

**NC Interpreter and Transliterater Licensing Board
Friday, March 26, 2021 – Zoom**

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Board Members Present: Jim Sewell, Pam Smith, Dave Litman, Kevin Earp, Jeff Trader, Beverly Woodel, Lauren Pruett, Donnie Dove, Cheryl White-Smith

Board Members absent:

Staff present: Caitlin Schwab-Falzone and John Green

Interpreters: Emily Jones, Mark Lineberger, Kirk Fowler, Candy Thomas (CART)

General Public Present: Liz Robertson, Megan Motley-MacCall, Decie Shumate, Makayla Radford, Shinea Koon, Krystal Streeter, Antwan Campbell, Jennifer Boyd, Gabriella Smith, Emily Spivey, Abby Quick, Pam King, Lee Williamson, Bethany Hamm-Whitfield, Jennifer Banner, Jett Butterworth

Called to order: 10:04 am

Conflict of interest statement read; no conflicts heard.

With 8 voting Board members present a quorum was established. Cheryl joined the call later on during the meeting and brought the quorum up to 9 voting members.

Welcome and Introductions

Jim did a brief welcome

DPI Update

Jim recognized Antwan Campbell and Antwan gave a brief update. DPI is moving forward with a proposal and it will be in place January 1, 2022. There will be new standards for the school system interpreters. The new standard will be a 3.3 on the EIPA with the goal of increasing to a 3.5 within 2 years. If you have a 4.0 or higher it will increase your pay. Antwan gave some more information about Cued Language Transliterators. When the vote does happen, this proposal will become a rule, and that will make it more enforceable, so that there will be consequences for schools that do not follow this new rule.

Jim asked about DPI still wanting to move forward with getting educational interpreters included in the law.

Antwan said they still want to move forward with having educational interpreters added to the law and discussed specific details of what this could look like in the future.

The Board asked questions about the proposal Antwan had mentioned. Different scenarios of when the educational interpreter would have to be licensed were discussed. Antwan talked about possibly having specific settings mentioned in the law (in the future) that would dictate what setting educational interpreters could interpret in. Jeff asked a question about who will be “policing” educational interpreters and making sure they are qualified, and who will be working with the DeafBlind educational

1 interpreters to make sure they are qualified to be a DeafBlind interpreter. Antwan said that when the
2 educational interpreters are included in the law he and the Board would be responsible for “policing”.
3 The Board discussed different scenarios and the possible outcomes for the rule Antwan talked about.
4 Jim thanked Antwan for his input and let him know if the Board can do anything to support their efforts
5 to please let us know.

DSDHH Pilot Program to reimburse Medicaid providers for communication access services

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7 Dave talked about this program that would assist health care providers with communication access.
8 Dave gave more background about the program and what the reimbursement program would involve.
9 The goal is to make sure that the patient has equal communication access for medical appointments.
10 Hearing sign language interpreters, Deaf interpreters, tactile interpreters, CART, and several other types
11 of interpreters would be covered under this program. This would also cover VRI/remote or in person
12 interpreters. There are also resources to help get this information out to the community and connect
13 them to their local Deaf resource centers if they need help getting access to this program. Providers
14 only need to register with DSDHH to be part of this program. This program is available right now.
15 Dave addressed questions that people had about this program. The Board discussed this program and
16 the different items Dave mentioned.

Approval of Minutes

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18 Lauren asked the Board members to review the minutes from the November 13, 2020 and the January
19 11, 2021 (Special Board Meeting) Board meeting and let us know if there were any edits.

**Motion March 2021-01 (Pruett/Woodel) I move we approve the Board meeting minutes from
November 13, 2020 and January 11, 2021 as written Lauren, second Beverly. No discussion. All in
favor. Motion carries.**

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LRC Report

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22 Donnie gave a brief LRC report; there is one open complaint case, an open background check, and a
23 provisional extension request (PER) that was denied, and it was appealed. The LRC will be meeting on
24 April 6 to discuss these open items.

25 The LRC talked a little more about the appeal process and how the process would flow.

26 *Break 11:00 am*

27 *Reconvened 11:13 am*

Financial Report

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29 *Financials thru February 28, 2021*

1 Dave reviewed the financials and some specific line items that the Board is remaining within budget.

2 *Audit report 2019-2020*

3 Dave talked about possibly moving some of the cash on hand the Board has and moving it to a CD so the
4 Board could gain some interest on their money. John recommended that we check with the state
5 treasurer's office to make sure the Board can have an interest-bearing account. Dave pointed out some
6 specifics in the audit for the Board.

7 *Jim asked if anyone in the audience (general public) had questions. No questions were heard.*

8 **Legal Update**

9 *Rulemaking*

10 John talked about the rule that has been working through the rulemaking process. This rule would allow
11 licensees to take all of their CEUs online due to the pandemic. There was a temporary rule last year and
12 the Board could not do another temporary rule. The Board has a rule that would allow for online CEUs
13 to be obtained for some specific years for renewal, and after those years the rule would no longer be
14 valid. John commented that due to the pandemic the number of in person workshops is very low or
15 nonexistent. The public comment period is open for 60 days, the public comment period will close April
16 16. The Board must review the public comment and respond accordingly. The Board will have to meet
17 after the comment period closes (after April 16, 2021) to meet to review the comments and to vote to
18 move forward with the rule. John mentioned the Board has to submit this rule to OAH and the RRC by
19 April 20 so that the rule can be heard at the May RRC meeting. John talked about needing to have
20 surgery on April 19 and that his colleague Bethany Burgin will be on the Board meeting and assisting the
21 Board for a little while John is out. John hopes to be back at work by early May.

22 *Legislature Update*

23 John talked about a few bills that are out there right now that could affect the Board's, but he is waiting
24 to see how far these bills get in the legislature. A lot of bills are introduced each year, but a fraction of
25 the bills become law. John will continue to monitor the legislature for any bills that mention this Board
26 specifically or could influence this Board.

27 *Rulemaking cont'd*

28 John read the proposed rule that is posted on the Board's website.

29 ***Proposed Addition to Rule 21 NCAC 25 .0501:***

30 Add paragraph (e), which states, "(e) For the 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 licensure years
31 only, the Board waives the in-person course requirements of Paragraph (a) and licensees may take all of
32 their CEUs for those licensure years electronically. However, this waiver shall not apply to any surplus
33 CEUs earned during the 2023-24 licensure year and sought by the licensee to be carried over to the
34 2024-25 licensure year."

35 **Central Office Report**

NCITLB Central Office Report (as of March 25, 2021 at 11:00 AM)

Type of License	Number of Licensees (March 2021)	Percentage (March 2021)	Number of Licensees (May 2020*)	Percentage (May 2020)
Full	352	64%	356	65%
Grandfathered	39	7%	42	8%
Provisional	161	29%	150	27%
Total Number	552	100%	548	100%

1 *March 2020 meeting postponed until May 2020 due to COVID-19.

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3 **Licenses issued since last Board meeting (November 13, 2020): 16**

4 **Full: 4**

5 Qualified for licensure by:

6 RID Certification: **4** (100%)

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8 **Provisional: 12**

9 Qualified for licensure by:

10 DSDHH DI Program: **1** (8.33%)

11 2-year degree: **7** (58%)

12 EIPA score of 3 or above: **2** (17%)

13 Accumulated Hours: **1** (8.33%)

14 Recognized Credential from another state: **1** (8.33%)

15 **Licenses Pending Issue: 4** (2 provisional and 2 full)

School	Number of Licensees
UNC Greensboro	24
Wilson Community College	10
Central Piedmont Community College	9
Blue Ridge Community College	8
Western Piedmont Community College	7
Gardner Webb University	4
Cape Fear Community College	2
Columbus State Community College	2
Gallaudet University	2

Rochester Institute of Technology	2
William Woods University	2
California State University	1
Camden County CC	1
Cincinnati State Tech and Comm College	1
Community College of Baltimore County	1
John Logan College	1
Mohawk Valley CC	1
Piedmont International University	1
Siena Heights University	1
St Louis Community College	1
University of Louisville	1
University of New Mexico	1
University of Southern Florida	1
Total	84

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2 **Comments:**

3 While out on maternity leave (December 2020 – March 3, 2021) Cyndi and Shannon handled
 4 Board business and reached out to me or John when needed. All items we handled in a timely
 5 manner.

6 Jim asked Caitlin to relay how thankful the Board is to Cyndi and Shannon for their help while she was
 7 out.

8 Caitlin talked about the LRC appointees and that new LRC appointees can be put in place at the June
 9 meeting.

10 Caitlin reached out to the Board members who are expiring and let them know the process for coming
 11 off the Board and for new Board members to come on the Board.

12 John talked about the statute (93D) naming the specific qualifications of the various Board members.

13 Kevin talked about the ethics liaison position and Caitlin talked about making sure all Board members
 14 completed their SEI form filing.

Review of Action Items

#	Owner(s)	Description	Report/Due date	Status
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1	Jeff and Lauren	Ad hoc committee to determine what other options to revise in the statute to recognize for full licensure. Pam King, Jim Sewell, and Pat Hauser will help with that committee.	March 26, 2021	
2	Donnie and Caitlin	To the new “how to file a complaint video” (to be added to website) Add captioning, voiceover, and transcript posted on the website for transliterators, the DB community, so everyone can have access to the information.	March 26, 2021	
3	Dave, Lauren, Beverly Kevin to assist when needed but not on committee	Forum Committee to help put together the structure of what forums would look like.	March 26, 2021	
4	Cheryl and Caitlin	Determine the communications method of reaching out to communicate Board meetings and forums	March 26, 2021	
Ongoing action items				
Kevin and Donnie		Subcommittee to have open communication with DSDHH for community outreach.		
Pam and Lauren		Ad hoc committee set up to work with DPI to work toward changes for education interpreters.		
Caitlin		Caitlin to compile information about how many of each provisional year there are, and to track the schools that they are from.		
Caitlin		Report information to the Board about the institutions/schools that provisional licensees are coming from.		

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2 Action Item #1 Jeff and Lauren reported about the committee. The committee is working toward finding
3 a legislative contact to help find a sponsor for a bill that would include revisions to the statute. Jeff gave
4 a synopsis of the last committee meeting and what has been done since the last Board meeting. Jeff
5 talked about the committee reviewing other certifying exams and waiting to see what RID will do in
6 recognizing other certifying bodies. John drafted language that was shared at the November 13, 2020
7 meeting for the Board’s review. Jeff talked about if the Board decided to act, they would have to secure
8 a sponsor for the bill with the proposed language to be reviewed in the current legislative session. John
9 reviewed the bill language that he helped draft for possibilities to open licensure. The Board would have
10 to get approval though the rulemaking process to implement rules if the proposed statute changes are
11 approved by the legislature.

12 Jeff said they have identified four things they want to put in front of the legislature, specifically the
13 definition of “transliterator”, change the Board member qualification from “cued speech” to “cued
14 language”, three to limit the number of extensions of provisional licensees, and the last one, to stipulate
15 what assignments an interpreter can take.

1 John talked about possible next steps for the Board. The proposed changes would be a bill and would
2 have to be introduced by a legislator.

3 The Board discussed how they want to move forward and possible changes to the statute. The Board
4 also talked about the suggested items and that some have heard positive feedback on the discussion to
5 potential of opening up licensure.

6 Lauren had to leave the meeting at 12:39 pm

7 John talked about the steps as follows: selecting a legislative liaison, coming up with the language
8 changes to the statute, and determine exactly what the Board wants to change.

9 The Board would like the committee to move forward and bring draft language back to the Board to
10 review and approve.

11 Action Item #2 on going. Updates have been made to the website, and there is more to be done with
12 the video some items have been done.

13 Action item #3 Nothing to report currently.

14 Action item #4 Caitlin and Cheryl to discuss this item and talked about the Board following the statute
15 about public notice.

16 Ongoing. Kevin talked about being contacted to do a presentation in Wilmington through Zoom.

17 All other ongoing actions items are still open and ongoing.

18 **I move we adjourn Beverly.**

19 Adjourned 12:56 pm