

Open Session Meeting Minutes
IOWA BOARD OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS &
TRANSLITERATORS
October 18, 2021
Lucas State Office Building, 5th Floor Conference Room #526
Des Moines, Iowa

This electronic meeting of the Iowa Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators is being held in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.8. The Code states that a governmental body may conduct a meeting by electronic means only if circumstances are such that meeting in person is impossible or impractical and access is provided to the public. An in-person board meeting is not possible due to COVID-19. Access to this meeting will be provided by electronic means as described herein. The agenda has been posted on the website.

Chairperson – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

Members Present

Albert Mingo, Consumer of Services
Amanda Gallant, Licensed Interpreter
Ellen Hayes, Licensed Interpreter
Susan Tyrrell, Licensed Interpreter

Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Steve Garrison, Bureau Chief
Jordan Esbrook, Assistant Attorney General
Maddie Wilcox, Policy Advisor, Legislative
Liaison
Sharon Dozier, Board Executive
Beth Jorgenson, Compliance Administrator
Vicky Winter-Clearman, Assistant to Board
Administration

Guests Present

Tori Carsrud, Iowa Department of Education

Deborah Cates, Iowa School of the Deaf
Cindy Crawford, Des Moines Public
Schools
Amber Tucker

Interpreters Present

Peggy Chicoine
Jeff Reese

Introductions

Were made by the Board and staff present.

At the discretion of the Board Chair, several agenda items were reviewed out of the order stated on the meeting agenda.

Approval of Open Session Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021

Tyrrell moved the Board approve the open session meeting minutes of March 8, 2021 as presented. A second was received by Hayes. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

June 11, 2021

Mingo moved the Board approve the open session meeting minutes of June 11, 2021 as presented. A second was received by Gallant. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Request for an amendment to Iowa Code Chapter 154.3A, to limit the term of a temporary license to two years:

Maddie Wilcox, Iowa Department of Public Health Policy Advisor and Legislative Liaison, spoke on the status of proposed amendments to the Board's Code chapter. She said the Department of Public Health is not submitting either pre-filed bills or technical amendments this upcoming legislative session, which begins January 10, 2022. Ms. Wilcox briefly reviewed the legislative process, noting professional associations or individuals may approach a legislator with a request to sponsor legislation. She provided the summary and timeline for legislative bills, which is posted on the legislative website.

AAG Esbrook noted that the Board could discuss a possible technical amendment for submission at a later date in the event the Department of Public Health introduces a legislative bill in 2023.

Hayes requested a discussion of the different types of interpreters, e.g., medical, educational, legal, etc., and the certification requirements of each type. She noted her concern about licensure of applicants not meeting these requirements as well as current requirements.

Reports

Board Executive, Sharon Dozier

Dozier reported the administrative rules implementing provisions of House File 2627 are now effective. Dozier stated the amendments to the licensure chapter in the rules are on the agenda for adoption. She stated the Board will need to schedule 2022 meeting dates.

Board Chair, Amanda Gallant

Gallant stated that categories of interpreters and possible Code changes will be included as future agenda items. She noted the inclusion of community interpreters as well as those referenced by Hayes may be considered for licensure requirements.

Bureau Chief, Steve Garrison

Bureau Chief Garrison noted the Board received a waiver request that includes waiving an examination, which is a licensure Code provision. He said the Board's authority does not permit waiver of Code provisions.

Bureau Chief Garrison stated Ms. Maureen Barton was recently hired as the Bureau's investigator.

AAG Report, Jordan Esbrook

AAG Esbrook reported on a recent case under review by the Iowa Supreme Court involving a declaratory order by the Board of Medicine. She noted the lower court ruled confidential investigatory information cannot be stated in the Board's statement of charges or final settlement agreement. AAG Esbrook said it appears the Supreme Court will likely affirm the lower court's decision.

New Business

Agenda items for the next Board meeting:

The license requirements will be reviewed, as referenced by Gallant as Chair.

Administrative Rules

Review for adoption ARC 5281C, Amendment to 645- Chapter 361, Licensure of Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators; adds videoconferencing and remote services, updates application

requirements, adds the BEI advanced certification to the accepted exams, and adds requirements for license reactivation. The Board will consider comments submitted during the public comment period and will vote on adoption.

The Board reviewed the public comments submitted in response to the proposed adoption of administrative rules amending Chapter 361, Licensure of Sign Language Interpreters and Translitterators.

Ms. Deborah Cates stated a 3.5 examination score is not recommended to work without supervision. She proposed an intermediate or higher score on the SLPI or a 2+ or higher score on the ASLPI.

AAG Esbrook noted it is permissible for the Board to include reference to the examinations without the requirement to again notice the administrative rules.

A general discussion followed regarding license requirements, which are determined by the location of the practitioner, i.e., the individual state's laws and rules.

Gallant moved the Board approve the adoption of ARC 5281C, Amendments to 645-Chapter 361, Licensure of Sign Language Interpreters and Translitterators, with the additions recommended by Ms. Cates. ARC 5281C adds videoconferencing and remote services, updates application requirements, adds the BEI advanced certification to the accepted exams, and adds requirements for license reactivation. A second was received by Mingo. All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

Public Comment

In response to Ms. Carsrud's inquiry, Tyrrell stated enforcement of the Board's administrative rules is via the complaint process.

Closed Session Agenda

Gallant moved the Board go into closed session at 9:54 a.m. pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(d) to discuss whether to initiate licensee disciplinary investigations or proceedings. A second was received by Tyrrell. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Gallant – Aye

Mingo – Aye

Tyrrell – Aye

Hayes- Aye.

Motion carried.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 10:42 a.m.

There were no closed session items for Board action in open session.

Future Board Meetings

December 6, 2021

Adjournment

Tyrrell moved the Board adjourn at 10:43 a.m. A second was received by Hayes.
All ayes, nays none, motion carried.

The minutes were approved at the March 21, 2022 board meeting.