

Minutes of the meeting of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, Search Committee.

Meeting held November 21st, 2025 at 6:00pm.

Meeting was held remotely via Zoom and posted to the agency YouTube page.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Sienko called the meeting to order at **6:02 PM**

Commissioners present via Zoom: Commissioner Bolmarcich, Commissioner Kidd, Commissioner Herron, Commissioner Madsen, Commissioner Scarboro, Commissioner Sienko, Commissioner Swenson, Commissioner Venkatesh, Commissioner Williams (Commissioner Goodstein in at 6:05 PM)

Commissioners absent: None

Staff Present via Zoom: Nikki Soukup, Carmen Green, Lillian Gilmer, Chyla Dalton-Nava
AAG: Elise Phalen

Chair's Report/Summary of Events

Chair Sienko announced that Commissioner Andrew Cohen has resigned from the Board because his wife received a job opportunity out of state. She thanked him for his years of service to the ACDHH Board, as well as the Arizona DeafBlind Community.

Buck Rogers' Certificate Revocation of Licensure

ILC Chair Lisa Swenson gave the board a summary on the case- Buck Rogers, an Arizona licensed interpreter with a Legal A license, had his national certification permanently revoked by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) in August 2025 due to unprofessional and unethical conduct. She explained that his Arizona Legal A license is contingent upon maintaining active RID certification. The Commission sought recommendations on handling his Arizona license as there is no precedent for permanent revocation. Options were immediate revocation/suspension, or letting the license run its course until June 14th, 2026. During the The Interpreter Licensure Committee (ILC) meeting held on October, 17th 2025 recommended the immediate revocation of Mr. Rogers' Legal A licensure. A brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Goodstein moved to accept the ILC's recommendation to immediately revoke Buck Rogers' license; Commissioner Scarboro seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Search

Chair Sienko updated the board on the current progress of the search process. The search committee started with 30 applicants, which was then narrowed down to six candidates for the leadership position, and two of the candidates withdrew, leaving four candidates. Interviews were conducted on November 3rd and 4th, 2025, and from that group, three finalists were selected. Those finalists are: Eric Raff, Michele Michaels, and Nikki Soukup. She went on to explain the next steps in the process. On December 3rd the board will receive training on interviewing candidates. Following this training, each candidate will have the chance to make a 15 minute presentation to the board and the public, followed by a brief Q&A session. After this, the board will enter a closed session to conduct the final interviews. The board will then meet again on December 4th to make a decision on the next Executive Director to lead ACDHH. The meeting format will likely be hybrid (in-person/virtual) to help meet quorum. A discussion followed. The board discussed the inclusion of staff and community feedback on the candidates. Chair Sienko provided an update on the Executive Director search process. The search committee initially considered 30 applicants, which was reduced to six candidates for the leadership position. Following the withdrawal of two candidates, interviews were conducted with the remaining four on November 3rd and 4th, 2025. Three finalists were selected: Eric Raff, Michele Michaels, and Nikki Soukup. Chair Sienko then outlined the next steps: on December 3rd, 2025, the ACDHH board will receive training on interviewing candidates. After this training, a Special Board meeting will be held at the ACDHH office, where each candidate will deliver a 15-minute presentation to the board and the public, followed by a brief Q&A session. After this is complete, the board will hold a closed session for final interviews. On December 4th, 2025, the board will reconvene to make a final decision on ACDHH's next Executive Director. The December meetings are anticipated to use a hybrid (in-person/virtual) format to help meet quorum. A discussion regarding the incorporation of staff and community feedback on the candidates followed the update.

Adjournment

Commissioner Kidd moved to adjourn at 6:35 PM; Commissioner Swenson seconded the motion, the meeting concluded at 6:35 PM.

Posted this 28th day of November, 2025 at 12:00 pm by Chyla Dalton-Nava, Assistant to the Executive Director.