

**NC Interpreter and Transliterater Licensing Board**  
**Friday, February 28, 2025 – Durham, NC – 10 am**

Board Present: Nicole Alleman, Herbie Aguilar, Pam White, Dianne Shearer, Beverly Woodel, Alicia Griffin, Mark Lineberger, Tara Knight

Board Member Absent: Ashley Gordon

Staff present: Caitlin Schwab and Ben Busch

Interpreters: Lee Williamson, Karen Magoon, Brian Tipton, Nicki Fox, Stephen Holland, Brant (SSP)

General public present: David Payne, Kadin Lineberger, Matthew Lineberger, Sara Barbera, Matt Baccari, Hannah Davenport, Bethany Wagner, Kelle Owens, Jolene Crooks, Kathleen Speckhardt, Michelle Perry, Bre Hughes, Dana B, Some Stanley, Novalee Leone, Mayah Dozier-Lineberger, Maria Lord, Mikaylah Burgis, Christina Armfield, Caroline Bolin, Reginald Holley, Paige Sprinkle

With 8 Board members present a quorum was established.

Called or order 10:06 am

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

**Introductions and Welcome**

The Board went around and did introductions. Tara did a brief introduction of herself, she is the new public member of the Board.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion February 2025-01 (Alleman/Griffin)** I move we approve the meeting minutes from the December 6, 2024 Board Meeting as written, Nicole, second Alicia. No discussion. All in favor. Motion Carries.

**LRC Report**

The committee recently met and reviewed the open complaints. The committee will meet again to discuss any remaining open matters once we have more information, and one matter has been closed.

**Financial Report**

Due to Ashley bring absent from this meeting, Caitlin gave the report of the financials through January 31, 2025. The Board had some questions about specific line items related to the symposium that were addressed.

Central Office Report

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**NCITLB Central Office Report** (February 26, 2025, as of 1:10 pm)

| Type of License | Number of Licensees<br>(February 2025) | Percentage<br>(February 2025) | Number of Licensees<br>(February 2024) | Percentage<br>(February 2024) |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Full            | 349                                    | 79%                           | 344                                    | 73%                           |
| Grandfathered   | 28                                     | 6%                            | 28                                     | 6%                            |
| Provisional     | 66                                     | 15%                           | 97                                     | 21%                           |
| Total Number    | 443                                    | 100%                          | 469                                    | 100%                          |

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|  |                   |      |
|--|-------------------|------|
| Licenses issued since last Board meeting (December 6, 2024)                            |                   | 9    |
| Qualified for <u>full</u> license by   |                   |      |
| RID Certification  | 7                 | 100% |
| Cued Language Certificate  | 0                 | 0%   |
| Total Full Licenses Issued   | 7                 | 100% |
| Qualified for <u>provisional</u> licensure by  |                   |      |
| 2-year degree & EIPA score of 3.5 or above<br>EIPA Scores for the issued licenses: 4.1 | 1                 | 50%  |
| Accumulated Hours  | 1                 | 50%  |
| DSDHH DI Program   | 0                 | 0%   |
| Recognized credential from another state   | 0                 | 0%   |
| Total Provisional Licenses Issued  | 2                 | 100% |
| Licenses pending to be issued  | 1 (1 provisional) |      |

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| School             | Total Current Licensees |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| UNC Greensboro     | 16                      |
| 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         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>41</b> |

## Comments:

- Temporary rule (25 NCAC 21 .0202) is now a permanent rule. It became effective February 1, 2025.

- Business as usual in the office.

Caitlin commented that that several of the full licensees who were issued a license don't live in NC.

Dianne commented that there has been a new person hired to work with the DSDHH Deaf Interpreter Mentor Program so we should start seeing more applicants there.

## Symposium 2025 Update

Mark gave an update on the symposium and the speakers he has lined up. The speakers will each present separately and then in jointly in the afternoon.

*Break 10:59 am*

*Reconvened 11:12 am*

## Legislative Liaison Report

*Presentation to the NC Council for the Deaf and hard of Hearing*

Mark gave some background on his presentation to the NC Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and showed his presentation to the Board. This presentation was an overview of the Board, the rules, the statute, and the policies.

Mark had a slide about how to file a complaint, and Bev commented that the Board needs to do more outreach and education on how to file a complaint so it is more widely known.

Slides about educational interpreters and how licensure is not required, and what the current requirements are for educational interpreters in NC. Overview of DPI and the services they provide. Each school district controls themselves and there is no control over each district. There are a lot of barriers and environmental impacts that affect deaf and hard of hearing students in school. Mark discussed what is currently happening in educational settings in NC within various districts and hiring needed interpreters through agencies versus in house interpreters. Discussion about what licensure for educational interpreters could look like. The limits on the districts and what some districts do, leads to language deprivation, for students. Best practices for Deaf and Hard of Hearing student outcomes to improve were discussed.

Mark gave an overview of the meetings has had related to educational interpreters and making changes to the Board's current statute to include educational interpreters in the licensure law. A slide of all of the proposed changes to the statute to include educational interpreters in the law. Discussion that the Board is setting minimum standards.

#### *Proposed Amendments to 90D*

- Removal of Educational Interpreter Exclusion
- Full Licensure pathway: Pass written exam (EIPA/NIC) and an EIPA score of 4.0 or higher
- Provisional Licensure additional requirement: Pass written exam
- One-time provisional exception with time limit for educational interpreters
- 2 extensions given and more allowable at Board discretion by rule
- 400-hour clause addition of assessment/certification by rule
- Civil penalty increase max amount and per infraction amount by rule.

Mark summarized the presentation with the proposed changes to the statute and what that could look like. Mark talked about the process of making changes to statute and rules.

Additional considerations for potential changes to the statute were discussed.

Bev commented that provisional licensees struggle at times to find a mentor. Are there any resources for provisional interpreters looking for a mentor. Discussion of the DSDHH mentor program and comments about possible ITPs providing mentoring opportunities.

David Payne was asked to give more information about the NCSDHH mentorship program. Further discussion about mentor/mentee opportunities.

*Break for lunch 12:36 pm*

*Reconvene 1:18 pm*

#### **Posting Infractions on the Website**

Ben commented that the Board had passed a resolution that the Board could post infractions to the Board's website.

**Motion February 2025-02 (Aguilar/Griffin) I move we move to closed session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 Herbie, second Alicia. All in favor.**

In closed session discussion about posting violations to the website. Suggested adding a rule or a statute revision so the Board has documented legal authority to post infractions on the website.

**Motion February 2025-03 (Shearer/Aguiar) I move we move back to open session Dianne, second Herbie. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Motion February 2025-04 (Lineberger/Shearer) I move we draft a rule that would allow the Board to post substantiated infractions to the website, and to submit to the Rules Review Committee to move through the rule making process Mark, second Dianne. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

#### Review of Action Items

| #                    | 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).   | February 28, 2025 |        |
| 2                    | Mark and Alicia                 | Symposium location and speakers update.  | February 28, 2025 |        |
| 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"><li>schools provisional licensees are obtaining degrees from</li><li>current licensee EIPA scores.</li><li>When provisional licensees move up to full</li></ul> |                   |        |
|                      | Caitlin                         | Work on updates to the website.  |                   |        |
|                      | Mark and Dianne                 | Board members appointed to the DPI committee to be part of the discussion to help determine licensure for educational interpreters.  |                   |        |

Action item #1 Mark presented on this item during the meeting.

Action item #2 This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

All ongoing action items are still ongoing.

Remove action item about Mark and Dianne on the list for DPI.

#### New Business

##### *Increasing Civil Penalty Fees through Rule*

Pam discussed that the civil penalties have not been updated since the Board was established. She also gave background on what other agencies charge.

Pam recommended that the first offense be changed from \$100 to \$500, with a \$500 fine for each additional infraction, with the maximum fine being \$2,000.

1 Discussion about what these fines could be due to the maximum fine cap of \$1,000 in the statute (90D-  
2 14).

**Motion February 2025-05 (White/Lineberger) I move to amend the rules regarding the schedule of fees (21 NCAC 25 .0701) and increase the first infraction fine from \$100 to a \$500 fine, and each one thereafter be \$1,000 Pam, second Mark. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.**

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4 *Additional person to serve on the LRC to assist with a complaint that was filed.*

5 This case needs another person to help make a determination in the matter. Ashley Gordon will be  
6 appointed in this matter to serve as a temporary LRC member.

7 *Board approval with adding educational interpreters to the statute*

8 Mark commented there would be opportunity for public feedback regarding the proposed changes to  
9 the statute to include educational interpreters. He also confirmed he has the full Board support with  
10 these proposed changes to the statute.

**Motion February 2025-06 (Lineberger/White) I move the Board draft letters to the following parties (NC Board of Education, Superintendent of NCDPI, Director of NCDSDHH, Secretary of DHHS, NC Council for the Deaf/HH, Education Committee NC House Rep (Hugh Blackwell), and the NC Department of Mental Health) with an overview of the data collected through the process of licensure law review and question a meeting to detail the epidemic of language deprivation and systemic barriers facing children who are Deaf (ASL users) hard of hearing (auditory/oral) and DeafBlind under the care of our public entities and the lifelong impacts thereof, Mark, second Pam. All in favor. Motion carries.**

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12 The next meeting is May 30, and it will be a Board meeting and forum, and will be at UNCG in  
13 Greensboro.

14 I move we adjourn, Alicia.

15 Adjourn -2:43 pm