



LOUISIANA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF
Board of Commissioners- Adhoc Meeting
Sign Language Interpreter Standards- K-12 Transition
November 13, 2024
Minutes

I. Roll Call & Introductions

- A. Meeting called to order by Dr. David Martin 9:19am
- B. Members Present: Dr. Martin, Dr. Delgado, Dr. Argrave, Cammy Gaspar, Denise Crochet, Dr. Wimberly, Jamar Ennis, original Interpreter Adhoc Committee (non voting)
- C. LCD Staff: Jana Broussard, Jazmyne Lemar, Victoria Regueira, Brittany Welch, Charlotte Parker, Vanessa Magnon
- D. Ancillary support: Interpreters- Malachi Mooney, Isabella Martin (virtual), Heather Rossi (virtual)

II. Approval of Agenda (Delgado, Argrave)

III. Public Comment:

- A. Emailed Public Comment (read by Jana Broussard)
 - 1. Francis Plauche- Livingston Parish interpreter: concerns regarding currently certified interpreters. I do feel we need a "grandfather" clause of current certified interpreters. There are also concerns with the amount of college hours required even with being grandfathered in. Also, there are concerns with 3.0 to 4.0 increase as that is quite a jump as well as the cost for the testing and time requirements to achieve the increase. She feels compliant people would be punished for the few that are not.
 - 2. Person 2: A few questions: Will the timeline for interpreters to get a BA be the same timeline for them to achieve a 4.0 or higher on the EIPA? If an interpreter has an AA can they submit CEUs and years experience to gain a BA? Do NA degrees have to be in the field of interpreting? Will Deaf Ed study degrees be accepted? What BA is required?
 - 3. Natosha Istre: emailed and presented her statement virtually. She created a scenario where qualified and experienced interpreters vs certified no experience interpreters.
- B. In person/virtually;
 - 1. Richy Besson: interpreter mid 90's. LRID certified. SPLI at LSD to qualify to even take the exam to get National Certified. I had many college hours but did not get a degree. I had to wait 15 years to get a pay raise. I had to beg for insurance and I'm still not considered a staff member or interpreter on paper. After 27 years, I feel like I am not good enough. The education system as a whole is broken. I haven't missed one day in 13 years. I support the students academically, socially, Leap scores are increasing but I'm not good enough on paper. Texas would take me, but my family doesn't want to move.
 - 2. Millissa Welch: Lafayette Parish, These standards will destroy public mainstream programs. We follow the current standards that are in place. We have worked very hard to develop this program and improve it and we are being punished for the small rural districts who do not comply with these standards and they will continue to do that after the new standards. The new standards will negatively

affect the interpreters as well as the Deaf children.

3. Lainey Trahan: Lafayette Parish, I do feel that this will negatively affect our Lafayette program, It will negatively affect the interpreters as well as the Deaf children. Instead of a fixed date, I recommend proposal time after it has been approved. It should be approved first, then you have X amount of years you can implement new standards. Rushing this would cause chaos that negatively impacts everyone. We follow the current standards and the other parishes will continue to not follow them regardless of the approval of the new standards. What happens when we don't have interpreters to follow students' IEPs? Cost is \$425 to pay out of pocket for one part of the test, written \$250=\$75 proctor fee but only get reimbursement if we show improvement and it's 10 months to even take or get results. This is a huge financial burden for the pay we currently receive.

IV. Proposed Rules for LCD Administrative Code for American Sign Language Interpreter Working in Education Settings- Finalize a transition plan and timeline for interpreters currently working in K-12 setting and credentialed by the Louisiana Department of Education

A. MOTION to move to discussion to committee as a whole (Dr.Delgado, Cammy Gaspar)

1. Discussion with adhoc members (both present and past) regarding if a transition plan should be allowed giving time for existing LDOE credentialed interpreters to meet the new standards, and/or if any components should be grandfathered in. Ideas and experiences were shared equally from both sides of the argument.

i. MOTION: break 10:33 (Martin, Delgado) back at 10:43

ROLL CALL: Martin, Delgado, Argrave, Gaspar, Denise Crochet (not here), Wimberly, Jamar Innis (not here), Meredith Jordan, Senator Kleinpeter (not here)

2. Discussion continued and began looking at the proposed transition plan. Plan proposed to board in October did not have specific dates for the transition. Members discussed and approved transition plan based on timing.

B. Motion to Come out of commission as a whole (Delgado, Gaspar)

i. Roll Call vote, all vote yes, motion carries

C. Motion for the date of implementation of new standards to be July 1st of the following year of rule promulgation. (Martin, Argrave) Roll Call vote: Argrave, Martin, Delgado, Wimberly, Jordan. Motion carries.

D. Motion to “grandfather” interpreters with a current and valid LDOE certificate based on LDOE’s original requirements. All must register with LCD July 1st of the following year of rule promulgation. (Martin, Jordan) Roll call vote: Argrave yes,

Delgado yes, Martin yes, Wimberly yes, Jordan yes. 5 yes, motion carries

- a. Delgado notes we need oversight and accountability for the existing DOE interpreters and their standards.
- b. Dr Wimberly expresses similar concerns

E. These motions will be recommended to the LCD Board at the next public meeting in January.

X. Adjourn – 12:20 pm by Chair Dr.Natalie Delgado (Delgado, Argrave)