, Sylvie Sullivan, Annette Poche, Lissa Gill; Remote Captionist provided by CC Group

II. Approval of Agenda (Polotozola, Brown)

- a. MOTION: Magee: defer agenda item New Business Number 3, supervisor not here (Magee, Isch) all in favor, motion carries
- b. MOTION: Gaspar: Item 1 revise wording to "admitted patients" to "all healthcare facilities" (Gaspar, Isch) majority in favor, motion carries

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. January 20, 2023 (Gore, Wellons)

III. Public Comment:

- a. Dan Arabie: Correction from last meeting. His wife is not in a nursing home. He and his wife went to visit the nursing home as part of ministry. Please make sure voice interpreting is accurate before posting live.
- b. Brandi Bordelon: She created a DDBHH Disaster Relief facebook page. Thank you LCD for providing disaster preparedness. EMDAC is providing training via zoom.

IV. Reports

- a. Chair: not present
- b. Vice chair: Jay Isch, LAD conference is the first weekend of June.
- a. Secretary: no report
- b. Legislative Reports: Not present
- c. LRS: no report
- d. DCFS: Sherry Powell, Dr. Delgado reached out to provide education and resources to better serve the deaf community. They have met and will continue to meet.



- e. LDH: Davondra Brown, Health Equity met with a smaller subcommittee and will continue to work on this as a partnership.
- f. LDOE: no report
- g. DBH: no report
- h. GODA: Bambi Polotzola, Legislative session is ongoing currently and our office has a tracking document on our website. Annual Conference is July 24-27 virtually. "Access to Assistive Technology for Disasters" May 4, 2023 2 hour zoom hosted by EMDAC.
- i. SSD/LSD: no report
 - i. Jay Ischasked about the status for a new Executive Director for LSD. Ty Maneri responded that the new Supt. Dr. David Martin has released a job posting for this position.
- j. LAD: Jimmy Gore, LAD Conference June 2-4, 2023
- k. Brad Wellons: Thank you LAD for participating in a panel LPHI Racial and Health Equity Conference.
- l. LRID: Denise Crochet, May 7, 2023 Interpreter Fun Night/Hang out 2-5:00pm at Painting with a Twist on Jefferson Hwy. There will be an upcoming conference in the fall.
- m. Marissa Ramos: Ascension parish DHH meet up April 29, 2023 10:00-11:30am Jambalaya Park michelle.smith@apsb.org
- n. Megan Wimberly: no report
- o. Director's Report: Jana Broussard,
 - i. Budget Review
 - 1. Hearing Aids: Discussion on who qualifies for HA under LCD should be redefined. Other options for funding need to also be explored. Some data could be collected about our consumers that are using their hearing aids they receive from LCD.
 - 2. End of Quarter: Exp. 2.8 million. Still have budgeted money left but is expected to be spent by the end of the fiscal year.
 - 3. Updates on LCD Admin Code: please read through and review. Public comments allowed for 30 days.
 - 4. Leadership Cohort Application Deadline is Today! 10-12 people, 1 meeting per month over 10 months
 - 5. SB201 update: providing virtual meetings for boards and commissions- it did pass through through the Senate. More information to come
 - 6. Interpreting Guidelines: Adhoc needs to be created and will work to create guidelines. Update at next meeting
 - 7. MOTION (Crochet, Gomez) to create an ADHOC committee to investigate the proper procedure to update the administrative code as it relates to interpreting procedures . No objections. Motion carries

V. Old Business



- a. Health Equity for Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing – Topics may include Group Homes, Assistive Living, Trainings, Communication Access in Healthcare Facilities, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness
 1. Dan Arabie: Previously spoke about conditions for DHH in nursing homes and I appreciate you including me in the discussions.
 - a. MOTION (Brown, Gore) establish a sub committee to address Health Equity for DHHDB. No objections. Motion carries.
 2. Marissa Ramos: would like to discuss setting up a volunteer group from the subcommittee that could visit and interact with DDBHH people
- b. Recruitment and Objectives for DeafBlind Advisory Council
 1. Megan Wimberly, if anyone is interested in joining this advisory council please reach out to me. Please provide any feedback via email within 2 weeks.
- c. Vocational Assistance Support Provider- Request for Louisiana Rehabilitation Services to provide funding for DeafBlind individuals seeking employment via La Commission for the Deaf’s Support Service Providers (SSP) program/workforce
 1. Melissa Bayham- Trying to figure out a way to fund recruitment and trainings for SSPs and DB individuals going to work.
 2. Transportation can be provided while DB people are receiving LRS/VR services but eventually when the person gains employment the services end and transportation is no longer paid for through LRS/VR.
- d. Consideration of Actions by the La Commission for the Deaf (LCD) Board of Commissioners to Elevate Community Concerns to the Special School District (SSD) Board of Directors- Update on letter sent and meeting request per October 26, 2022 Special Session
 1. Jay Isch:David Martin will start May 1, 2023. So I will reach out to him to see how we can work together moving forward.
 2. Bambi Polotzola: This was on the Agenda at the last SSD board meeting but they were waiting for some administrative changes.



Bambi will add this to the agenda for the Next SSD board meeting is May 16, 2023.

VI. New Business

a. Interpreting for Situations in which Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Does Not Apply

1. Jay Isch: I would like to collect more information and discuss it at our next meeting.
2. MOTION (Gore, Wellons) move this agenda item to next meeting

b. Request for Letter to Louisiana Legislature Regarding Capitol Accessibility Recommendations Report submitted January 2022

1. Jay Isch: LAD sent a letter to the capital about accessibility such as interpreting and captioning. LCD should send a letter also.
2. Jana Broussard: There was a formal assessment and then a report with 5 recommendations on improving accessibility in the capital.
3. MOTION (Argrave, Crochet) LCD Board written by Jay Isch will write a letter to the capital related to lack of improvements of accessibility to the capital. This letter will be written and sent to the board for approval before sending.

c. Recommendations for DeafBlind Community Needs: training, usage of personal vehicles, and Support Service Provider recruitment

1. Megan Wimberly, How can we recruit people for SSP jobs? Additionally, we need more training for SSPs. We also need to think about ideas around transportation in regards to if the SSP doesn't have a vehicle they could use the client's vehicle.
2. This discussion should be added to an agenda for the DB Advisory committee. We should write a letter to ABL about follow up on current application and recruitment for more SSPs
3. MOTION (Wimberly, Gore) LCD Board writes a letter to ABL to express concerns of recruitment, training, and hiring of SSPs

d. La Commission for the Deaf Logo and Brand

1. Discussion around revisions of the logo. Sent back to LCD Communication's officer.

XI. Announcements

1. Jana Broussard: Brandy Bordelon Winner FEMA in Louisiana under Region 6 award to address community preparedness. 2023 Whole



community award from FEMA.

2. Jimmy Gore: Not running for LAD president and my seat on the LCD board will also be ending.

VII.Adjournment – Adjourned Jay Isch 1:09 pm