

**Minutes from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the  
Hard of Hearing, Special Board Meeting.  
Meeting held December 3rd, 2024 at 2:00 pm.  
The meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference.**

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Commissioner Sienko called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

Commissioners present: Catherine Sienko, Melanie O'Rourke, Sarah Bolmarcich, Randal Kidd, Harvey Goodstein, Diana Herron, Andrew Cohen, Debbie Venkatesh, Virginia Thompson, Lisa Swenson, Fred Williams

Commissioners present via Zoom: Andrew Cohen, Debbie Venkatesh

Commissioners absent: Jennifer Scarboro, Scott Madsen

AAG: Elise Phalen

Staff Present: Sherri Collins, Chyla Dalton-Nava

**Approval of Minutes- November 7th and November 8th, 2024**

Commissioner Goodstein had concerns with the context of the meeting minutes from November 7th, namely that he did not withdraw his motion to postpone making the decision on selecting the new executive director to a later date. Commissioner Bolmarcich added that she moved to go into executive session, and that at that time Commissioner Goodstein withdrew his motion. Chair Sienko directed Chyla Dalton-Nava to make any needed changes to the minutes, and that the board would review and vote to approve the minutes at the next meeting.

**Chair's Report**

Char Sienko explained that she has recently had a conversation with the agency Assistant Attorney General, Elise Phalen, and agency employment attorneys in regards to the executive director search process. She invited Elise Phalen to discuss highlights of their meeting. Elise explained to the board that the two current candidates have exercised their rights under Arizona Revised Statute section 38-431.03(A)(1) that any discussion of their candidacy be held in public meetings. She explained that there were some legal questions and advice that is not related to the individual candidates that would need to be discussed within executive session, and reiterated that this closed session would be exclusively for legal advice, and not to discuss the candidates. **Commissioner Kidd moved to go into executive session to receive legal advice only, and not discuss the two candidates; Commissioner Bolmarcich seconded, and the board moved into executive session at 2:24 PM.**



## Arizona Commission

for the deaf and the hard of hearing

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**The board returned from closed session at 3:25 PM Quorum was re-established by roll call.**

Chair Sienko continued the discussion on how to move forward with the selection of the next Executive Director. **Commissioner Kidd moved to discuss strategies on how to schedule the interviews prior to the next board meeting; Commissioner Bolmarcich seconded the motion, the motion carried with Commissioner Goodstein abstaining.** The board continued the discussion, with Commissioner Bolmarcich suggesting that a candidate meet and greet should be scheduled for the community that the commission serves. **Commissioner Herron moved to reschedule the interviews with Carmen Green and Sue Kay Kneifel to Tuesday, December 17th at 4:30 PM; Commissioner Kidd seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.** The board discussed scheduling a candidate meet and greet prior to the in-person ACDHH board meeting scheduled on December 17th. **Commissioner Bolmarcich moved to schedule a meet and greet with the two candidates prior to the interviews on December 17th, 2024 at 3:00 PM, to be held at whatever location the interviews will be held; Commissioner Herron seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.** A discussion followed on the general plan for the interviews, with the commissioners discussing using the same format of both candidates making a presentation, and then followed by their individual interviews.

**Commissioner Cohen left the meeting at 3:45 PM.**

**Commissioner Bolmarcich moved that no decisions be made on the candidates the day of the interview, but a brief discussion may be had following the interviews-and that the formal vote and decision on the candidates be scheduled on December 18th at 4:00 PM.** A discussion followed. **Commissioner Kidd offered a friendly amendment to the motion, that the board will meet prior to December 20th, with the exact date and time being decided by a poll; Commissioner Bolmarcich accepted the amendment. Commissioner Herron seconds this motion, and the motion carries unanimously.**

### **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Kidd moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Sienko seconded the motion, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.**

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 6th day of December, 2024 at 2:00 pm by Chyla Dalton-Nava, Assistant to the Executive Director.