

NC Interpreter and Transliterater Licensing Board – Forum
Friday, May 30, 2025 – UNC Greensboro – beginning at 2:30 pm

Board Members Present: Mark Lineberger, Pam White, Alicia Griffin, Dianne Shearer, Nicole Alleman, Ashley Gordon, Tara Knight, Herbie Aguilar

Board Members Absent: Beverly Woodel

Interpreters: Nicole Fox, Lee Williamson, Karen Magoon, Brian Tipton, Kirk Fowler, Candy Thomas (CART), Shana Bachelor (SSP)

Board staff present: Caitlin Schwab and Ben Busch

Remote Zoom General Public Present: Bethany Wagner, Bobby Gunter, Caroline Bolin, Chelsey Roberts, Faith Peavey, Honour Patrick, Jessica Bridges, Kate Durkee, Novalee Leone, Rachel Skipper, Shannon Leidy, Trula Baker, Yolanda Wood, Michelle Teague, Mary-Beth Brown, Sara Barbera, Kelle Owens, Melissa, Valerie McMillan, Kelly Zdunek, Jenese Portee, Jaclyn Muckey, Hannah Caldwell, Sam (?), Brian Paille, Angela (?), Jennifer Falls, Joane Mapas, Jaclyn Muckey

Attendees (present in room): Paige Sprinkle, Matt Baccari, Samantha McGowan, Kayla Needham, Christina Rutledge, Wyatte Hell, Lynn Capps Dey, April Briley, Renee Moore, Emily Jones, Bethany Hamm-Whitfield, Connie Jo Hutchinson, Michelle Perry, Somer Stanley, Josie Maita, Kada Elizabeth, Marcia Poole, Chavis Lynn, Abigal Baker, Margaret Herder-Hill, Abigail Quick, Victoria Burroughs, Elita Hill, Craig Blevins, Marilyn Edwards, Ashlyn Gore, David Payne, Jolene Crooks, Kathleen Speckhardt, Tanya Miller, Dana Berkovics, Victoria Yawn

Called to order – 2:36 pm

Mark did a brief overview of the forum and its purpose and then opened up the floor to questions.

Connie Jo Hutchinson – Thanked the Board for the forum and has two comments. One is about provisional license and the new proposed law (HB 854). During the Board meeting the information about some possible new requirements some of the requirements seemed confusing. She also commented on taking the NIC. Comments about agencies, and that the Board mentioned that it may be difficult to have this in place, and it will be difficult to prove, and may muddy the waters. Thank you.

Mark addressed her concerns about the explanation of HB 854.

Chris Rutledge – Commented she liked the possibly changes to the statute and holding agencies accountable. What will the Board do if the agency is not in the state of NC.

Mark commented, the Board has no authority with agencies or entities in NC.

Ben commented the Board may have some jurisdiction on an out of state agency, but it depends on the circumstances of the matter.

Victoria Borrows – She is a student and would like to be licensed by the time she graduates. The EIPA turnaround time is very long, and the BEI is quicker. What are the chances of taking these tests becoming easier to access for people in NC.

1 Mark commented on her concerns and expressed virtual options for some screenings and the Board is
2 looking into options for pathways to licensure.

3 Victoria Yawn – If someone gets their provisional licensure with an EIPA score, can they work in
4 education and community settings?

5 Mark addressed her question.

6 Somer Stanley – Raising the bar without building the ladder is not reform it is exclusion; it is not our
7 goal. You can work with agencies to provide opportunities; The direction we are going in now we get
8 interpreters who do not feel qualified but they have to get licensed to work. As you move forward in
9 your decision making, please be aware we have to build a ladder for people to meet the new standards.

10 Mark addressed the concerns and said the Board is having conversations with outside entities to help
11 build resources.

12 Lynn Dey – I am always in and out of NC. I wanted to know how many deaf interpreters have passed the
13 interpreters certification.

14 Tonya Miller – Thanked the Board, it is not easy when you're making rule changes and doing things to
15 increase the skills of interpreters in the community. There are people out there doing things hurting the
16 community and the Board has worked hard to set up some bridges. NCRID has a program called bridges
17 and this is similar to a mentor program.

18 Kada Elizabeth – In the bridge in graduating in all the new licensure laws. She is an interpreter in the
19 rural community. There was a comment made in the rural community. We do want to make sure that
20 everyone is certified. Is it better to have interpreters present than no interpreters at all. The rural
21 setting is having a hard time getting interpreters at all.

22 Mark said the concern she expressed is a concern the Board has shared this concern for years. The
23 presentation tomorrow will address this concern.

24 Elita Hill – She has been interpreting for 40 years. When she started out, she was "lousy" and she has
25 said if the standards in place now were in 40 years ago she would not have been an interpreter today.
26 What do you advise for students and are waiting 11 months for test results and cannot work. What can
27 they legally do while they wait for their results.

28 Mark commented on the question and gave more information.

29 Connie Jo Hutchinson – Did a quick google search in the ready to work gap and she came across a
30 research study done about the EIPA and how students did on the EIPA, and she gave some information
31 about that study. The state where the study was done revisited that requirement. What the Board is
32 talking about going to hurt the community, it is going to prevent people to be able enter this career.

33 Kate Durkee (Zoom) – She is an interpreter educator at CPCC. This is a difficult topic for her, she has
34 been in the educator setting for over 10 years, there is an incredible shortage of interpreters including
35 educational interpreters. We know there is an issue of language deprivation, and the age of five is when
36 they are first exposed to the language. The stance from what I am hearing from the Board and the
37 problem is much bigger than the Deaf students are separate issues, and this law change will affect
38 future Deaf adults in a big way. This will be more detrimental in a big way. The problem of language

1 deprivation, the lack of education, and this is not a fix about and the Board is not asking the questions. I
2 am not here to promote mediocrity. The Board must consider the CPC (code of professional conduct),
3 we are supposed to showing respect for Deaf consumers and as little harm as possible. By
4 implementing laws that create barriers we will do irreparable damage. My request is you start to
5 consider the impact that will happen in 10, 20, and 30 years. The reduction of a provisional license has
6 not been answered. Does this licensure of educational interpreters be able to offer more transient and
7 offer services to more people in the community. You are going to see people rapidly leave the state and
8 exacerbate the shortage. They have been spending thousands of dollars and waiting 12 months to know
9 if they can keep their jobs. They are going to have to do it again to obtain licensure. I am so confused
10 how we are going to get the people to meet the minimum competence. This is frustrating, and as an
11 educator this is difficult. In the name of offering minimum confidence. An entire generation of students
12 is going to suffer. Your colleges in NC they see these barriers and they say maybe we don't need an
13 interpreter education program anymore. People are not going into college. You have people they want
14 to do this, and the colleges are stuck. All the programs in NC are in danger of closing. I am not anti-
15 licensure, and I am concerned about the timeline, and I am concerned about the effects this will have on
16 the long-term effects.

17 Mark thanked her for her comment. We do understand the concerns as they have been outlined. Many
18 of these concerns have been addressed and each of these items does have answers.

19 David Payne – He thanked the Board and has discussed these issues at length for at least the last two
20 years, and I am glad you hired a professional researcher before making any major decisions. Also, I
21 know the current bill that has been submitted is in line with DPIs requirements for what they already
22 have. There will be no change the educational interpreters will face no issues and there will be no
23 change. This is an important change, and they will help protect Deaf students and adults. Perez versus
24 Sturgis Public School they filled against the school system for not providing adequate services, and that
25 state raised that minimum to 4.0 following that lawsuit. There are still educational interpreters in
26 another state, there was no issue with all the interpreters leaving the state. Interpreters have been
27 more motivated and worked harder. The ITPs are already adjusting their curriculums, and some
28 curriculums have not been updated for a long time and that is something that needs to happen for a
29 long time, and people can go into the profession currently. We want to make sure ITPs are improving
30 their programs and there are more and more opportunities for interpreters to learn more from various
31 programs throughout NC. David mentioned some of the programs that help address the concerns
32 people have. The current system for educational interpreters is there is no accountability to follow the
33 CPC in place. They will have assignments to match their skill set. Educational interpreters have people
34 need to follow the CPC and they will support our Deaf kids in the educational setting. Why would we
35 not change a system to improve it, and I wanted to say thank you for that. The Board is one piece, this is
36 a system issue. This is a paid professional that is the biggest issue. The rural areas will be enhanced the
37 system. This will be a full change. I want to thank you for being a part of that movement and change.
38 Thank you for your time.

39 Mark commented that this law is not just a one and done, and that we can continue to support DPI and
40 continue to make these changes.

41 Craig Blevins – I have been an advocate for the Deaf community and many of you know me. This is a
42 tough spot to be in. We are talking about my community, and I thank you for your work, and now seeing

1 a light at the end of the tunnel is promising. How are we going to make this change and how are we
2 going to make this change. In 2005 we were talking about this and 20 years later nothing has changed.
3 We were talking with Dr. Wright and nothing has changed nothing has improved. The ITP curriculum
4 has not improved, and it is time for it to improve. I teach high school and I see my students suffer. Our
5 Deaf students deserve better. I want the whole cake and not just one slice of the cake. It is infuriating
6 you have never walked in my schools, and I have been part of the hearing world my whole life and then I
7 was Deaf. All of a sudden it was me and an interpreter, had failed. They could not work in the
8 community, so they come to the educational system, and it is time for the educational requirements to
9 meet the community requirements.

10 Chris Rutledge – Has DPI offered an opinion for the language that was put forth.

11 Mark Yes DPI has offered an opinion.

12 Bethany Hamm-Whitfield – Former Board member and we all do need to take some responsibility to
13 come to the Board meetings and keep informed of what is happening. It is already into the senate the
14 bill has crossed over. If you build it they will come. We have to prepare for what may come. Concerns
15 about making changes to the statute and it does have an impact on the community. Had a question for
16 the Board, going back to the policies and procedures talk about the make-up of the LRC and that make
17 up. Not that we are upping the amount the Board can sanction. Expressed concerns about the policies
18 and why aren't there three members on the Board. There were concerns raised about the closed
19 session today as well. The name of the person who is with NCITLB from DPI. Also, she would like to see
20 educational interpreters have a different license and maybe be a smaller fee.

21 Mark addressed her concerns about the LRC questions. Mark addressed the DPI questions.

22 Somer Stanley – Will the Board begin tracking the demographics of the licensees so we can share that
23 information.

24 Mark thank you for our comment, that is not currently something we are working on.

25 Somer Stanley – Asked her question again for clarification purposes.

26 Honour Patrick (Zoom) – Two questions, first for provisional licensure and looked at the requirements
27 for a provisional license, and I am confused about language. Second, I have not done a lot of research
28 on this but as it is related to interpreters in the school system as it is related to service.

29 Mark addressed her questions about a provisional license.

30 Elita Hill – Asked for clarification about how many people on the Board are licensed interpreters.

31 Mark responded to the person's question.

32 Elita Hill – As a Board who are overseeing an occupation, I never realized how many of the current Board
33 members are licensed.

34 Mark addressed past Board members and the number of licensees currently on the Board.

35 Chavis Lynne – Thanked the Board for hosting the forum, and he has a question of the impact and how it
36 will be applied. There is an issue with language deprivation, and this will have a notable impact on
37 community. What accountability does the Board have, are you partnering with other associations or

1 organizations to help the community in the possibility of these changes and how will it impact the
2 community.

3 Mark addressed the concerns. He reiterated the DPI standards, are the same as what the Board
4 requires are the same.

5 Connie Jo Hutchinson – Addressed her concerns with the LRC having two members currently.

6 Mark addressed the concerns that were brought up.

7 Bethany Hamm-Whitfield – The LRC needs to have three people.

8 Mark thank you for your comment.

9 Kate Durkee (Zoom) – I have heard a couple of times that phrase that the educational interpreter
10 licensure change, it is in line with the DPI licensure change. It does not require a written assessment.
11 The time frame the meet these standards ends this July. I would like clarification on the standards. DPIs
12 current requirements are not in line.

13 Mark addressed her questions.

14 Rachel Skipper – I want to mention I know this issue is what it is today because educational interpreters
15 were excluded when the law came into effect. It is terrible they were excluded.

16 Mark thanked everyone for there comments and for attending.

17 At 4:31 pm the forum was closed.