

Approved March 15, 2024

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of
Hearing Full Commission Board Meeting
Physical locations at 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln NE 68510 and
1313 Farnam St, Room E, Omaha NE 68102
via Zoom
January 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

A. Welcome

Chairperson Frances Beurivage called the meeting to order for the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) Full Commission Board on January 29, 2024, at 11 a.m. held by zoom, with physical locations at 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln NE and 1313 Farnam St, Room E, Omaha NE.

B. Notice of open meeting

Chairperson Frances Beurivage announced the notice of the meeting was duly given, posted, published, and tendered in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and all board members received notice simultaneously by email. Publication of official notice of the meeting appeared in the January 22, 2024, edition of the Omaha World Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation in this state, as required by the Open Meetings Act. The agenda was kept current in the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's office and on the NCDHH website. The materials generally used by the board for the meeting were on a table in a public folder readily accessible to the general public for the purpose of this meeting and in accordance with the Open Meetings Act {Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1412 (8)}. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for the duration of the meeting.

C. Roll call

For the record, board members Ms. Candice Arteaga, Ms. Frances Beurivage, Ms. Brooke Fitzpatrick, Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Ms. Diane Schutt, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams were all present for roll call. Ms. Valerie "Vali" Hitz, was absent. NCDHH staff members present were Ms. Kelsey Cruz, Marketing & Communications Specialist, Ms. Kim Davis, Lead Advocacy Specialist, Ms. Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator, Ms. Gina Petersen, Administrative Assistant, Mr. Jeremy Daffern, Advocacy Specialist, and Ms. Molly McEvoy, NCDHH intern. Sign Language Interpreters present were Ms. Amber Tucker and Mr. Ben Sparks. Inclusive Communication Access Nebraska provided Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services.

Mr. John Jelkin, Assistant Attorney General, was present as was Ms. Nicole Nath, HR Business Partner II. Individuals present in the audience were Mr. Jonathan Arteaga, Ms. Pamela Duncan, Ms. Sherri Collins and Ms. Arlene Garcia Gunderson.

D. Acceptance of agenda

Ms. Shaw moved to accept the agenda as presented. Ms. Schutt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Ms. Beurivage, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Hitz was absent.

E. Public comment

No public comments were made.

F. Closed session – Discuss former executive director’s request to rescind resignation

Ms. Williams made the motion to go into closed session at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the former executive director’s request to rescind her resignation. The reason for going into closed session is to avoid needlessly damaging the former director’s reputation. Ms. Arteaga seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Ms. Beurivage, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Hitz was absent.

Ms. Williams made the motion that Mr. Jelkin and Ms. Nath be a part of the closed session. Ms. Arteaga seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Ms. Beurivage, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Hitz was absent.

Closed session was from 11:30 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.

G. Consider action on former director’s request to rescind resignation

Ms. Williams made a motion to reject Ms. Arlene Garcia Gunderson’s request to rescind her resignation as outlined in her letter to the board dated January 8, 2024. Ms. Schutt seconded the motion. Clarification was requested on verbiage of the motion in relation to the vote. Chairperson Beurivage clarified if a board member votes ‘no’ in response to the motion, it would be a vote in favor of reinstating Ms. Garcia Gunderson as Executive Director, whereas if a board member votes ‘yes’, it indicates agreeance to the motion on the floor and rejection of Ms. Arlene Garcia Gunderson’s request to rescind resignation.

With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Ms. Beurivage, Ms.

Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Hitz was absent.

Ms. Fitzpatrick commented that Ms. Arlene Garcia Gunderson's request to rescind her resignation was not accepted.

H. Adjourn

Ms. Schutt moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m. Ms. Shaw seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Ms. Beurivage, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Hitz was absent.