### THE COMMUNICATOR

NEBRASKA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### Save The Date: June 28 4th Annual Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness Night





Wednesday, June 28 NCDHH will be working with the Lincoln Saltdogs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Night at the Ball Park!

Come join us for an evening of baseball, fun and games. NCDHH will have an informational booth for information, referral and resources as well.

Tickets can be purchased at saltdogs.com/nad. Saltdogs will donate a portion of ticket sales to the Nebraska Association of the Deaf.

For any questions, please contact Kelsey Cruz at 402-471-3066 or kelsey.cruz@nebraska.gov.

### Legislative Update

John Wyvill, Executive Director



One of the biggest issues this legislative session is the declining revenues and impact it has on state agency budgets, including ours at NCDHH. The Nebraska Economic Advisory Board provides an advisory forecast of general fund receipts used by the state Legislature to craft state agency budgets. A breakdown of the forecast is as follows: The total projected revenue for the current fiscal year (2016-2017) was lowered by \$91 million; the projected receipts for 2017 is currently estimated to decrease by \$51.2 million. The projected decrease in 2018 is \$26.3 million. The advisory board met in late April before the Legislature finalizes the budget for the next two fiscal years. Regardless of actual amounts, Governor Ricketts has been calling for fiscal restraint from all state agencies in light of these revenue short falls.

Because of revenue shortfalls, this fiscal year we had nearly \$120,000.00 cut from our budget; this means we have been forced to adjust our budget priorities. As a result, we have put on pause plans for another NET program to follow our very successful 'Unheard Journey of Deaf Nebraskans'. We have also reduced our paper newsletter editions from four to two in an effort to save on postage cost. The preliminary Appropriations Committee did not include our request for \$10,000.00 to assist the National Junior National Association of the Deaf (Jr. NAD) Conference that is being held in Omaha later this year. Fortunately, at this time we don't have to look at furloughs or layoffs.

In March we appeared in front of the Appropriations Committee and made our case why we should be fully funded. We are grateful that Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD), Nebraska Hands and Voices, Hearing Loss Association of America-Omaha chapter, Nebraska Registry of Interpreters (NeRID) and Jr. NAD stood by us in support of the NCDHH mission and our request to be appropriately funded.

We will know our budget fate near the end of the Legislative session. While we face the prospect of budget cuts, the work of our agency in making a positive difference in the lives of Nebraskans who are Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing every day goes on.

### Two Vacancies: Telecommunications Relay Services Committee

The Nebraska Telecommunications Relay Service is seeking three representatives to serve, effective now. A representative for individuals who are Deaf and a representative for individuals with a speech impairment. The purpose of the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Committee is to provide guidance for the development, monitoring, and promotion of state-wide telecommunications relay and equipment distribution program services in Nebraska. The Committee consists seven people: two hard of hearing people, one speech-impaired person, one person represents the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, one person represents the public.

If you or someone you may know is interested on serving on this committee, please contact John Wyvill at john.wyvill@nebraska.gov. An application can be found at: https://ncdhh.nebraska.gov/sites/ncdhh.nebraska.gov/files/doc/trs\_application3.28.14.pdf

### **Know Your Commissioners**

Margie Propp, Chairman

The next upcoming newsletters, NCDHH will be highlighting our Full Board for our readers to get to know them, including some interesting facts you may not know about each Board Member.

Name: Margaret Propp, but much prefer to be called Margie.

**Occupation:** I am a retired teacher of the Deaf. I taught for 25 years at the New Mexico School for the Deaf. Currently, I am working as a free-lance interpreter and an ASL instructor at Concordia University.

**Tell us about your upbringing:** I grew up in a Deaf family. My mother, father, and older brother are Deaf. I also have a Hearing brother and sister. I also have extended family members that are Deaf. I grew up with ASL as my first language. I am fortunate to have two homes-Nebraska is the place where I grew up, New Mexico is where I lived and worked for 25 years.



What is your favorite food? I could live on ice cream!

What is a life motto you like to live by? "Treat others as you would want them to treat you."

**What are you most proud of?** I am most proud of the work I did at the New Mexico School for the Deaf. I worked with great kids and great staff. My biggest accomplishment at NMSD was I was the director of the performing arts program at the school. I was involved in the development of the school's summer program, of which I was the director of for 8 years.

What are your hobbies? Scrapbooking, embroidery, and quilting.

**If you could change ONE thing in the world, what would it be?** Donald Trump never became President, and Congress would learn to work together.

**Biggest pet peeve?** People who do not show respect for others.

If you could have one superpower, what would it be? I would love to be able to cross my arms and blink my eyes, and transport myself to wherever I want to be.

**What is the best advice you've been given?** You cannot change the behaviors/actions of another person. But you can change how YOU react to their behaviors/actions.

**What is your favorite quote?** 1. "There is something about everything that you can be glad about, if you keep hunting long enough to find it." -from the movie 'Pollyanna'. 2. "I believe the children are our future. Teach them well, and let them lead the way." -Whitney Houston.

THE COMMUNICATOR

### **Know Your Commissioners**

Dr. Frank Turk, Vice Chairman

The next upcoming newsletters, NCDHH will be highlighting our Full Board for our readers to get to know them, including some interesting facts you may not know about each Board Member.

Name: Frank R. Turk.

Occupation: Retired educator, administrator and leader.

**Tell us about your upbringing:** Born and reared in Hibbing, Minnesota; educated at Minnesota School for the Deaf; Gallaudet College (now University) with B.A. in Deaf Education; University of Maryland, M.A. in School Counseling and Physical Education; and American University, Ed.D in Educational Administration and Student Development.

What is your favorite food? Cake donuts for breakfast. Meatloaf for dinner.

What is a life motto you like to live by? Gibran's "Work is love made visible."

**What are you most proud of?** The successes of the national deaf youth leadership training programs that I founded.

What are your hobbies? Workouts at Fitness Center and travels with (wife) Marlene and Jenny, our Schnauzer.

If you could change ONE thing in the world, what would it be? The quality of deaf education. Encourage schools to go back to where they started long ago, socializing all subjects with life after school. Their primary job is to teach students to read, write, add, and live. The traditional three R's do not teach how to live. Add the fourth R to their program, resourcefulness, which develops social skills such as leadership, attitude, empowerment, self-discipline, empathy, responsibility, humility, perserverance, and initiative.

**Biggest pet peeve?** Procrastination on the part of those I work with.

**If you could have one superpower, what would it be?** A respected and influential member of the Nebraska Legislature, Ernie Chambers #2 with a necktie.

What is the best advice you've been given? A good leader is also a good follower, too. As a successful leader, he or she should lead from behind, not up front, creating a new crowd of leaders.

Where is your favorite place in the world? Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

What is your favorite quote? Relationship is the glue that keeps all of us together.

### **Know Your Commissioners**

Dr. Peter Seiler, Secretary

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Name: Peter J. Seiler, Ed.D.

**Occupation:** Retired: Former school teacher and administrator for schools and state agency. (Love the retired state of life).

Tell us about your upbringing: I grew up in Chicago; one of three children. Our apartment had one bedroom so my sister and I slept in the dining room; my brother slept in the bedroom with my parents. We did not have much money but we never went without food or clothing. My father worked as a milk man and my mother was a school teacher for Chicago Public Schools. My parents weren't happy with the Deaf Oral Program in Chicago so they placed me in the regular classes while teaching me every night at home. I thank God they did that. While in high school and college, I participated in varsity



wrestling. I could not get into Gallaudet so I went to a hearing college without any support services. It always seemed like people kept saying I could not do this or that. So I went ahead and did those things just to spite them.

What is your favorite food? Meatloaf and potato.

What are you most proud of? Getting my doctorate when others told me I could not do it.

What are your hobbies? Reading, exercising, volunteering.

If you could change ONE thing in the world, what would it be? IEP rules so parents, rather than schools, decide how to educate the child.

**Biggest pet peeve?** Hearing people telling deaf people how to live and be educated, when they have never walked an inch in our shoes.

Who is your role model? My father and mother. They both stood up for me and challenged the teachers of the deaf to improve their skills. They taught me how to advocate for myself. Another role model and one who saved me from a life of misery as an oral deaf person is the late Dr. Frank Sullivan.

If you could go back in time to witness a historical event in person, what event would you choose? I want to walk with Jesus and witness his teaching and miracles. I know that He will make sure I understand everything.

What is the best advice you've been given? From my mother and father: "People who can hear are always going to doubt your skills and abilities, prove them wrong."

### Governor Ricketts Appoints Dr. Marc Brennan, Ms. Candice Arteaga to NCDHH Full Board

Gov. Pete Ricketts has appointed Candice Arteaga to the Board of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Ms. Arteaga will fill the spot previously occupied by Dr. Carol Lomicky.

Ms. Arteaga joins NCDHH as an involved member in the Deaf community, currently serving as the President for the Omaha Association of the Deaf. Ms. Arteaga grew up in Iowa as an only deaf child in her family. She graduated from Iowa School for the Deaf in 1999. The NCDHH Executive Committee voices their excitement on the newest addition to the Board.

Gov. Pete Ricketts has appointed Dr. Marc Brennan to the Board of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and reappointed Dr. Frank Turk for his second term.

Audiologist Dr. Marc Brennan works at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Neb. Dr. Brennan has a PhD from the University of Washington. His interests include research methods to improve hearing aids and develop methods to better tune for each individual hearing loss.

### **DMV License Renewal**

Rhonda Lahm, DMV Director



Individuals 21 and over may renew their driver's licenses 90 days prior to their birth-day. Individuals under 21 may do so 60 days prior to their 21st birthday. *If you are able, DMV encourages individuals to renew online.* 

### **Online Renewal**

If you are under age 72, you are encouraged to renew online (if eligible) at: www. CLICKDMV.ne.gov . If you have changed your address since the issuance of your last driver's license, you will be able to upload your proof of address documents to the DMV. A list of address documents can be found at: http://www.dmv.nebraska.gov/examining/forms.html#usbasedproof You may renew online once every ten years. If you renew online, the fee is \$27.75 for a five-year license, which includes a \$1.25 convenience fee.

### Renewing at a Driver Licensing Office

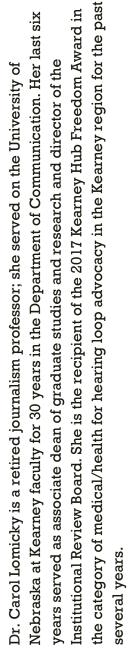
If you are visiting a driver licensing office to renew, you will need to complete a data form (found in the center-fold of the Nebraska driver's manual) or available at any driver licensing office. You will need to bring in your current license and two documents to prove your address. A list of address documents can be found at: <a href="http://www.dmv.nebraska.gov/examining/forms.html#usbasedproof">http://www.dmv.nebraska.gov/examining/forms.html#usbasedproof</a>

If you have questions on how to obtain other driver permits and licenses, please contact the Department of Motor Vehicles at 402.471.3861.

# BOSS OF THE MONTH

For **April** 2017 is awarded to

## Dr. Carol Lomicky



Master's in 1982, and Ph.D from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1996. Dr. Lomicky Dr. Lomicky received her Bachelor's degree from Kearney State College in 1978, her served two three-year terms, her final as Secretary, on the NCDHH Full Board.



If you know of someone deserving recognition, please contact John Wyvill at john.wyvill@nebraska.gov

### Law Enforcement Taskfoce: Survey Included

Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist



NCDHH formed a statewide Nebraska Law Enforcement Taskforce group that involves those who work with or for the law enforcement associations, agencies or departments; and those who are leaders of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing communities. Carly Weyers and I oversee the organization and plans for this taskforce, along with the assistance of taskforce members. Our goal is to enhance awareness and communication between both the criminal justice professionals within the law enforcement and individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing in all local, county and state regions of Nebraska.

We need your assistance to complete our survey, "For Nebraskans who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing and their Interactions with Nebraska Law Enforcement Officers".

The more we have complete this survey, the better our taskforce group has determining which route to take on developing necessities that will enhance awareness and communication.

Take a moment now to complete your survey on this newsletter and submit it today! **We will appreciate your response on or before June 11, 2017**. If you desire assistance with the survey, please contact us at (402) 261-2657 or (402) 206-2971. The completed survey can be postage mailed, scanned and email, or faxed to our NC-DHH Lincoln office, as follows:

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing 4600 Valley Road, Suite 420 Lincoln NE 68510 (402) 742-1120 (FAX)

Kim.Davis@nebraska.gov or Carly.Weyers@nebraska.gov

### Survey for Nebraskans who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing and their Interactions with Nebraska Law Enforcement Officers

1. How do you identify yourself?		
□ Deaf	☐ Male	
□ Deaf-Blind	☐ Female	
☐ Hard of Hearing		
2. What is your preferred mo	de of communication?	
□ Sign Language		
☐ Tactile Signing		
□ Print-on-Palm		
☐ Braille Signing		
☐ Using residual hearing		
☐ Speechreading		
☐ Writing or typing (through	pen & paper, text messages, computer/tablet, etc.)	
□ Braille		
3. What Nebraska city or town do you live in?		

4. What type of telephone do you use?
□ Regular phone
☐ Amplified Phone
□ Videophone
☐ Captioned Telephone
☐ Cell or Smartphone with a TRS APP
☐ Braille TTY or Internet Protocol (IP) Relay program
☐ Other:
Douler:
5. Have you had any experience that involved a law enforcement officer or agency?
□ Yes
$\square$ No
□ Don't Know
If yes, what kind of situation have you experienced with the law enforcement officer or agency? Please check all that applies:
☐ Pulled Over
□ Arrested
☐ Emergency Calls (9-1-1 Calls)
□ Domestic Violence
□ Substance Abuse
□ Other:
6. How did you communicate with law enforcement officer(s)?
☐ Direct sign language
☐ Used sign language interpreter
☐ Direct tactile signing
☐ Used tactile interpreter
☐ By writing or typing
, , , , ,
Used large print
Used residual hearing
☐ Used gestures
☐ Used Print-on-Palm
☐ Used Braille signing
□ Other:
7. Was the law enforcement officer able to effectively communicate with you?
□ Yes
□ No
9. Have you had any experience that involved making a 0.1.1 call?
8. Have you had any experience that involved making a 9-1-1 call?
□ Yes
☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know If yes, how did you contact 9-1-1? ☐ Direct TTY
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know If yes, how did you contact 9-1-1? ☐ Direct TTY ☐ Video Relay Service
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know If yes, how did you contact 9-1-1? ☐ Direct TTY ☐ Video Relay Service ☐ Captioned Telephone
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know  If yes, how did you contact 9-1-1? ☐ Direct TTY ☐ Video Relay Service ☐ Captioned Telephone ☐ Amplified Telephone
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know If yes, how did you contact 9-1-1? ☐ Direct TTY ☐ Video Relay Service ☐ Captioned Telephone ☐ Amplified Telephone ☐ Dialed from a landline telephone and laid the handset down for law enforcement officer to come in person
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know  If yes, how did you contact 9-1-1? ☐ Direct TTY ☐ Video Relay Service ☐ Captioned Telephone ☐ Amplified Telephone

9. Was the 9-1-1 dispatcher able to effectively communicate with you?  ☐ Yes ☐ No
10. Do you understand the Miranda Rights?  ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
11. Do you understand what you should do or not do when you are approached by a law enforcement officer?  ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know If yes, please briefly explain what you would do and not do: If no, what resources would you like to have to help you?
12. Do you have access to social media?  Yes  No  Don't Know  If yes, please check any of the following social media programs that you may have:  Facebook  Twitter  Instagram  Snapchat  LinkedIn  Other
13. What is the best method for you to receive educational information about law enforcement? Please check all that applies:  DVD Vlogs Social Media APP Email Subscription Workshop
14. What kind of resources would you like to have for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind communities and the law enforcement agencies that may provide better understanding and enhance communication?    Social Media   Communication Cards   Short Signing and Gesture Clips   Visor Cards   Sensitivity training or workshops   Other
15. Has communication barriers ever discouraged you from making contact with a law enforcement officer?  ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please briefly explain why:
16. May we contact you directly to inquire more information?  ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please provide your email address and/or telephone number

### **Hard of Hearing Resources**

Beth Ellsworth, Advocacy Specialist

It's hard to believe that summer is around the corner! With warm days and lots of activities happening it is time for those of us wearing hearing aids or cochlear implants to consider protecting them. Being outdoors and doing more activities can be problematic. If you are in or near water, sand, or have a tendency to sweat check out the following protective devices.

- 1. https://www.audicus.com/hearing-aids-during-exercise-2/
- 2. https://www.verywell.com/hot-weather-protection-for-hearing-aids-1046634
- 3. http://waysandhow.com/how-to-protect-hearing-aids-from-sweat
- 4. https://www.gearforears.com/



In February I appeared on the program 'Consider This' at UNO with audiologist Ashton Lampe and host Cathy Wyatt about hearing loss. It was great to provide awareness on issues that we deal with and hearing loss in general. Some of the topics covered: Background noise, loudness vs. clarity, and different kinds of phones: amplified, captioning phones, video phones, assistive listening devices, communication tips, hearing loss and concentration required to understand conversation.

The March/April Hearing loss Association of America magazine www.hearingloss.org has some wonderful articles. The article on Tinnitus by Douglas L. Beck, Au. D. Tinnitus Issues and Answers for Consumers is very comprehensive covering tinnitus, causes, different treatment options & research.

Stephen O. Frazier wrote a wonderful article about Telecoil, also called a T-Switch in hearing aids. To learn about the benefits of having a Telecoil in your hearing aids or cochlear implant read his article titled, "Telecoil: Old? Yes Outdated? No"

Other articles to read: A Noisy Planet: Protecting Their Hearing https://www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov/have-you-heard/CDC-report-shows-adults-have-signs-of-noise-in-duced-hearing-loss

Do you ever wonder which celebrities have a hearing loss and wear hearing aids? There are many! https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Celebrities+with+Hearing+Aids&FORM=RESTAB

I would love to hear from you! Please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 402-682-7129 or beth.ellsworth@nebraska.gov

### **Amplified Telephones**

### Brittney Graham, Advocacy Specialist



Is talking on the phone something you dread? Well, dread no more. Here are a few examples of the many telephones out there that make hearing easier on the phone.

First, is the Clarity XLC3.4, a cordless amplified phone with Caller ID (right). This is for people who have Severe Hearing Loss. Incoming sound amplifies up to 50dB and has 4 tone settings, which means if the person calling you has a voice that is too high pitched you can drop it down to a pitch you can hear. There is also an "AMP" option which amplifies the incoming voice. This cordless phone also has a speakerphone in the handset to amplify the incoming sound that much more.





The Clarity Alto Plus (left) is an amplified corded phone with caller ID. Incoming sounds amplifies up to 53 dB and has 4 tone settings, which means if the person calling you has a voice that is too high pitched you can drop it down to a pitch you can hear. There is also a "Boost" option which amplifies the incoming voice. This phone has Digital Clarity Power which incorporates hearing aid technology for a clear call quality. There is a loud and bright visual ringer, talking dial pad and amplified speakerphone. It is also hearing aid & T-Coil compatible.

The Serene HD-70 (right)is an amplified corded phone. Like the rest of the amplified phones, it has a tone setting so you can adjust the incoming voice. There is also a "Boost" option which amplifies the incoming voice. What makes this phone, unique is its "talking" and missed call features not found on other amplified phones. It has Talking Caller ID which announces the name of the caller, Talking Call Waiting which announces the person who is waiting to talk to you and Talking Missed Call which announces whose calls you have missed. There is also a "Q & A" button that will connect you directly to technicians to answer questions or adjust your telephone during the call.



This is just an example of the many Amplified Telephones available. If you or someone you know could benefit from these, please contact the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 402-471-3593 so they can direct you to the Advocacy Specialist in your area.

### **Technology for Noise Induced Hearing Loss**

Kathy Scusa, Advocacy Specialist

Much of the information in this article comes from an article written by David Owen and published in The New Yorker, April 3, 2017 Issue and titled "High-Tech Hope for the Hard of Hearing". To read to complete article go to: http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/04/03/high-tech-hope-for-the-hard-of-hearing

How Hearing Works – The auricle or pinna, also known as the part of the ear that sticks out, funnels sound waves into the external auditory canal, (the part you're not supposed to stick a Q-Tip in). The canal is about 1 inch deep inside your head and passes the sound waves to the tympanic membrane or eardrum. Soundwaves create vibrations that pass through the eardrum and through the three small bones of the inner ear and into the cochlea. Inside the cochlea the vibrations are transmitted to hair cells which generate electri-



cal signals to produce nerve impulses which travel via the auditory nerve to the part of the brain that interprets sound.

Hearing Loss Prevention – There are increasingly effective methods of preventing hearing damage in the first place, and of compensating for it once it has occurred. The natural human tendency is to do nothing and hope for the best while pretending that nothing is wrong. People who notice they're having hearing problems typically wait more than ten years before doing anything about it. It is estimated that as many as one in four Americans have hearing loss, and could benefit from technology. One fifth of all hearing aids sold in the United States are purchased by the Veteran's Administration. Between military personnel and aging baby boomers interest in hearing loss, prevention, technology and cures is higher than ever.

How Noise Induced Hearing Loss Occurs – The key to noise induced hearing loss is the 45,000 hair cells inside the cochlea that we are born with. These hair cells are extremely sensitive. Prolonged exposure to damaging levels of noise or single instances of loud noise damage these hair cells. Hair cells can recover if a noise isn't too loud and doesn't last too long. Everyday activities that lie at or above the noise danger line include: lawn mowing, motorcycle riding, rock concerts, shop vacs, power tools, hair dryers, vacuuming, and riding the subway. For those instances when irreparable damage to the hair cells occurs, they simply cease to function and permanent damage is done. Damage to hair cells or to the nerve synapses they're attached to is the most common source of hearing loss. The hair cells are no longer able to generate the electrical signal to pass on to the auditory nerve. These permanent injuries are cumulative and over time as the number of functioning hair cells decrease, your level of hearing loss will increase. Unlike taste buds and olfactory receptors, which the body replenishes continuously, the most delicate elements of the human auditory system don't regenerate. The National Center for Health Statistics has estimated that thirty-seven million American adults have lost some hearing. Aging itself is a cause of hearing loss, added to the noise-induced hearing loss, this can lead to social isolation and cognitive decline in the elderly.

For any questions in this article or if I can provide any information or services NCDHH offers, please contact me at 308-535-6600 or kathy.scusa@nebraska.gov.

### The Importance of Good Mental Health

Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator



Not everyone has a mental illness, but mental health is part of everyone's life. Many people often focus on their weight, general health and finances. They always worry about their physical health such as eating right, exercising and taking care of their bodies which are definitely good things, but they tend to forget that mental health is just as important as your physical health. This is why May 1st kicks off National Mental Health month. It is the tradition of encouraging awareness of mental and emotional health, and this is a way to remind everyone to take care of their mental health because it is an important part of your life. No matter where you are at in your own health, there is always room for improvement. For example, someone with diabetes has to learn how to manage their condition and still maintain good health despite the fact they have diabetes.

Good mental health includes helping individuals to achieve opportunities to be part of social activities, make friends, and give back to society and making health choices to reinforce your mental health. Here are some examples that you can do that will help you to take care of your mental health. It is very important to treat yourself with respect, take good care of your body, and surround yourself with good people who supports you. Figure out what is the best way for you to deal with your stress, take some time to yourself and let your mind be quiet for a while, and set realistic goals where you can take a step by a day to achieve your goals. Once in a while, go out and try something new- and ask for help when you need it.

By taking good care of your mental health, you will be able to focus on your strengths, solving problems and your future rather than the past. It will also help people who suffer with mental illness to focus on their life rather than their illness.

### **Summer Activity** *Jenny Corum, Education Advocate*



Spring has sprung, and summer is just around the corner. That means: schools out! These months are important downtime for children, but as summer approaches there are a lot of things you can do to keep your children busy and engaged in an active learning environment. Summer is a perfect time to help children feel more comfortable with their peers and encourage them to improve in their own hobbies.

Getting involved in extracurricular activities allows children to get involved in diverse interests, build time management skills and a wider social circle. It allows them to explore various interest that they may have. Contact your child's schools and see what they might have available this summer for your child. A few ideas of places to explore this summer would be the Omaha Zoo, Children's museum, sport camps, summer camps, and many more. Here are some resources for ideas:

www.omahazoo.com www.lincolnzoo.org www.lincolnchildrensmuseum.org www.ymcacampkitaki.org 4h.unl.edu/summer-camp

### to Assist with Better Communication The NCDHH Team Reached out to January-December 2016 10,211 People



Where It All Begins



4600 Valley Road, Suite 420, Lincoln, NE 68510-4844

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### **Change Service Requested**

Is this address correct?

If not, please let NCDHH know.

### Lincoln

4600 Valley Rd. Ste. 420 Lincoln, NE 68510

### Omaha

1313 Farnam St. 3rd Floor Omaha, NE 68102

### **North Platte**

200 S Silber Room 207 North Platte, NE 69101

### Kearney

620 E 25th St. Ste. 1 Kearney, NE 68847

### **Scottsbluff**

505A Broadway Ste. 1100 Scottsbluff, NE 69361

### Email:

ncdhh@nebraska.gov

**Voice (Hearing)/TTY Callers:** (402) 471-3593

Video Phone (Deaf) Callers: (402) 506-7956

Voice (Hearing)/TTY Callers: Toll Free: (800) 545-6244