

**Deaf Services Commission of Iowa
Iowa Department of Human Rights**

**Commission Meeting – May 8, 2009
OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Old Business

1. FY10 Budget Update and FY11 Budget Request–

Kathryn Baumann-Reese will provide an update on current and next budget.

2. DHR Strategic Planning–

The Department of Human Rights is undertaking strategic planning for the entire agency. This is new for the department and each division and staff is being involved in the process. This process is important to demonstrating the value of each of our constituencies and the services we provide.

3. Certified Deaf Interpreter Training –

Several individuals in Iowa have completed required training to take the national Certified Deaf Interpreter examination. In addition, several of them also took the exam in June. These people have asked DSCI and ISRID to facilitate study group/s to support individuals to pass the examination. We are currently working with ISRID to develop this training.

4. Temporarily Licensed Sign Language Interpreters –

At the June 19, 2009 meeting the Commission was told that the law and rules related to sign language interpreter temporary licensing was reviewed by the Attorney General's Office. The Governor's Office and Attorney General's Office announced that those interpreters who received a temporary license in 2005 or 2006 would have the opportunity to renew their licenses for one additional cycle through 2011. Initially the Licensing Board believed that the law would no longer allow these individuals to renew. The Commission asked to review this decision at this meeting.

New Business

1. 2009 JCP Junior Commissioner Recommendations –

The 2009 JCP Junior Commissioners made the following recommendations at the Commission Meeting on Friday, June 19, 2009 at Dolliver State Park in Lehigh, Iowa.

- Hotels should have visual alarms and videophones; alarms in hotels should be vibrating for the doorbell and alarm clocks; equipment should be kept in the hotel office and made available to Deaf customers
- Hotels that have WiFi should have videophones for Deaf for video communication purposes. WiFi access should be unlimited for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people because they depend on it for access to communication
- The state should establish Deaf Parking Permits in front of buildings
- All sporting events/activities should have some kind of signal to stop the game or practice because players can't hear the coach or referee's whistle.
- All public phones, including those in schools, should have videophones

Additional recommendations not formally presented include:

- Captioning at movie theaters and in schools

- Classes to help people who can hear understand Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Sign language offered as a foreign language in high school and college
- A special remote for captioning in motels/hotels
- Public places should have some classes that help Deaf and Hard of Hearing people

2. Issues Committees Meet and Report Out –

The Commission established committees to develop and implement plans to address the seven critical issues identified by the Commission. This agenda item will allow time for Commission and staff to meet by committee on these issues and then report out. Committees include:

Culturally Affirmative Mental Health Services/Substance Abuse Education and Aftercare Services: Dr. Muhammad Chowdhry / Barb Jones

Accessible Legal Representation: Tammy Westhoff-Gentry / Stephanie Lyons

Access to Information and Services Through the Use of Technology: DSCI staff

Licensed Sign Language Interpreters Meeting Competency Standards:
Jan Fletcher and Theresa Legg / Stephanie Lyons and Kathryn Baumann-Reese

Opportunities for Youth to Prepare for Employment and Adult Life: Gus Cordero / Suzy Mannella

Services that Specifically Address Issues for Those Who Lose Their Hearing Later in Life: Dr. Jim Grover / Kathryn Baumann-Reese