



March 4, 2021

To Texans interested in issues related to the administration of the interpreter certification program:

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is accepting applications for membership on the Advisory Board for the Evaluation of Interpreters. The board was created by Human Resources Code, Chapter 81 as enacted by Senate Bill 1157, Chapter 690 during the 66th Texas Legislature, 1979, which gives HHSC the authority to establish a board of seven people, living in Texas, to help administer the statewide interpreter certification program.

The board must seek input from stakeholders in the interpreter and deaf communities on these issues and produce formal recommendations to the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing on how to administer the interpreter certification program, develop qualifications for levels of certification, review complaints, and review local, state and national trends.

The HHS executive commissioner will appoint members to the board to serve a term expiring Aug. 31, 2023, or Aug. 31, 2024, as indicated. Currently, HHSC is seeking representatives to be selected from the following categories:

- A person who is deaf, a consumer of interpreting services, and demonstrates knowledge of the field of interpreting and linguistics, and has a unique understanding for the demographics and dynamics of Texas' Deaf Community (Term expires Aug. 31, 2023)
- A person who is hearing and holds a valid BEI Advanced or Master certificate (Term expires Aug. 31, 2023 or Aug. 31, 2024)
- A person who has actively engaged in the profession of interpreting for at least three of the immediate past five years (Term expires Aug. 31, 2023 or Aug. 31, 2024)

A board member must regularly participate in board meetings and may also have to participate in other meetings, projects and presentations. Board meetings will be held in Austin about once every three months or at the call of the presiding officer.

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*To the extent permitted by the current state budget, a board member may be repaid for their travel expenses to and from meetings if money is available and in accordance with the HHSC Travel Policy.*

If you would like to apply to serve on the board, please complete and return the attached application and required video by **April 15**. It is preferred that you submit your application electronically, but you may submit the application by email, mail or fax. Here are the addresses:

Email:

HHS\_Appointments@hhsc.state.tx.us

Attn: BEI

Mail:

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

P.O. Box 13247, Mail Code 0223

Austin, TX 78711

Attn: Susanna Sparkman

Fax:

512-206-3984

Attn: BEI

HHSC will notify applicants if they have been selected to serve as a member of the Advisory Board for the Evaluation of Interpreters.

In selecting members to serve on the board, HHSC considers the applicants' qualifications, background and interest in serving on the board. HHSC tries to choose board members who represent the diversity of all Texans. For that reason, HHSC considers applicants' ethnicity, gender and geographic location.

For more information about the board, [visit the board website](#) or contact Lori Breslow at [Lori.Breslow@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:Lori.Breslow@hhs.texas.gov).

For more information about applying to be on the board, or for Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, email Susanna Sparkman at [HHS\\_Appointments@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:HHS_Appointments@hhsc.state.tx.us) or call 512-438-2897.