

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

Meeting held December 4th, 2025 at 4:30pm.

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 **4:33 PM**

Commissioners present via Zoom: Commissioner Kidd, Commissioner Madsen, Commissioner Sienko, Commissioner Bolmarcich, Commissioner Herron, Commissioner Swenson, Commissioner Venkatesh, Commissioner Williams, Commissioner Goodstein

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Scarboro, Commissioner Thompson

Staff Present in person: Chyla Dalton-Nava, Ricky Gonsowski

AAG: Elise Phalen, Michelle Kunzman

ADOA Staff: George Mcneely, Brian Westerberg

Chair's Report/Summary of Events

Chair Sienko thanked the board for their participation in last night's interviews, and also thanked ACDHH staff for completing an internal survey that the board will use in their decision making process. She explained that the Board would begin tonight's meeting by reading the public comments left over from last night's meeting.

Public Comments

Public comments endorsing Michele Michaels were received from the following:

Ena Brown

Kimberly Shea

Kristin Samuelson

Becky Hague

David Myers

Roz Seibold

Patricia Dabrowski

Amy Wheeler
Susan Webster
Roz Seibold
Steve Wagner
Lori Stavropoulos
Shannon Tyree
Deborah Marcus Tilevitz
Tremmel Watson
Darlene Parker
Tyler Dove
Carla Zimmerman
Stephen O. Frazier
Karin Lusk-Rydin
Paula Dyhrkopp
Shari Eberts
Nanette R Odell
Wynne Whyman
Lynn Meyer
Diana Mansell
Adero C E Allison
Harvey Smith
Peter Fischer

Chelle Wyatt

Ingrid McBride, Au.D, CCC0A

Mary Lynn Kasunic

Lynn Harrison

Rip Wilson

Aparna Rao

Kate Helms Tillery

Teresa Salama

Elizabeth Booth

Claire Martinez

Betty Schoen

Cathy De Lisa

Curtis Humphries

Lisa O'Neill

Ibrahim Dabo

Juliette Sterkens

Ron Tallman

Erica Williams

Cynthia Amerman

Jennifer Schuck

Executive Director- Final Decision

Commissioner Kidd moved that the Board go into Executive Session in order to discuss personnel matters of the finalists according to Provision number 1 from ARS 3843; Commissioner Madsen seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously. The Board entered Executive session at 6:02 PM.

The Board returned at 8:01 PM.

Quorum was reestablished by roll call.

Commissioner Bolmarcich moved that the Board proceed to the first round of voting to determine the next executive director, with the candidate having the majority of votes being the next Director; Commissioner Madsen seconds, the board voted by roll call:

Bolmarcich:Yea

Herron:Yea

Goodstein:Yea

Kidd:Yea

Madsen:Yea

Swenson:Yea

Venkatesh:Yea

Williams:Yea

Sienko:Yea

The board proceeded with the vote for the next executive Director of ACDHH.

The board voted as follows:

Bolmarcich:Eric Raff

Herron:Nikki Soukup

Goodstein:Nikki Soukup

Kidd:Eric Raff

Madsen:Eric Raff

Swenson:Eric Raff

Venkatesh:Eric Raff

Williams:Eric Raff

Sienko:Nikki Soukup

New Executive Director Announcement

As Eric Raff has the majority of the votes, he has been chosen as the next Executive Director of ACDHH.

Commissioner Herron moved to enter executive session for a personnel discussion; Commissioner Kidd seconds the motion, the board moved into executive session at 8:03 PM.

The board returned at 8:16 PM. Quorum was reestablished by roll call.

Commissioner Bolmarcich moves that the Board authorize Chair Sienko to provide a salary offer to Eric Raff within the approved salary range;Commissioner Herron seconds, the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sienko thanked the candidates for their time and presentations, she also thanked Nikki Soukup for her service as an interim director, and congratulated Eric Raff on his selection as the new Executive Director of ACDHH. She informed the board that she will work directly with ADOA to draft Eric's offer letter. She thanked the board for their work in the entire process.

Adjournment

Commissioner Kidd moves to end the meeting at 8:20 PM;Commissioner Swenson seconds, the meeting ends at 8:20 PM.

Posted this 4th day of December, 2025 at 10:00 pm by Chyla Dalton-Nava, Assistant to the Executive Director.