



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Virtual Location Via Zoom
Date: June 18, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Ami Tsuji-Jones, Chairperson; Gerald Isobe, Nikki Kepo'o, Board Members;
Kirby Shaw, Kamaile Hopfe, Brian Mick, Kristine Pagano, Colin Whited, Staff

ABSENT: Justin Tokioka, Board Member

GUESTS: Yoshiko Chino, Ann Ito

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Keri Lee and Carie Sarver

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Ami Tsuji-Jones called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of May 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the May 21, 2021 minutes (M/S/P Kepo'o/Isobe).

NOTE: The minutes were written in the order the items were shown on the agenda, not as they were discussed at the meeting.

IV. Old Business

A. Communication Access Program – Update

Staff reported that there are currently forty-four (44) interpreters with the Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential and twenty-eight (28) interpreters enrolled in the Continuing Education Program, none of whom are on extension. Staff announced that DCAB will be administering one Hawaii Quality Assurance System test next week.

B. Plan of Action for Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022

Staff distributed the Communication Access Goals & Objectives for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 (the current fiscal year) and explained that it was written with the

understanding that the Communication Access Specialist position was vacant and would not be filled. Since the position is now abolished, staff recommendation is to keep the same goals and objectives, with one amendment to objective 3.1.3 to read as follows:

“Provide technical assistance regarding revised Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218, including the Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential and the recommended fee schedule.”

After brief discussion by the Committee and guests, the following motion was made:

MOTION: The Committee approved staff's-recommended revisions to the proposed Communication Access Goals and Objectives for the Plan of Action for Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 for presentation at the DCAB Annual Planning Meeting in July (M/S/P Kepo'o/Isobe).

While on the topic of the proposed Communication Access goals and objectives, the Committee asked whether the Plan of Action will include efforts to get the Communication Access Specialist position back. Staff confirmed that this will be included as an objective under, “Administration.”

C. Continuing Education Workshops for Sign Language Interpreters

Staff reported that, as announced at the last meeting, DCAB is pursuing continuing education opportunities using funds remaining for this fiscal year. Staff announced that DCAB pursued multiple contracts with tight turnaround time and was able to successfully contract with two entities for continuing education opportunities.

The first is with the University of Hawaii Comprehensive Service Center for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind to develop and deliver a professional development and mentoring program for sign language interpreters. This will be done by way of training, mentorship, and guidance as appropriate and based on the individual needs of the interpreters who participate in this program. The second is with Dendros Group, who will offer continuing education opportunities centered on power, privilege, and oppression.

Staff also announced that DCAB will explore additional continuing education opportunities during fiscal year 2021 – 2022 and that this is contingent upon the availability of funds.

V. New Business

A. Workshops for the Community and State Agencies

Staff announced that DCAB contracted with Mala Arkin of Clear Access to provide trainings and workshops to state agencies on making remote meetings accessible for persons with disabilities, particularly individuals with communication disabilities. Staff explained that this is especially important given passage of Senate Bill 1034, which authorizes Sunshine Law Boards to conduct meetings remotely. More information on this will be shared as it becomes available.

VI. Next Meeting

To be determined.

VII. Announcements

No announcements were made.

VIII. Open Forum

No issues discussed.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Pagano
for COLIN M. WHITED