

**NC Interpreter and Transliterater Licensing Board
Friday, December 6, 2024 – Cary, NC – 10 am**

1 Board present: Beverly Woodel, Pam White, Dianne Shearer, Herbie Aguilar, Ashley Gordon, Mark
2 Lineberger (Zoom), Nicole Alleman

3 Board absent: Alicia Griffin, Lynn Cooper

4 Interpreters: Lee Williamson, Kirk Fowler, Karen Magoon, Brian Tipton, Nicki Fox, Shana Batchelor (SSP),
5 Candy Thomas (CART)

6 Members of the public (Zoom): Mikaylah Burgis, Hannah Davenport, Honour Patrick, Abigail Baker,
7 Jaylen Ward, Kathleen Speckhard, Kelle Owens, Margaret Herder-Hill, Matt Baccari, Novalee Leone,
8 Rachyl Petracca, Tanya Miller, Paige Sprinkle, Mari Johnson, Kaylee Schenck, Bre Hughes

9 In person: David Payne, Josie Maila, Caroline Bolin

10 Called to order: 10:12 am

11 Conflict of interest statement read, and no conflicts heard.

12 With 7 Board members present a quorum was established.

Introductions and Welcome

13 The Board went around the room and introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

14

Motion December 2024-01 (Aguilar/Alleman) I move we approve the meeting minutes from August 9, 2024 as written Herbie, second Nicole. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.

15

Legislative Liaison Report

16 Mark gave a brief report about his recent actions regarding educational interpreters and potentially
17 requiring them to be licensed. The Board has done more research on the current state of educational
18 interpreters in NC and the Board is ready to work toward the change to require licensees to be licensed
19 in an educational setting.

20 DPI requires that by July 2025 all educational interpreters must have at least a 3.5 or above on the EIPA.
21 Which means if they have a 3.5 on the EIPA then they could qualify for a provisional license as long as
22 they have that two year degree.

23 The Board will have to work out the details for educational interpreters to be included in the law. An
24 issue that may be present is that a current educational interpreter may have held a provisional license,
25 and it can only be issued one time. If that license lapses and is lapses for a year or more, you cannot get
26 another provisional license again. Caitlin has run the numbers and there are around 500 lapsed
27 provisional licensees (since 2005) and there are around 250 educational interpreters. There will be
28 some overlap in the lapsed provisional licensees and current educational interpreters. The Board will
29 need to see about options for previously licensed provisional licensees who lapsed and still had some
30 renewals left on their license and moved to education due to not needing a license. The most important

1 thing to remember is the access to communication for students is paramount. Dianne and Mark will be
2 working to schedule a meeting with DPI in the next few weeks. Mark has some meetings lined up with
3 legislators to discuss the changes to the statute in the next few weeks. He also has meetings with some
4 school districts in the next few weeks.

5 Discussion of what it could look like to “grandfather” educational interpreters who have been working in
6 the system for a very long time. The most important thing to consider is where we set the standard.
7 We have to figure out ways to make it all connect, and it will be tough to figure out how we make the
8 goals align and how it will benefit the most people involved.

9 Ashley brought up the point of having options for Cued Language Interpreters as well, there is no two-
10 year degree for cueing.

11 Discussion about options for adding options for Cued Language Transliterators who interpret in
12 education currently and what the requirements could be for Cued Language Transliterators versus ASL
13 interpreters.

14 Discussion about a language facilitator versus an interpreter for the hiring entities and what is currently
15 happening in the educational settings right now. Pam gave more information about current terminology
16 for “language facilitator” and the meaning currently in the school system. DPI has worked to remove
17 that term “language facilitator” as a term used, and that they are not being used to sign to the students.
18 DPI has defined the terms for interpreter and language facilitator to make sure the difference is clear.

19 *200 hours requirement in statute*

20 The 200 hours per year for a total of 400 hours over the last two years is something that I want to look
21 at further, I don’t want people to get in with that and not having to take an assessment for a license.

22 *VRI*

23 The current statute does not mention VRI and I want to look into this further to see about possibly
24 requiring this for interpreters. I don’t have an answer about where we should go with this, but I do
25 know the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing recently had this on their agenda for discussion.

26 Discussion of VRS versus VRI and VRS is regulated by the FCC and that falls under their federal laws.

27 The Council sent the Board a letter requesting information about what the Board requires for VRI. The
28 Council is drafting a formal letter as a response to the Board’s letter regarding VRI.

29 Discussion of possibly adding an EIPA score (4.1 or higher for example) to qualify for a full license.

Possible Board Member Removal

30 Ben discussed that the Board member Lynn Cooper was not present today and has been absent from
31 the Board meetings since December 2023. The NC General Assembly sent an update yesterday
32 (12/5/2024) that Tara Knight has been appointed as the public member of the Board, and that Lynn
33 Cooper was removed from the Board by the General Assembly. The Board would need to take no
34 further action due to her being replaced by the General Assembly.

LRC Report

1 Dianne did a report out of the recent cases the LRC has reviewed. We have received 4 complaints since
2 the last Board meeting. The LRC has discussed increasing the fines for violations of the law and
3 penalties that can be assessed.

4 One case involved an interpreter who was interpreting without a license and also representing
5 themselves as a licensed interpreter. This person was fined.

6 There was another case about an interpreter not being qualified to interpret.

7 There was another case of someone else who didn't have a license and an agency sent this person to
8 interpret. We are waiting on the information from the agency to get in touch with the person.

9 Pam discussed the current fines, and the first level of fines is \$100, we need to increase the minimum
10 fines for each offense.

11 Ben talked about the statute setting the maximum of \$1,000, but the schedule of penalties is in the rules
12 (21 NCAC 25 .0701) outlines the fines as \$100 for first offense, \$200 for second offense, \$400 for third,
13 and \$800 for the fourth.

14 Discussion about what other licensing Boards in NC assess as penalties.

15 Discussion about the number of complaints that come in each year that are related to unlicensed
16 practice. The exact statistics are hard to determine because we can only work off of the complaints we
17 receive, there are most likely people out there interpreting without a license all over the state.

18 *Break 11:34 am*

19 *Reconvened 11:49 am*

Financial Report

20 Ashely pointed out that there are two reports, financials through September 30, 2024 and financials
21 through October 31, 2024. September 30 is the Board's fiscal year end so that shows a complete fiscal
22 year for the Board.

23 Caitlin pointed this out to the Board so the reports made a little more sense as to why the September
24 report income was so high and October looks very low.

DPI Update

25

26 There is no update at this time.

Central Office Report

27 **NCITLB Central Office Report (December 3, 2024, as of 9:45 am)**

Type of License	Number of Licensees (December 2024)	Percentage (December 2024)	Number of Licensees (December 2023)	Percentage (December 2023)
Full	340	79%	340	72%

Grandfathered	28	6%	28	6%
Provisional	64	15%	104	22%
Total Number	432	100%	472	100%

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Licenses issued since last Board meeting (August 9, 2024)		11
Qualified for <u>full</u> license by		
RID Certification	4	100%
Cued Language Certificate	0	0%
Total Full Licenses Issued	4	100%
Qualified for <u>provisional</u> licensure by		
2-year degree & EIPA score of 3.5 or above EIPA Scores for the issued licenses: 3.6, 4.0, 4.1	3	43%
Accumulated Hours	1	14%
DSDHH DI Program	1	14%
Recognized credential from another state	2	29%
Total Provisional Licenses Issued	7	100%
Licenses pending to be issued	4 (1 full and 3 provisional)	

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School	Total Current Licensees
UNC Greensboro	14
Wilson Com College	10
Blue Ridge Community College	2
Gardner Webb	2
Western PCC	2
Central Piedmont CC	2
Broward College	1
Cape Fear CC	1
Carolina University	1
Community College of Philadelphia	1

Kent State University	1
Northeastern University	1
Troy University	1
University of Texas at Austin	1
Williams Woods University	1
Total	41

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2 **Comments:**

- 3 • Total lapsed licenses from the 2024 renewal season:

License Type	2024	2023	2022	2021
Full	27	20	28	28
Grandfathered	0	5	3	2
Provisional	37	57	46	28
Total	64	82	77	58

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- 5 • Total number of provisional licensees who were able to be granted the EIPA time limited
6 grace period due to the delay in grading – 1
- 7 • Total number of provisional extension requests received and granted this renewal year –
8 12
- 9 • Many of the provisional licensees who needed to come up to the new standards (set in
10 statute and effective December 1, 2023), submitted proof of a new EIPA score, or
11 submitted proof of 200 hours per year totaling 400 hours for the last two years.

12 **Symposium 2025 Update**

12 Mark presented the information that he and Caitlin have worked on a few weeks ago.

13 The location for the symposium will be UNCG in 2025, space and AV is free, the Board does cover
14 parking for everyone for each day, that cost was around \$250 last year for parking, and there was a
15 cleaning fee for the symposium.

16 Discussion of the possible agenda for the symposium. Topics for speakers are still in the works.

17 The committee (Mark and Alycia) will work on speakers and Caitlin will handle logistics.

18 Mark briefly went over the proposed budget and the rational for each item.

19 *Lunch break 12:33 pm*

1 Reconvened 1:13 pm

Permanent Rulemaking

2 Caitlin gave an overview of the comment received.

3 "There are no resources this Board provides related to the BEI or the EIPA."

Motion December 2024-02 (Lineberger/Aguilar) I move we adopt the permanent rule (21 NCAC 25 .0202) as written to the Rules Review Commission (RRC) for the next steps in the process to becoming permanent Mark, second Herbie. Some minor discussion regarding the qualifications. All in favor. Motion carries.

4

Review of Action Items

5

#	Owner(s)	Description	Report/Due date	Status
1	Mark, Pam White, Ashley, Dianne	Committee to determine revisions to be made to the law (GS 90D).	December 2, 2024	
2	Mark and Dianne	Board members appointed to the DPI committee to be part of the discussion to help determine licensure for educational interpreters.	December 2, 2024	
3	Caitlin	Caitlin to look into higher interest-bearing account.	December 2, 2024	
4	Caitlin	Caitlin to check with the location in Cary to ensure microphones are improved.	December 2, 2024	
5	Mark and Alicia	Symposium location and speakers update.	December 2, 2024	
Ongoing action items				
	Mark and Alicia	Subcommittee to have open communication with DSDHH for community outreach.		
	Caitlin	Continue to compile: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schools provisional licensees are obtaining degrees from • current licensee EIPA scores. • When provisional licensees move up to full 		
	Caitlin	Work on updates to the website.		

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7 Action item #1 Committee was unable to meet between the August meeting and now.

8 Action item #2 Mark reported on earlier in the meeting.

9 Action item #3 Caitlin let the Board know the Board has some options to invest their money in a CD but
10 there is not an account where the Board can invest their money.

11 Action item #4 Caitlin checked with the venue and they said the microphones are all working.

12 *Caitlin to book the Wake Tech location in February 2025, and work toward the other location in Durham*
13 *as well.*

- 1 Action item #5 Talked about the symposium earlier in the meeting.
 - 2 All ongoing action items are still ongoing.
 - 3 Caitlin commented that she will schedule a meeting with the platform for renewal (Certemy)
- | |
|------------------------------|
| New Business (if any) |
|------------------------------|
- 4 Mark talked about the action item about partnering with DSDHH and the Board.
 - 5 Mark had a question about the central office report and posting that to the website. The Board agreed
 - 6 that would be a good option.
 - 7 The Board would like Caitlin to be posting the central office report on the website.
 - 8 Nicole brought up the comment about Dianne saying that we should send a survey to licensees about
 - 9 what they want to learn about at the symposium in 2025. Mark commented that he has the survey
 - 10 information from last year.
 - 11 I move we adjourn, Mark, second Ashley.
 - 12 Adjourned 2:15 pm