

## September 19, 2023

**Meeting Opens:** 5:35 p.m.

**Attendance:** SC, AC, SBC, PD (remote, in Concord, recovering from injury), JD, AE, RH, KM (remote, home, child care), RQ, AM, SRL, MR (arrived 5:38 p.m.)

**Quorum:** Yes

**Approval of Minutes July Meeting:** Moved (SBC); Second (SC). Vote: Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y (Motion passes unanimously)

**New Member:** Chief of Paul Dean on behalf of NH Association of Chiefs of Police

### Public Meeting Law Changes

- Explanation regarding upcoming changes to 91-A and remote participation/quorum requirement
- Justifications for Absences:
  - Medical/Illness
  - Childcare/Family care
  - Travel/commute related issues
  - Work scheduling conflicts
  - Weather
- **Motion to adopt list of justifications going forward (SBC); Second (JD). Vote: Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y, Y. (Motion carries unanimously).**

### Discussion of Ongoing Projects

- BET Presentation scheduled for next month:
  - Less focus on access/payment for trainings and more focus on DEI trainings
- Language Access Project:
  - Complainant has a case before Commission and also before the Department of Labor
  - Informed she has to bring her own interpreter to a Department of Labor wage and hour hearing
  - Department of Labor's position is that it does not receive federal funds, they are not required to provide interpreters
  - The State should be required to provide interpreters for all state services and state agency hearings
    - Poll of departments regarding language access policies? And who supplies interpreters or requires people to bring their own?
  - ADA – Requires interpretive services where disability is a factor, such as American Sign Language interpretation.
  - Interpretation services confining their role to interpretation and ensuring the language is correct and helpful – Could be a separate issue for standards and ensuring compliance.
  - Survey to state agencies regarding language access plans
  - Goal: Ensuring that language does not present a barrier to accessing state services
  - Ascentria and Language Bank are similar; Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing for ASL/CART Services; there are some smaller agencies that do this work

- Services with contracting agencies as well for language access
- Investigate: Consulting with Governor's Office about surveying state agencies to determine what agencies have language access plans and interpreter access plans? Focus on responses from largest agencies both in terms of size and interaction with the public. Courts may be a focus as well.
- Idea is to get a sense of the need among state agencies for services; looking at policies to perhaps developing a baseline for agencies to have even if their demand for language access services are low.

#### **Other Updates**

- James Scully has stepped down as Gov's Legal Counsel and ex officio member. Rudy Ogden is the new legal counsel for the Gov's office.
- Superintendent's meeting regarding Tool-kit
- RQ has the application for the Black Heritage Trail for Rogers Johnson
- Artist for portrait of Rogers Johnson
- October 5, 2023, Combatting Hate Crimes in NH Community Discussion at Fire Academy
- Thank you to James and Chief Dennis for all their hard work supporting the Council and its efforts.

#### **New Business**

- None

#### **Public Comment**

- None

**Next Meeting** October 17, 2023; 5:30 p.m. NH Department of Safety

**Adjourn:** 6:58 p.m.