



NCDHH

Nebraska Commission
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Communication - Advocacy - Equal Access

2019 Annual Report

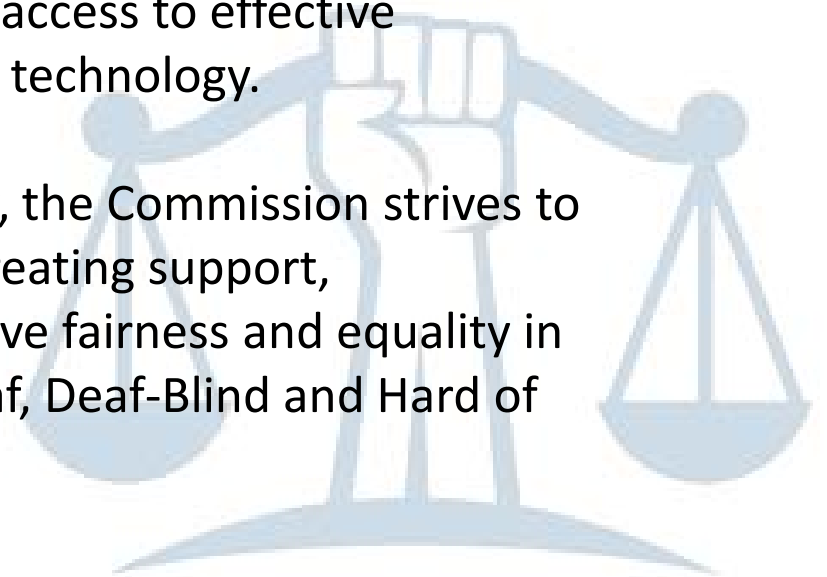




Mission & Vision

The mission of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is to promote and advocate for Nebraskans who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing; to achieve equality and opportunity in social, educational, vocational, and legal aspects impacting their daily lives; and to enhance and monitor access to effective communication and telecommunication technology.

As a proactive and reactive state agency, the Commission strives to enhance collaboration in Nebraska by creating support, cooperation and understanding to achieve fairness and equality in all aspects of the mainstream for all Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans.





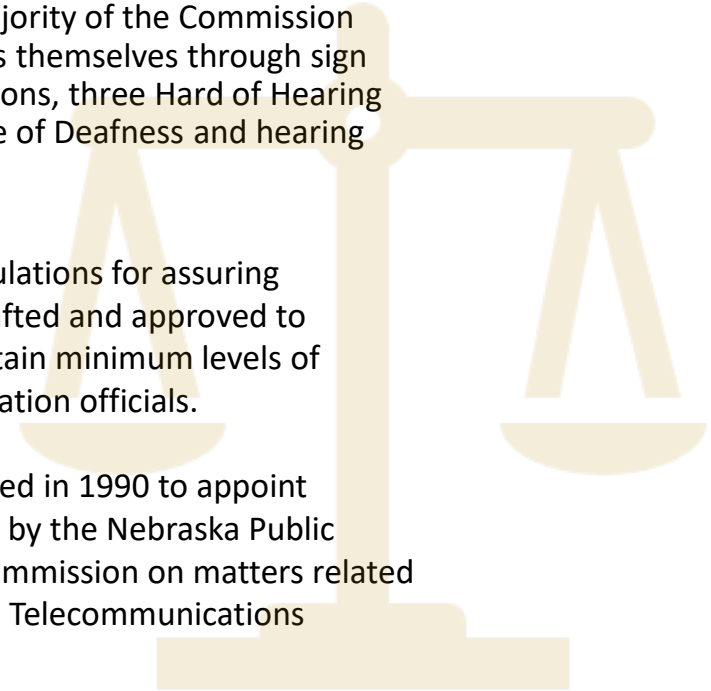
Boards & Committees

Full Commission Board: Consists of nine members who are appointed by the Governor subject to approval by the Legislature. Statute 71-4720 requires that a majority of the Commission members who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing shall be able to express themselves through sign language. The Commission members shall include three Deaf persons, three Hard of Hearing persons and three persons who have an interest in and knowledge of Deafness and hearing loss issues.

Interpreter Review Board: Created to develop guidelines and regulations for assuring competencies for sign language interpreters. Regulations were crafted and approved to include assurances that sign language interpreters have and maintain minimum levels of competency to interpret for state entities, courts, police and probation officials.

Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Committee: Mandated in 1990 to appoint members to serve on the Relay Advisory Committee administered by the Nebraska Public Service Commission. The Committee advises the Public Service Commission on matters related to the telecommunications relay system, the Nebraska Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Program and its operations.

Mental Health Advisory Committee: A special advisory committee is appointed by the Commission. Created to ensure full access of comprehensive mental health, alcoholism, and drug abuse services are available for Nebraskans who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.





2019 Highlights

LB 15 'Children of Nebraska Hearing Aid Act' passed

LB 248 – Remove hearing impaired language passed

Collaboration with University of Nebraska Athletic Department announcing open captions at Memorial Stadium

Over 800 hearing aid donations to Nebraska Hearing Aid Banks

Interpreter Workshop – Ethics & Mentoring

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness Night at the Lincoln Saltdogs

Town Hall Meeting with State of Nebraska Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Gary Anthone

NCDHH celebrates 40th Anniversary as a state agency!

Collaboration with emergency management and city officials on proper communication access in press conference settings

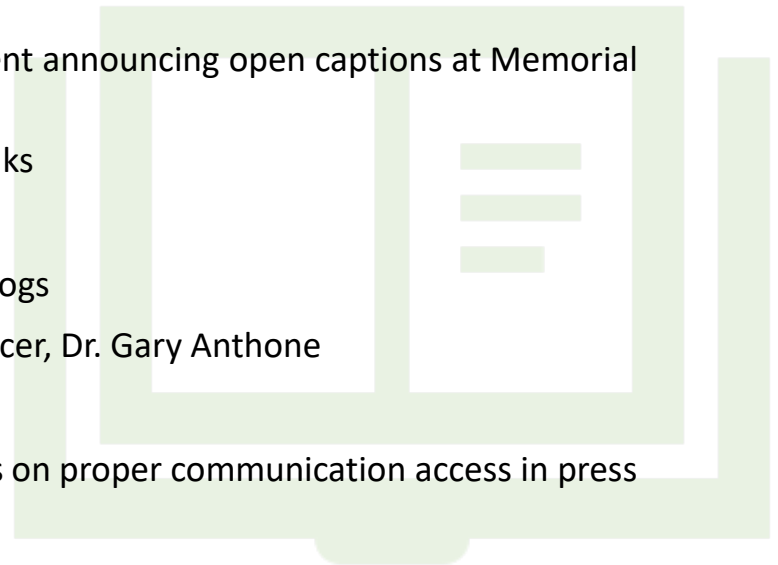
Financial Stress Workshop

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Omaha & Scottsbluff Zoo

NCDHH Full Board votes to cease administration of Interpreter Referral Program

Representation at National Leadership Training Conference, hosted by National Association of the Deaf

Deaf Culture training by Linsay Darnall Jr.

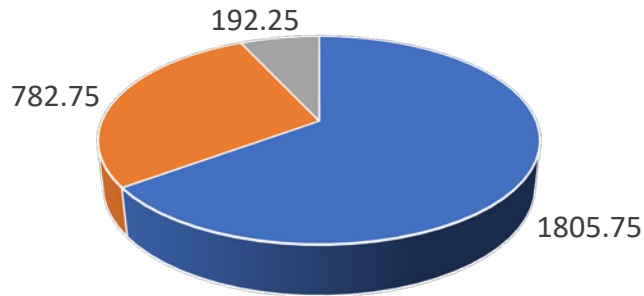




Interpreter Referral Service

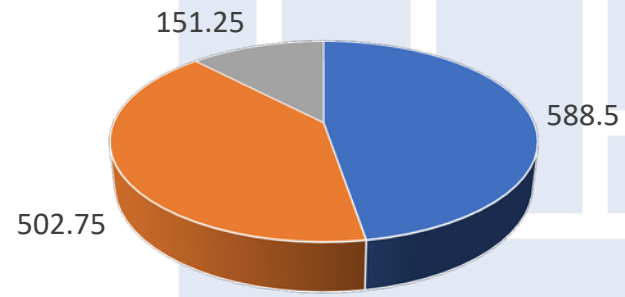
2019 was the final year NCDHH administered the Interpreter Referral Service, based on a vote by the Full Board. You may visit the Commission website (www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov) under “Find a Sign Language Interpreter” to find a full list of licensed national and state certified sign language interpreters to assist you. Below is a chart reflecting the number interpreters hours filled and unfilled by region across Nebraska in 2019.

Filled Interpreter Hours



■ Lincoln ■ Omaha ■ Greater Nebraska

Unfilled Interpreter Hours



■ Lincoln ■ Omaha ■ Greater Nebraska



NSTEP

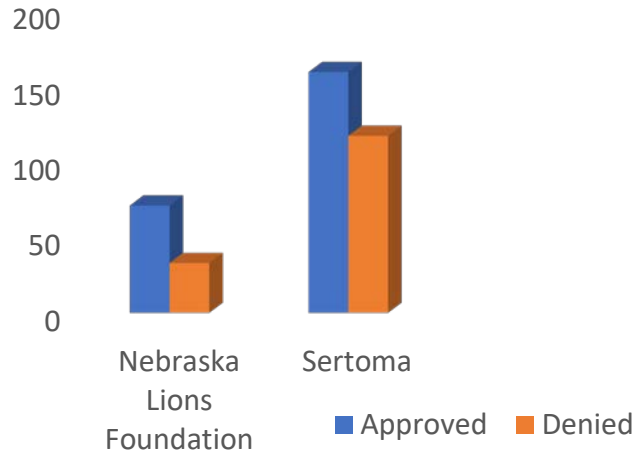
The State of Nebraska offers the Nebraska Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Program (NSTEP). The goal of this program is to provide monetary assistance to Nebraskans with disabilities to use for the purchase of specialized telephone equipment such as amplifiers, signaling devices, captioned telephones and mobile phones. Our advocacy specialists work with clients to help find the technology to best meet their unique needs and assist individuals in their application process. The number of applications NCDHH processed for 2019 was:

243



Hearing Aid Banks

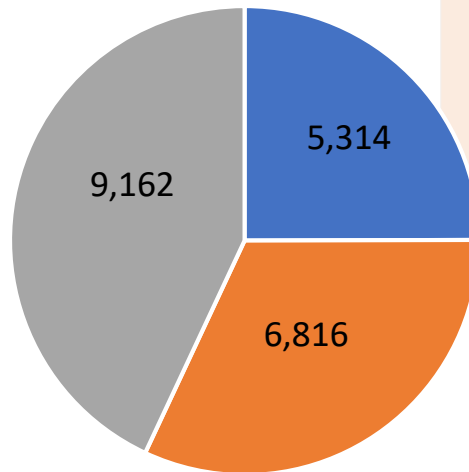
NCDHH works with the Barkley Memorial Center of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, HearU Nebraska, Sertoma, and the Nebraska Lions Foundation to provide hearing aids to individuals who qualify. HearU Nebraska provides hearing aids to children ages birth-18. Sertoma is an international organization whose purpose is to provide service to all mankind, providing refurbished hearing aids to individuals 65+. The Nebraska Lions Foundation promotes the collection, refurbishing and distribution of donated hearing aids to Nebraska residents ages 19-64. Applications to these programs are available through the Commission. Below is a chart reflecting applications, approved and denied, for both the Nebraska Lions Foundation and Sertoma.





Consumer Outreach

NCDHH is mandated to act as an information and referral agency for Nebraskans who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. The chart below depicts some of the different areas we have served consumers in 2019. Our teammates work across the state assisting Nebraskans through meetings, appointments, educational and training presentations, attending conferences, marketing outreach and more. Examples of some of our team at work are below:



- Consumers Assisted
- Presentation Attendees
- Booth Attendees





Social

Facebook



1.9K
followers

*LB 15 passing post reached over
14,000 people*

YouTube



88
uploads

Top Uploads

1. Interpreter Referral Program: What's Next?
2. Employee Spotlight: Kim Davis
3. Outreach Event at the Omaha Zoo

Website



1.6K
monthly visits

1,600 Average Monthly Page Views

Scottsbluff
Brittney Isom

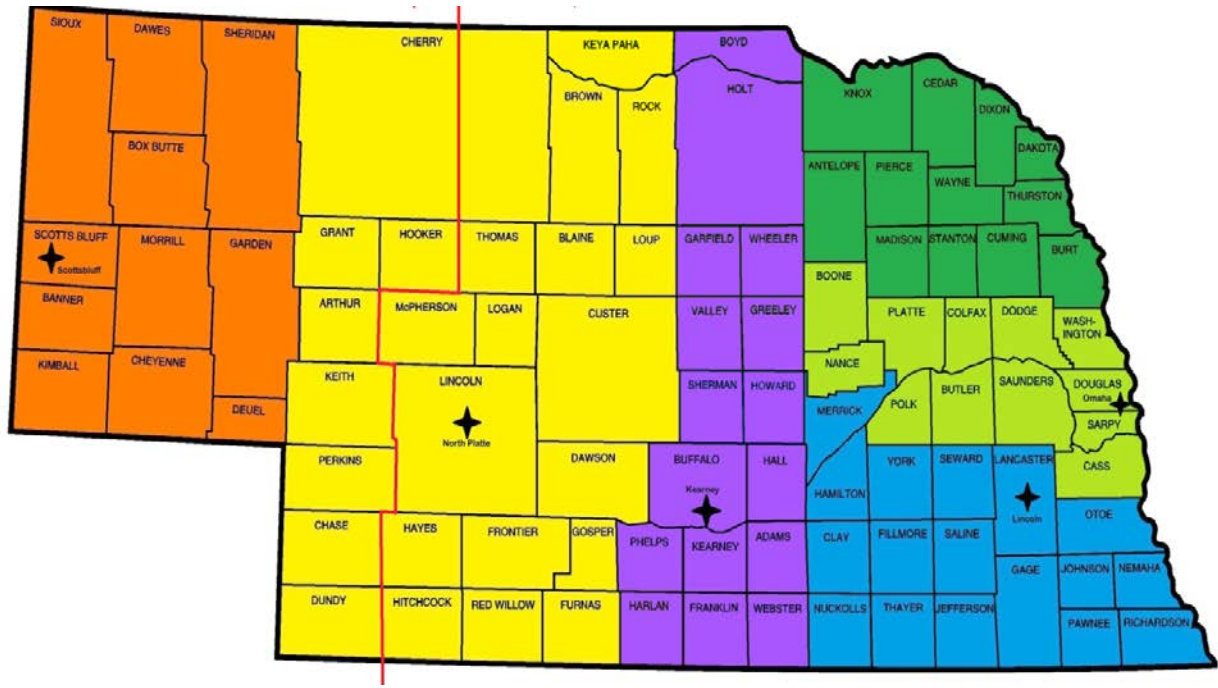
North Platte
Kathy Scusa

Kearney
Aaron Rothenberger

Omaha
Dillon Curren

Omaha
Cody McEvoy

Lincoln
Kim Davis





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