

DRAFT



## DEAF SERVICES COMMISSION OF IOWA

Commission Meeting  
Saturday, November 8, 2008  
Altoona Public Library  
Altoona, IA  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**The DSCI Commission Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jan Fletcher at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 8, 2008, Altoona Public Library, Altoona, IA**

Members present: Jan Fletcher, Dr. James Grover, Gus Cordero, Dr. Muhammad Chowdhry, Theresa Legg, Tammy Westhoff Gentry and Walter Reed, Jr.

Staff members present: Kathryn Baumann-Reese, Suzy Mannella, and Linda Scott

Staff members absent: Barbara Jones and Stephanie Lyons

Interpreters: Mary Brandt, Peggy Chicoine and Joe Trelstad

Commissioners, staff and interpreters were introduced and ground rules for the meeting presented.

### **Approval of Minutes from the August 9, 2008 Meeting**

**Motion #09-05:** Legg asked that the minutes be changed to show that the move of CSD offices was not because of flooding, but rather, downsizing of office space.

Move that Minutes stand approved with changes made as requested. **Legg/Cordero**

Approved: 6  
Disapproved: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Motion passed.

### **Commissioner Reports:**

**Legg:** Has seven (7) additional clients, making her caseload 17.

**Grover:** Along with Baumann-Reese made a presentation in Storm Lake this past week to itinerant AEA teachers who work with the deaf on transitioning for deaf and hard of hearing individuals going through high school and transitioning into post secondary training or work. At the request of the Chair, Grover explained AEA and its function.

**Westhoff-Gentry:** Nothing to report.

**Chowdhry:** Nothing to report.

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Fletcher: Attended a coffee chat in the Quad-Cities and invited those in attendance to complete the Hotel/Motel survey. She collected the completed surveys and submitted them to Lyons.

### **Staff Reports:**

Baumann-Reese:

- asked for questions on the reports included in their packets – the financial report, a quarterly report and the Agency Performance Plan report
- discussed the \$23,000 training and technology money and its use for FY09
- talked about the upcoming HDTV informational session through IPTV. November 10<sup>th</sup> session has been cancelled because of lack of registrants. November 22<sup>nd</sup> session is still going to be held
- DSCI's library now has two copies of the DVD, "Audism Unveiled", a portion of which was presented by Beth Benedict at the Deaf Awareness Walk-a-Thon and the Iowa Symposium on Hearing Loss Conference in Ames earlier this fall. Baumann-Reese has a copy of the DVD with her and will show it to anyone interested in staying after the meeting. The DVD can be loaned out and would follow DSCI library rules

Mannella: Is gathering information and talking with possible speakers for a one-day forum on mental health to be held in the spring of 2009. More details will follow as the forum comes together.

### **Public Comment:**

No public comment.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Sign Language Interpreter Licensing Issues:**

At the request of the Commission, Baumann-Reese sent a letter to the Licensure Board asking that they consider two things: 1) that the Department of Public Health's (DPH) downloadable data provided to the public include the examination passed by an interpreter who holds a license by examination; and 2) that the Board pursues reciprocity with surrounding states that meet Iowa's rules. Baumann-Reese will be attending the next DPH Licensure Board meeting to see what happens to this request. A copy of the letter to DPH was enclosed in each Commissioner's packet of information.

### **FY10 Budget:**

Baumann-Reese discussed the status quo budget the Department has been asked to submit to the Department of Management (DOM). DOM recently called the Administrators together and asked "if we could give you an increase, what would you do with it?" Baumann-Reese said she would request \$510,000 for such things as mental health, legal assistance, interpreter continuing education, mentoring, hard of hearing services and youth transition. DHR was sharing this information in an effort to possibly work with other agencies on joint projects, financing, etc. to achieve mutual goals.

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Reed added that DHR will also be looking internally at a number of issue areas that he thinks the Commission might be interested in. One issue being what happens in the deaf and hard of hearing culture with infants from birth to 5 years of age. He will be talking about this same subject to all of the DHR Commissions and it might be possible to get a Commissioner from each of the Commissions who could really get into understanding and accessing early childhood in our culture. The federal government appropriates between \$50-60 million annually and he doesn't know how it affects our children from birth to 5 years of age. Someone on each Commission needs to learn about that and provide their voice to that discussion to make sure that ample resources are available to whatever entities or agencies are serving the deaf and hard of hearing culture, for instance.

He also feels that Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) are important. There is about \$400 million coming into the state to assist communities with disaster relief and there will be jobs related to this assistance such as case management positions, with a number of opportunities becoming available. He's asked DOM how DHR and the Commissions could help in this effort, as well as there be some monetary resources made available for our efforts. He will be talking further with Baumann-Reese to see if there's something that might benefit the Commission financially as well as the good work that's being done.

Baumann-Reese said most of the services DSCI provides are done without charge, because if you charge for the advocacy services we provide, nobody is going to want them and you're never going to get things to happen for your constituency group. We need to come up with other products and services that we can charge for that will supplement or offset the cost of providing the free services. She feels that the free services are important, but we need to come up with other things that can be done for which we can be reimbursed.

In recent years, DSCI has worked with IWD, VR, Department for the Blind (DOB) and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) on several projects and received additional funding from the agencies for our work. DSCI is always looking for ways bring in additional funds, or to tap into funding that other agencies have, where we could provide a valuable service for them, but help to support what DSCI is doing as well.

Cordero would also like to take a look at providing resources to those who lack an education when it comes to everyday needs after they've graduated. Many times students graduate from high school and they're not prepared for everyday life skills and he would like something out there to help them transition into adult life.

Baumann-Reese would really encourage the Commission to think about transition as an ongoing process. Research has shown that 75% of all the knowledge that we've learned throughout our lives has happened incidentally. Only 25% of our knowledge is actually learned in a formal setting. So children who are deaf or hard of hearing are missing out on those incidental experiences.

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With deaf and hard of hearing babies, there is a requirement, under law, to do the newborn screening when the child is born. If a baby is identified with a hearing loss, then they are referred to the state's "early access program". Then "early access" will connect with the AEA or an audiologist who can work with that family. Iowa has a program with funding for training called "Guide by Your Side". The purpose of "Guide by Your Side" is a program for parents and deaf adults, hard of hearing adults who become role models to work with that family in regard to that child's hearing loss. Parents then aren't just hearing about the medical perspective, they hear the human side as a parent, too. The parents will see that there are role models out there who are deaf or hard of hearing members of society who are functioning quite well in the hearing world, and will give them satisfaction that their child will be just fine. A former Commissioner, Kathy Miller, is working with this program. Parents only hear how to fix the ear, how to get them to hear, we're trying to educate the family and children about everyday life issues.

### **New Business:**

#### **Certified Deaf Interpreter Training:**

Baumann-Reese: Attended a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) Training about a month ago. There were about 25 attendees. There are no CDIs in the state of Iowa right now. DSCI gets calls asking for one, but we have to refer them to the states of Minnesota or Illinois and feels that we should sponsor a training.

Fletcher asked whether CDIs were required to take interpreter training classes, get a degree, certification, etc. as a sign language interpreter does?

Baumann-Reese said they were not right now because there are only a few programs in the United States that are formal degree programs for CDIs. Right now before they can take a test, they have to have 16 hours of documented training and then apply for written examination. Once they've passed the written exam they are eligible to take the performance test. CDIs work along side hearing interpreters and their purpose is that they have the native language of the deaf client and it's hoped that the target language will be a better match. There are several people who've initiated training; they've started that process but have not yet tested in order to receive a certification. Legg is asking if DSCI would be interested or willing to be involved in establishing more training for people in Iowa. We've been approached by RID to collaborate together and Baumann-Reese told them that the subject would be brought up at this meeting and then she would be in contact with RID thereafter.

Grover wondered about certification requirements if DSCI got involved.

Baumann-Reese reiterated that 16 hours of training is the minimum that's required by RID before the interpreter can test. There are specific things that are required. We understand from the CDI meeting last month, a high percentage of people who are taking the test are not passing and part of the reason for that is that they're only doing the minimum required. They'll take the 16 hour workshop and take the test, but Lyons will tell you that she's already started studying all the recommended materials, and she's

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finding it's going to take a year or more to prepare. There's a written examination covering historical information about the field, a lot of philosophy about interpretation and how things work, ethical considerations, etc. Suggested reference materials to study, and found in our library, are very similar to what hearing interpreters have to study and it's quite extensive.

The Commissioners were also reminded that the deaf don't have formal training programs available. The hearing interpreters have been in classrooms, they've read the tests, they're familiar with the terminology and the vocabulary and how to describe it. People who are deaf have those language competencies, but they don't necessarily have the base that goes with interpreting, how to describe what's being done, how to understand what is an appropriate thing to do or not to do. All of those nuances. The other challenge, is matching the individual that you're interpreting to with their language needs. Additional discussion took place on the specific needs of the deaf and deaf-blind community.

DSCI supports an informational session about CDI and we're able to collaborate with ISRID to provide the session at the Conference, but now we see that there's an interest and people would like to see it continued and they want more training, so now the question is, "do we continue with this or not?" She asked for the Commission's recommendation.

Grover asked if there would be any additional costs associated with this session?

Baumann-Reese indicated that there could be because we would have to bring in presenters to set up training. Right now, she doesn't know what those costs would be, but would like to sit down with ISRID and other interested individuals and agencies/organizations to possibly write out a plan of what needs to be done and as long as she has the OK from the Commission would go ahead and work with them and come up with a plan and, hopefully, present an outline and cost at the February meeting, and to get the Commission's approval if there were additional expenses.

**Motion #09-06:** Suggest that the Administrator collect all the information and costs associated with a CDI training session to be presented at the next DSCI Commission meeting in February, 2009, where a formal decision will be made. **Cordero/Legg**

Approved: 6  
Disapproved: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Motion passed

### **2008 Junior Commissioners' Recommendations:**

Baumann-Reese: Each year the Junior Commissioners make recommendations to the Commission and this year, they picked three (3) recommendations and prioritized them. They are:

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- 1) theaters would have captioned movies, not limited to one day a week but rather, they wanted a variety of days the movie would be made available
- 2) recommended that medical training programs include deaf culture training. They want to see doctors, nurses, other medical personnel made aware of deaf culture and communication issues. They aren't specifying a particular medical program, but do want to see the training programs include deaf culture
- 3) would like to see visual screens set up that are touch screens to be used when making purchases. As an example, fast food drive-thrus, grocery stores and fresh meat counters.

Because there wasn't a quorum of Commissioners at Camp, the Commission now needs to formally adopt their recommendations, to be incorporated into the Annual Report.

**Motion #09-07:** Recommend that we accept the three (3) 2008 Junior Commissioner recommendations. **Fletcher/Legg**

Discussion:

Grover: Asked how the Commission would implement the recommendations.

Baumann-Reese advised that they would be implemented through the Performance Plan. Today the Commission will formally acknowledge the recommendations from the Junior Commissioners and accept them. It's a way to report back to the Junior Commissioners that their recommendations have been heard and will be used when doing our planning. Junior Commissioners can, and do, influence the work that we do.

Approved: 6  
Disapproved: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Motion passed

**Election of Officers:**

Fletcher: Called for recommendations for Chair of the Commission.

**Motion #09-08:** Nominated Theresa Legg to be Chair for 2009-2010. **Cordero/Grover**

Legg accepts the nomination.

Fletcher: There being no further nominations, Chair called for nominations to cease and voting to take place.

Approved: 5  
Disapproved: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Motion passed.

Fletcher: Called for recommendations for Vice-Chair.

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**Motion #09-09:** Nominated Dr. James Grover to be Vice-Chair for 2009-2010.  
**Legg/Cordero**

Grover accepts the nomination.

Fletcher: There being no further nominations, Chair called for nominations to cease and voting to take place.

Approved: 5

Disapproved: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion passed.

### Announcements:

Baumann-Reese asked that the February and May 2009 Commission meetings be placed on the calendar. Subsequent meetings will be planned out at the May meeting. Saturday, February 14, 2009 is set for the February meeting and Scott will try to reserve Altoona Library for that meeting. Friday, May 8, 2009 will be the date for the Planning Meeting to be held in Independence. Friday has been selected instead of Saturday since that weekend is Mother's Day weekend and a majority of the Commissioners did not want to travel on the 9th. Chowdhry suggested that the May meeting be held in Independence. Commission accepted his invitation.

Before adjournment, Baumann-Reese reminded everyone that the DVD on audism would be made available to anyone who wanted to stay and watch it.

There being no further business, Commission meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

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Theresa Legg, Chair

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Linda A. Scott, Secretary