

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF  
HEARING MEETING MINUTES  
February 5, 2025**

A meeting of the Kentucky Board of Licensure of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was held virtually and/or in-person at 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY on February 5, 2025.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marva Johnson [*CPI*] **Chair**

Reb Kruetzer [Citizen at Large] **Vice-Chair**

Edie Ryan [*CPI*] **Secretary/Treasurer**

Hunter Bryant [*CPI*]

Deborah Porter

Jessica Minges

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

**DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**

April Alsabrook, Administrative Supervisor

Courtney Cook, Administrative Supervisor

Kristen Cook, Commissioner

**LEGAL**

Lilly Coiner, Board Counsel

Sara Janes, Board Counsel

**GUESTS** (2 working interpreters present at each meeting)

Kelli Sanchez, Shannon Grider, Derek Drury, Morgan KCDHH

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Marva Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

Board Counsel Sara Janes introduced the new Board Counsel for KBI, Lilly Coiner. Ms. Janes informed the Board that General Counsel reevaluated the current needs of the department and decided that Lilly Coiner will be taking over as Board Counsel. Sara Janes will be available for the transition to assist Ms. Coiner as needed.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Marva Johnson to approve the 8/6/24 Board meeting minutes as amended. Motion, seconded by Reb Kruetzer, carried.

A motion was made by Edie Ryan to approve the 10/3/24 Special Meeting minutes as amended. Motion, seconded by Hunter Bryant, carried

A motion was made by Marva Johnson to approve the 11/12/24 Board meeting minutes as amended. Motion, seconded by Deborah Porter, carried.

**FINANCIALS**

The Board reviewed the financial reports from November 2024 and December 2024. No further action required.

Courtney Cook alerted the Board that the January 2025 financials were not ready yet and would be available for review at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Cook gave the Board the RFP update. The committee appointed at the last KBI meeting in November met and scored the bids for investigative services. She will continue to work on a contract for the Board to review at their next meeting.

Board Counsel, Sara Janes, informed the Board that she had just finished her billing through August of 2024. The Counsel fees accrued will be on the financial report by the next meeting.

**DPL UPDATE**

Commissioner Lawson reported that DPL is interviewing for the open Administrative Specialist Senior position, and the PPC has enacted a tight schedule. DPL should have a quick turn around for filling the position.

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Commissioner Lawson informed the Board that PPC and DPL are rolling out Board Member training and will be offering it several times a year, in-person or virtually. The training will be about two hours long.

Hunter Bryant questioned if the training was mandatory, and if so, that the language should be included in the invite.

## **LEGAL COUNSEL**

Board Counsel, Lilly Coiner and Marva Johnson attended the meeting today at LRC, regarding the new regulations. The regulations passed and are effective today. Sara Janes informed the Board Administrator that she has pulled together the final versions of regulations, along with the final versions of forms. The Board Administrator will work with IT for systems changes and uploading the new forms for licensees. Sara Janes proposed that DPL wait for LRC to update the changes in their system before we change ours, to keep everything accurate.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

HB 39 was introduced to the Board by Board Counsel. HB 39 is a bill to amend 309:312 to provide an Interpreter applicant a K-12 requirement. It will be assigned to a committee at LRC and could theoretically be an amendment to create an educational interpreting license as a separate licensure type. The Board cannot advocate on a house bill but can answer questions and educate.

Reb Kreutzer, after reading the proposed HB 39, asked if Board Counsel could put it into simpler language. Sara Janes said she could only give assumptions as to how and why it was written as it is. There has been controversy in comments about the EIPA and full licensure. The bill assumes EIPA is adequate or sufficient for an interpreter to remain in a K-12 setting. HB 39 does not clarify that the Board can create a new licensure type.

Marva Johnson explained that the language in the bill would change the statute and codify tests or assessments, closing the pipeline to licensure. Without further information, as written, it would be on constituents to decipher.

Reb Kruetzer added that although the Board “polices” licensees, the Board wouldn’t necessarily have oversight of HB 39, as written. Reb Kreutzer added that many deaf individuals fail to ask interpreters about their certifications. Deaf consumers tend to put their trust in the agency or freelancers, and that those entities will do what they are supposed to do.

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Sara Janes clarified that everything in KRS 309 is the Board's duty to enforce. If HB 39 was approved, as written, the application process, annual renewals, and CEU requirements would still be the same as the current processes for Temporary and fully licensed Interpreters.

Deborah Porter assessed that licensees are on the "honor system," when being booked for jobs that may or may not be in their skill set. The Board regulates licensees, not agencies.

Board Counsel touched on KBI doing a press release or adding it on the KBI website under "recent activity." The Board could also ask if KDCHH or other organizations could put out educational information about the new regulation changes and the proposed HB 39.

Officer Elections were held. Jessica Minges nominated Marva Johnson to continue as Chair. Motion, seconded by Deborah Porter, carried.

Edie Ryan nominated Reb Kruetzer to continue as Vice-Chair. Motion, seconded by Jessica Minges, carried.

Reb Kreutzer nominated Edie Ryan to remain the Secretary/Treasurer. Motion, seconded by Jessica Minges, carried.

Committee appointments were made. Marva Johnson stepped back from the Applications Committee. Jessica Minges and Deborah Porter volunteered. Edie Ryan will remain on the committee, and Hunter Bryant will be an alternate for quorum purposes.

Marva Johnson and Reb Kruetzer will remain on the Complaints Committee. Hunter Bryant will be the third member, and Edie Ryan will be an alternate for quorum purposes.

A motion was made by Marva Johnson to take a 10-minute break at 2:22 pm. Motion, seconded by Edie Ryan, carried.

Marva Johnson called the meeting back to order at 2:34 pm.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business to discuss.

## **APPLICATOINS COMMITTEE**

The Board reviewed licenses since the last meeting. No further action is required.

A motion made by Edie Ryan to approve the ratifications of applications, renewals, audits, and any other applications reviewed and issued from 11/13/24 to 2/4/25. Motion, seconded by Marva Johnson, carried.

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The members of the Applications Committee discussed the difference certifications that licensees can provide. Due to appointing new members, the Committee requested the Board Administrator to set up a virtual meeting for all members to get acquainted and go over how to properly approve an application.

**COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE**

Board Counsel informed the Board that while researching an ORR (open records request), that she came upon a complaint that never was brought before the Complaints Committee. Ms. Janes suggested to send follow up letters to the parties involved and schedule a Complaints meeting before the next Board meeting.

**ADJOURN**

A motion made by Deborah Porter to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 pm. Motion, seconded by Reb Kruetzer, carried.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

May 6, 2025 at 1 pm EST.