

*DRAFT – Subject to Board review and approval on the
December 10, 2021, meeting date*

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Full Commission Board Meeting
Omaha State Office Building, 1313 Farnam, Room 227, Omaha, NE**

November 19th, 2021, Meeting Minutes

A. Opening

Chairperson Candice Arteaga started the meeting of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) full commission board meeting on November 19th, 2021, 8:30 am at the Omaha State Office Building, 1313 Farnam, Room 227, Omaha, Nebraska.

B. Notice of Open Meeting

Chairperson Candice Arteaga announced that 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 October 21, 2021, 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 this meeting today are on the table in a public folder that is available to the general public for the purpose of this meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act {Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1412 (8)}. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for the duration of the meeting.

C. Roll Call

For the record, Board Members Ms. Candice Arteaga, Mr. Robert Feit, Ms. Frances Beaurivage, Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Ms. Diane Schutt, Dr. Josh Sevier, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams were all present. Ms. Valerie Hitz was absent for roll call. NCDHH Staff members present were Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director; Mr. Cody McEvoy, Behavioral Health Coordinator; and Ms. Jessica Larrison, Education Advocate. Sign Language Interpreters present were Ms. Lorelei Waldron and Ms. Amber Tucker. Ms. Margaret "Mydge" Heaney with Inclusive Communication Access Nebraska provided CART services.

D. Review of Agenda

Executive Director John Wyvill reviewed the agenda with the Board Members and invited the board members to stop by the Omaha NCDHH office after the meeting.

E. Acceptance of Agenda

Mr. Robert Feit moved to accept the agenda as written. Dr. Josh Sevier seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Candice Arteaga, Mr. Robert Feit, Ms. Frances Beaurivage, Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Ms. Diane Schutt, Dr. Josh Sevier, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams all voting aye. Ms. Valerie Hitz was absent.

F. **Acceptance of Minutes**

Ms. Diane Schutt moved to accept October 22nd, 2021, minutes. Dr. Josh Sevier seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Candice Arteaga, Mr. Robert Feit, Ms. Frances Beaurivage, Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Ms. Diane Schutt, Dr. Josh Sevier, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams all voting aye. Ms. Valerie Hitz was absent.

G. **Chairperson of the Board Report**

Chair Candice Arteaga welcomed new board member Peggy Williams and reported that Dr. Josh Sevier's last meeting will be in December. Ms. Arteaga also thanked NCDHH Omaha staff for setting up the room and congratulated Ms. Jessica Larrison on receiving the Governor's Excellence in Leadership award.

H. **Strategic Planning Working Session (Serenity Kinney)**

Serenity Kinney, Department of Administrative Services Human Resources – Shared Services Administrator, shared with the board the updated mission, vision, and goals. She led the board through a discussion on the specific objectives that will need to be in place to reach the newly updated goals. The goals and corresponding objectives were finalized to the following:

Mission Statement

We advocate to create opportunities by raising awareness through collaboration.

Vision Statement

Access for all.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal #1: Empower through training and provide services to create awareness.

Objectives:

- Educate consumers on their legal rights under federal and state laws.
- Update consumers on available technology, equipment and telecommunication access options and services.
- Educate consumers on self-empowerment and self-advocacy.
- Advocate to assure equal access to quality education for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and/or Hard of Hearing students.

Goal #2: Collaborate with stakeholders to implement and maintain programs.

Objectives:

- Provide access to quality, effective and accessible communication accommodations.

- Identify and resolve gaps in services. Promote awareness through the collection and distribution of information.

Goal #3: Promote awareness through the collection and distribution of information.

Objectives:

- Inform communities about programs and services operated by NCDHH.
- Enhance the website to better provide information through emerging technology.
- Research, gather and expand the dissemination of information through visual technology.
- Promote partnerships with other agencies to encourage website visits.

Goal #4: Ensure access to health care.

Objectives:

- Promote and/or provide healthcare/behavioral health care training to certified or licensed sign language interpreters in Nebraska.
- Educate staff of health care facilities to ensure communication access for all.
- Establish local support systems with mental health providers, domestic violence programs, and regional programs.

Cody McEvoy commented about what other states are doing in regards to mental health providers serving deaf or hard of hearing clients. These providers call a facilitator to consult with the professional and/or the deaf person to ensure accurate communication. There were questions around what “regional” is referring to and Mr. McEvoy related what he is referring to when he mentions regional programs (states having a specific program that other states can refer Deaf or Hard of Hearing clients to). Nebraska does not have this type of program at this time. Mr. McEvoy also reported that the regional programs and other providers still do not know to call us for help with locating available services.

Goal #5: Ensure access to effective and quality interpreting.

Objectives:

- Oversee and enforce the licensing of deaf and sign language interpreters.
- Review alleged violations of rules and regulations governing sign language interpreters.
- Promote and/or provide interpreter training.

Goal #6: Education and promote awareness of Deaf culture.

Objectives:

- Enhance and develop events about Deaf culture.
- Collaborate with Deaf organizations to promote awareness of Deaf culture and history.

There was discussion around including Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind in the Deaf culture goal or specifically refer to the groups in other objectives. These proposed Goals and Objectives will be sent to everyone for consideration and will be put to a final vote at the December meeting. The December meeting will not be a working discussion meeting, but if someone has a wording change that would be accommodated. There was discussion around how long the new goals will be in place. It was decided that it would be beneficial to review yearly to see if the goals are still relevant and if any changes need to be made.

I. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

J. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

K. New Business

Mr. John Wyvill reported that the Interpreter Issues Committee will meet between now and the December 10th meeting and will report back to the board on recommendations from the IRB.

L. Adjourn

Ms. Peggy Williams moved to adjourn at 1:00 pm. Ms. Diane Schutt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Candice Arteaga, Mr. Robert Feit, Ms. Frances Beaurivage, Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Ms. Diane Schutt, Dr. Josh Sevier, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams all voting aye. Ms. Valerie Hitz was absent.

Next Meeting Dates

- December 10, 2021 – Country Inn and Suites, 5353 N. 27th, Lincoln, Nebraska

Proposed Goals & Objectives

Pages 2 - 3

NCDHH Proposed Objectives

Goal:

Empower through training and provide services to create awareness.

Objectives:

- Educate consumers on their legal rights under federal and state laws.
- Update consumers on available technology, equipment and telecommunication access options and services.
- Educate consumers on self-empowerment and self-advocacy.
- Advocate to assure equal access to quality education for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and/or Hard of Hearing students.

Goal:

Collaborate with stakeholders, including public and private sectors, to implement and maintain services.

Objectives:

- Provide access to quality, effective and accessible communication accommodations.
- Identify and resolve gaps in services.

Goal:

Promote awareness through the collection and distribution of information.

Objectives:

- Inform communities about programs and services operated by NCDHH.
- Enhance the website to better provide information through emerging technology.
- Research, gather and expand the dissemination of information through visual technology.
- Promote partnerships with other agencies to encourage website visits.

Goal:

Ensure access to health care.

Objectives:

- Promote and/or provide healthcare/behavioral health care training to certified or licensed sign language interpreters in Nebraska.
- Educate staff of health care facilities to ensure communication access for all.
- Establish local support systems with mental health providers, domestic violence programs, and regional programs.

Goals:

Ensure access to effective and quality interpreting.

Objectives:

- Oversee and enforce the licensing of deaf and sign language interpreters.
- Review alleged violations of rules and regulations governing sign language interpreters.
- Promote and/or provide interpreter training.

Goal:

Educate and promote awareness of Deaf culture.

Objectives:

- Enhance and develop events about Deaf culture.
- Collaborate with Deaf organizations to promote awareness of Deaf culture and history.

Current Goals & Objectives

Pages 5 - 7

CURRENT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Provide and promote services and training to create awareness through the delivery of programs designed to empower Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans

- Educate consumers on their legal rights under federal and state laws
- Educate consumers on available technology, equipment and telecommunication access options and services
- Train consumers on self-empowerment and self-advocacy
- Advocate to service providers, organizations, and governmental agencies in support of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing person(s) to assure that the rights and benefits are available to that consumer
- Educate parents of Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing children about opportunities available to their children
- Advocate with parents to assure equal access to quality education for their Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and/or Hard of Hearing children

Initiate, broaden and maintain the collection and dissemination of information regarding the strategies for living with, the prevention of, and the impact of deafness and hearing loss

- Promote community awareness about programs and services operated by NCDHH
- Initiate a viable and reliable system for developing a census of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing people in Nebraska
- Update the media lending library and newsletters in order to increase usage by clients
- Provide information through the NCDHH web page by increasing the use of vlogs and video presentations and by redesigning the web site
- Develop information packets and resources on home safety issues for placement on the NCDHH website
- Research, gather and expand the dissemination of information through electronic and/or visual mediums
- Disseminate brochures and service information on a scheduled basis to identified groups such as audiologists, professional groups, hospitals, nursing homes, Interpreter Training Programs, and private business groups
- Increase traffic to our web site using contact with other agencies; e.g., insert our links to other web sites

CURRENT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Implement and maintain programs through collaboration with consumer groups, the Governor, legislature, organizations, service providers, and governmental agencies and units

- Establish access to effective and accessible communication through various mediums
- Identify and collaborate with stakeholders, agencies, organizations, hospitals, social service entities, law enforcement agencies and educational institutions to identify gaps in service and work together to resolve those issues and build a relationship in the process
- Educate consumers and especially low income families on acquisition and use of telecommunication through internet accessibility
- Educate staffs at hospitals, jails, law enforcement and care facilities regarding access rights and reasonable accommodations for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing clients
- In collaboration with appropriate state agencies and service providers, promote the establishment and installation of public access videophones
- Collaborate with various organizations to help Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing individuals access personal-social programs and other types of programs
- Collaborate with agencies and consumers on home and community disaster preparedness plans.
- In collaboration with appropriate state agencies and service providers, promote the establishment and implementation of accurate weather alerting services through weather and general emergency alerting devices
- Work closely with parent groups, Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing organizations, and school units to empower Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing students through developing leadership skills and deaf awareness activities
- Work closely with higher education institutions to develop better sign language skills in teachers and interpreters

CURRENT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Ensure and monitor full access to comprehensive and appropriate mental health, alcoholism and substance abuse services for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing persons by collaborating with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and behavioral health service providers

- Create recommended strategies to assist adults and youth in coping with late onset of hearing loss
- Establish a domestic violence/sexual assault support system in Nebraska
- Establish an alcohol drug/substance abuse support system in Nebraska
- Establish training programs to educate staffs at all Nebraska behavioral health programs
- Provide mental health/substance abuse training to certified and licensed interpreters in Nebraska
- Establish local support systems with mental health providers, domestic violence programs, regional programs
- Identify, contact and provide hearing loss/deaf awareness to agencies, programs & services that provide mental health, addictions and abuse services (support groups, eating disorder clinics, AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), NA (Narcotics Anonymous), communication access, equipment and technology for existing programs)
- Work closely with NCDHH Staff Assistant for IT and Interpreter Program Assistant to provide information mental health-related topics and issues through the NCDHH web page by increasing the use of vlogs and video presentations and by redesigning the web site

Ensure and implement access to effective and quality interpreting services by collaborating with consumer groups, organizations, service providers, and governmental agencies and units

- Promote and/or provide interpreter training in cooperation with other organizations and agencies
- Monitor the licensing of sign language interpreters
- Promote and encourage sign language interpreters to be certified and licensed in Nebraska
- Provide review of alleged violations of rules and regulations governing the sign language interpreters
- Recruit qualified interpreters
- Implement and maintain an effective and efficient referral system
- Implement and maintain a system to measure, maintain and improve interpreter's skills
- Inform consumer groups and agencies how to use an interpreter, use of complaint procedures, and the NCDHH referral system
- Establish a system for recognizing Nebraska interpreters
- Coordinate with state and national interpreter groups to ensure maintenance of certification

G.4.

NCDHH Legislative Agenda items for 2022

1. American Rescue Funds Request
2. State law requirement that all Hospitals have communication plans in their care plans for Deaf and Hard of Hearing patients.
3. Require captioning on all video ads for candidates for state office.
4. Require all businesses to turn on captioning on TV's in Nebraska. (Omaha, Lincoln or State)

Full Board Meeting Dates for 2022

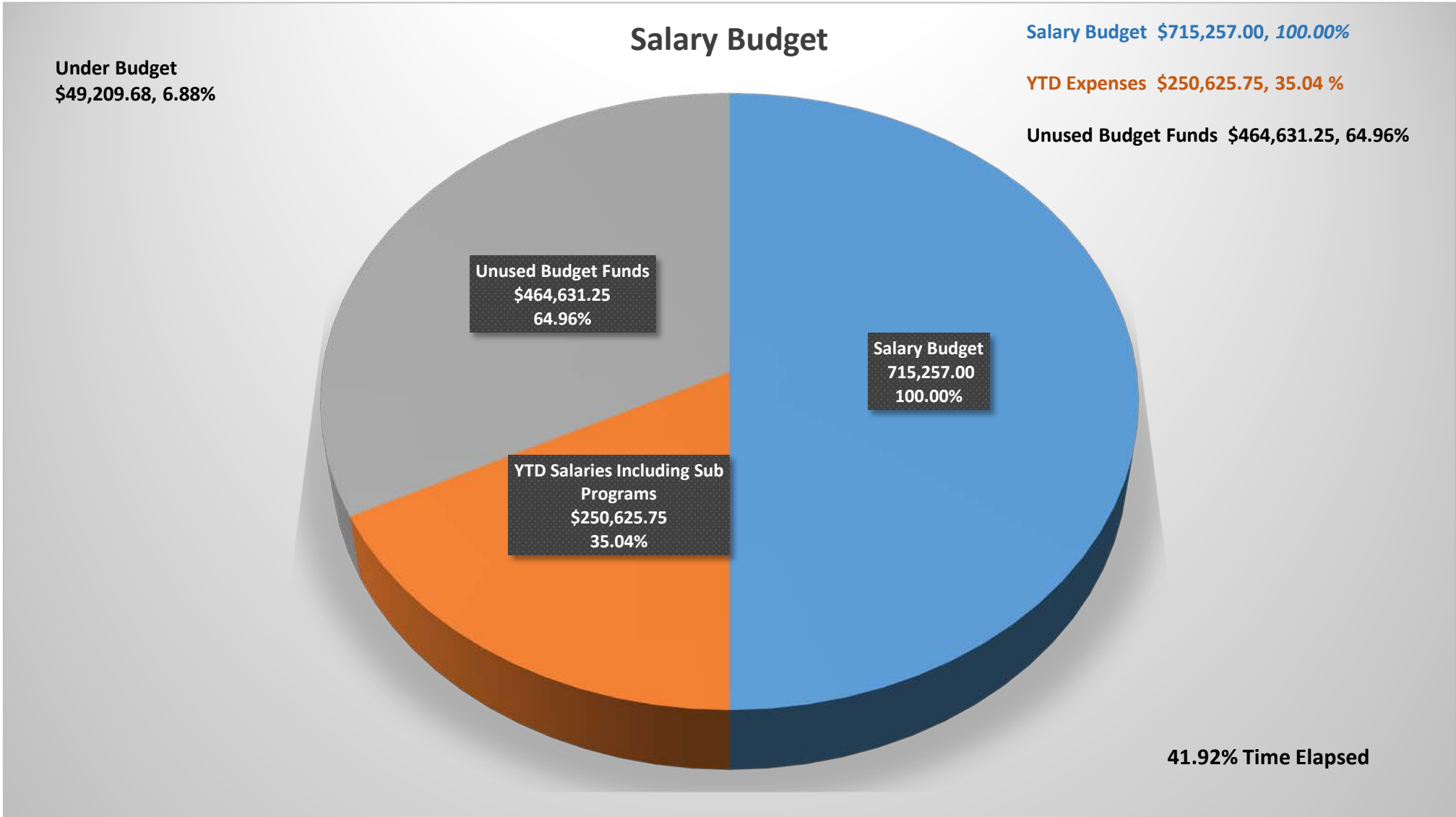
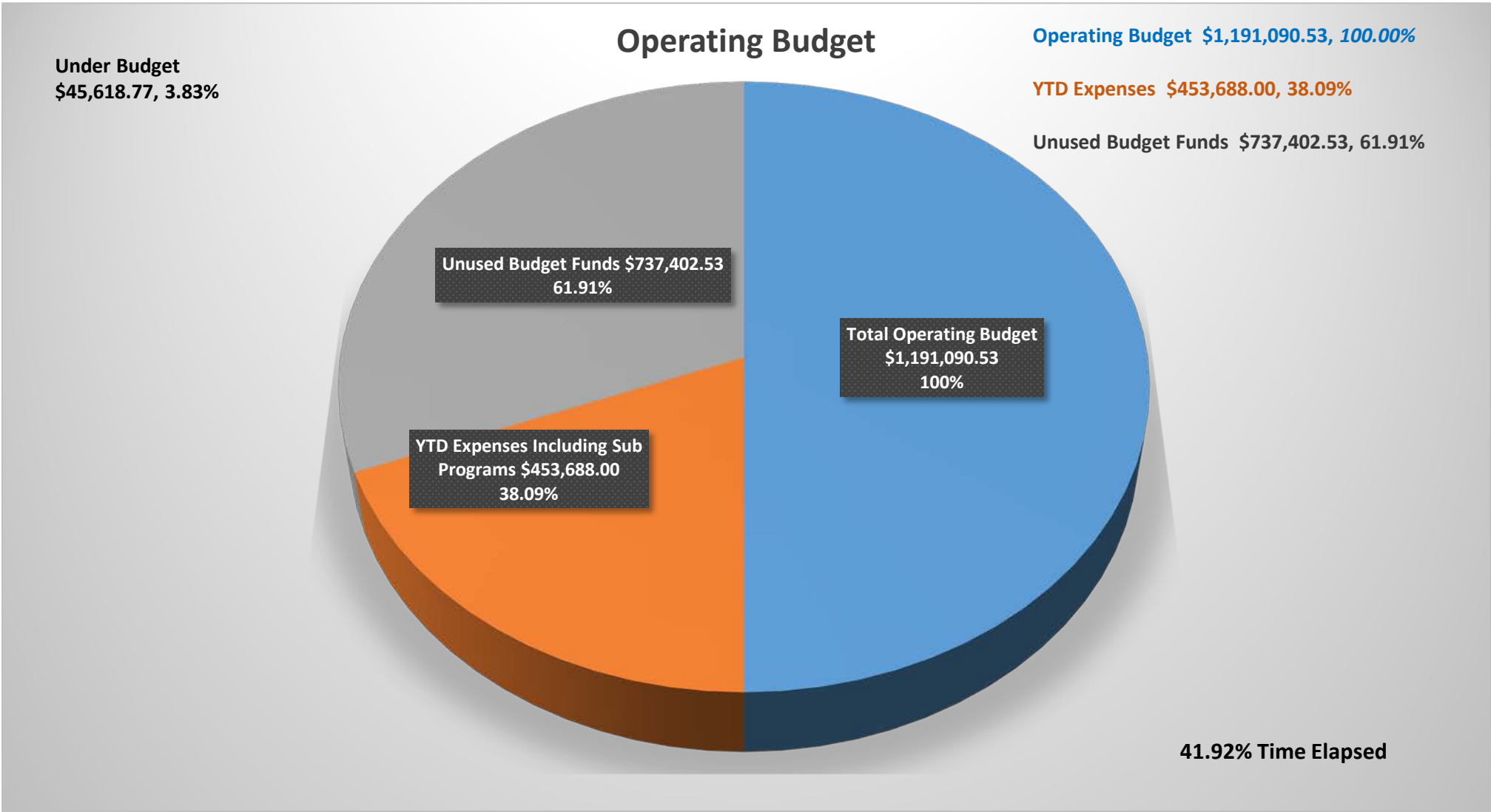
1. March 11, 2022

2. June 10, 2022

3. September 19, 2022 (North Platte, NE)

4. December 9, 2022

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
November 2021 Month End



ACCOUNT CODE DESCRIPTION		BUDGETED AMOUNT	CURRENT MONTH ACTIVITY	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUALS	PERCENT OF BUDGET	ENCUMBRANCES	VARIANCE
BUDGETED FUND TYPES - EXPENDITURES							
510000 PERSONAL SERVICES							
511100	PERMANENT SALARIES-WAGES	715,257.00	44,779.42	220,921.78	30.89		494,335.22
511300	OVERTIME PAYMENTS		277.15	673.87			673.87-
511700	EMPLOYEE BONUSES			500.00			500.00-
511800	COMP TIME PAYMENT		269.44	1,453.90			1,453.90-
512100	VACATION LEAVE EXPENSE		1,417.47	11,574.71			11,574.71-
512200	SICK LEAVE EXPENSE		2,237.28	7,869.99			7,869.99-
512300	HOLIDAY LEAVE EXPENSE		2,550.76	7,631.50			7,631.50-
Personal Services Subtotal		715,257.00	51,531.52	250,625.75	35.04	0.00	464,631.25
515000	RETIREMENT PLANS EXPENSE	48,325.00	3,858.69	18,729.50	38.76		29,595.50
	FICA EXPENSE	44,830.00	3,595.45	17,488.38	39.01		27,341.62
	HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE	121,150.00	11,826.44	57,245.94	47.25		63,904.06
	EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PRO	160.00		185.40	115.88		25.40-
	WORKERS COMP PREMIUMS	4,923.00		6,216.00	126.26		1,293.00-
Major Account 510000 Total		934,645.00	70,812.10	350,490.97	37.50	0.00	584,154.03
520000 OPERATING EXPENSES							
521100	POSTAGE EXPENSE	3,700.00	89.35	742.18	20.06		2,957.82
521200	COMM EXP-VOICE/DATA	300.00	15.00	60.00	20.00		240.00
521400	DATA PROCESSING EXPENSE	32,000.00	2,560.79	13,495.67	42.17		18,504.33
521500	PUBLICATION & PRINT EXPENSE	7,400.00	526.41	5,122.68	69.23		2,277.32
522100	DUES & SUBSCRIPTION EXPENSE	2,200.00	2,125.00	2,295.00	104.32		95.00-
522200	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	2,500.00	50.00-	2,512.40	100.50		12.40-
522500	EMPLOYEE MOVING EXPENSE	3,000.00					3,000.00
522600	JOB APPLICANT EXPENSE	500.00					500.00
522900	EMPLOYEE PARKING EXP	800.00	40.00	215.25	26.91		584.75
524600	RENT EXPENSE-BUILDINGS	66,210.00	5,347.50	26,737.50	40.38		39,472.50
524700	RENT EXP-OTHER REAL PROP	1,200.00	820.00	1,847.50	153.96		647.50-
524701	RENT EXP - BOOTHS	350.00					350.00
524900	RENT EXP-DUPR SURCHARGE	4,500.00	330.45	1,652.25	36.72		2,847.75
527100	REP & MAINT-OFFICE EQUIP	2,000.00		264.00	13.20		1,736.00
527900	SEE CHART OF ACCOUNTS	1,200.00					1,200.00
531100	OFFICE SUPPLIES EXPENSE	10,250.00		865.98	8.45		9,384.02

ACCOUNT CODE DESCRIPTION		BUDGETED AMOUNT	CURRENT MONTH ACTIVITY	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUALS	PERCENT OF BUDGET	ENCUMBRANCES	VARIANCE
BUDGETED FUND TYPES - REVENUES							
470000 REVENUE - SALES AND CHARGES							
471100	SALE OF SERVICES			580.36-			580.36
475100	REGISTRATION / LICENSE F		310.00-	1,710.00-			1,710.00
Major Account 470000 Total		0.00	310.00-	2,290.36-	0.00	0.00	2,290.36
480000 REVENUE - MISCELLANEOUS							
481100	INVESTMENT INCOME		76.45-	407.35-			407.35
484500	REIMB NON-GOVT SOURCES			136.72-			136.72
486500	MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENT			1,450.00-			1,450.00
Major Account 480000 Total		0.00	76.45-	1,994.07-	0.00	0.00	1,994.07
490000 REVENUE - OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES/							
491300	SALE - SURP PROP/FIXED ASSET			47.84-			47.84
Major Account 490000 Total		0.00	0.00	47.84-	0.00	0.00	47.84
BUDGETED REVENUE TOTAL		0.00	386.45-	4,332.27-	0.00	0.00	4,332.27
SUMMARY BY FUND TYPE - REVENUE							
1	GENERAL FUND			47.84-			47.84
2	CASH FUNDS		386.45-	4,284.43-			4,284.43
BUDGETED REVENUE TOTAL		0.00	386.45-	4,332.27-	0.00	0.00	4,332.27

LEAD-K

1. Megan Shama has been appointed as Mike Brummer replacement
2. Anne Thomas has taken over the Reporting subcommittee chair for Mike Brummer
3. Jonathan Scherling has decided not to replace the vice chair position.

LEAD-K Subcommittee Update

1. Assessment instruments and milestones: They have decided on the assessments they will propose to the full advisory committee on Dec 4th.
2. Qualification and training: They have decided they want to have a Deaf provider who is fluent in ASL or a Deaf neutral party attend to help oversee the assessments. They want both providers to take the SLPI or ASLPI exam and get a certain score before they can assess Deaf children.
3. Considerations related to implementation: They have many concerns they want to address on the Dec 4th meeting.
4. Reporting Results: They have created an outline of what they need to have in each report and are waiting for the subcommittee to make their final recommendation. Anne said she would begin meeting with this new committee to help write the report starting in January.

Executive Director Reports
from
September, 2021 –
November, 2021

Pages 2 - 7

Wyvill, John C

From: Wyvill, John C
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Beaurivage, Frances; Candice Arteaga; Diane Schutt; Hitz, Valerie; Jonathan Scherling; Robert Feit; Sevier, Joshua; Shaw, Sandra; Williams, Peggy
Subject: NCDHH Executive Director Report 11/24

All

We have short week, so here is the bi weekly report on significant activities.

- Special board meeting on Nov 19 on five year strategic plan in Omaha
- Follow up activities on Strategic plan based on Board meeting
- Attend and participated in Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting
- Attend and participated in Early Intervention and Detection (EHDI) planning meeting on mentor role models
- Follow up on support letters needed for American Rescue funds request
- Follow up at capitol for NCDHH Rescue funds and meeting with NDE commissioner
- Continue work and follow up on possible legislative items for Board Agenda
- Attend Chamber state legislative forum
- Attend awards ceremony for teammate at Governor's Mansion
- Reach out to University of Nebraska about videos not being captioned
- Monitor high profile education case in South Sioux City that was in Daily Moth news report.
- Preparation for Interpreter Issues Committee meeting
- Work with teammates on finishing SMART goals for 2021 and plan for 2022
- Begin process for annual performance reviews of teammates in January 2022

Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information on items addressed.

John C. Wyvill, JD.
Executive Director
Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
4600 Valley Road, Ste 420
Lincoln, NE 68510
www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov
(402)471-3593
(402)261-2670 VP



This message (including any attachments) contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this message. Any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited.

Wyvill, John C

From: Wyvill, John C
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 1:46 PM
To: Beaurivage, Frances; Candice Arteaga; Diane Schutt; Hitz, Valerie; Jonathan Scherling; Robert Feit; Sevier, Joshua; Shaw, Sandra; Williams, Peggy
Subject: NCDHH ED Biweekly report 11/5

Below are the significant activities and updates for the last two weeks. Report was delayed a couple days to ensure that the new Board member would have chance to get the email.

- Implement more formalized process for monthly 1 to 1 meetings with all teammates
- Meeting with State Chief Medical Officer about need for written communication plans in place in plans of care for D/HH patients
- 1 to 1 meeting with Serenity Kinney of DAS HR Shared Services
- Meeting with NDOL Director to discuss unemployment numbers and how we can collaborate to increase employment numbers for D/HH
- Participate in Olmstead Advisory Committee meeting
- Conduct NASADHH Board meeting as President
- Continue weekly Monday meetings with teammates
- Provide additional mentoring opportunities for appetite license
- Work with Interpreter program coordinator on Nov 13 Interpreter workshop
- Meeting with NAD CEO and NAD staff on community access fund project
- Meeting with Supreme Court on possible Pilot Captioning Project
- Meeting with Omaha office team
- Participate in UNL Community Roundtable for office of diversity and inclusion
- Working with Kim Davis to resume Community Roundtable meeting for the Council of Stakeholders in the D/HH community to start again in January
- Working with Aaron on policy research on legislation for captioning in public places and campaign ads
- Conduct first all staff in person meeting for the year!
- Welcome new NCDHH Full Board member
- Working with Abby to develop ASL word of the week series to be launched publicly in January
- Planning for special board meeting to finish SP process on 11/19
- Discussion with Office of Budget and Governor's office about budget process for American Rescue Fund Request

Please let me know if you have any questions or desire additional information.

John C. Wyvill, JD.

Executive Director

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

4600 Valley Road, Ste 420

Lincoln, NE 68510

www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov

(402)471-3593

(402)261-2670 VP

Wyvill, John C

From: Wyvill, John C
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Beaurivage, Frances; Candice Arteaga; Diane Schutt; Hitz, Valerie; Jeremy Fitzpatrick; Jonathan Scherling; Robert Feit; Sevier, Joshua; Shaw, Sandra
Cc: Novak, Jacqueline
Subject: Budget Report and a farewell to Jeremy!
Attachments: October 2021 Budget.pdf; Copy of October 2021-Pie Chart.xlsx; 21-22 Board Meetings cost.docx

Members of the Board

Please find enclosed the Budget report for your review. I have copied Jackie on this email who is our new Budget and Finance Manager in case you have any questions about the latest budget report.

Also this is likely the last communication that Jeremy will receive as a Board member. We have been notified that Jeremy's replacement has been finally appointed. We hope to share the announcement of his replacement hopefully early next week when we get the paperwork from the Governors office. Jeremy I believe holds the distinction of the longest serving board member in recent member. We wanted to give you a heads up so you have chance to email Jeremy privately any well wishes before we remove him from the list serve. Thanks for all you did in the 7 years as a board member Jeremy!

John

John C. Wyvill, JD.
 Executive Director
 Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 4600 Valley Road, Ste 420
 Lincoln, NE 68510
www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov
 (402)471-3593
 (402)261-2670 VP



This message (including any attachments) contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this message. Any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited.

2021-2022 Fiscal Year Board Meetings Costs

9/10/2021	Kearney Meeting	\$6,140.34	
10/22/2021	Lincoln Meeting	\$1,989.43	
11/19/2021	Omaha Meeting	\$888.00	*Estimate without Mileage or Food
12/10/2021	Lincoln Meeting	\$1,954.42	*Estimate without Mileage or Food

Wyvill, John C

From: Wyvill, John C
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Beaurivage, Frances; Candice Arteaga; Diane Schutt; Hitz, Valerie; Jeremy Fitzpatrick; Jonathan Scherling; Robert Feit; Sevier, Joshua; Shaw, Sandra
Subject: NCDHH ED BI Weekly Report 10/8
Attachments: September 2021 Budget.pdf; September 2021-Pie Chart.xlsx; omaha front.jpg; NE Counties - AS Areas 10.07.2021.png

Happy Friday

Significant activities for the last two weeks.

- Attached is the budget report as of October 1. We are on track to be under budget. If you have any specific budget questions please let me know.
- Identified North Platte as possible June or September out of town Board location for 2022.
- We have moved the demo room in Omaha office to be out front based on team and consumer feedback
- Adjusted the Advocacy Specialist service areas in Lincoln and Omaha. Both Cities are now split between the two AS in the respective offices.
- Revised the 1 on 1 meetings with teammates to provide forum for enhanced coaching/mentoring
- Continue to conduct weekly team meetings and conducted 1 on 1 meetings last two weeks
- Board package preparation for working meeting of NCDHH Full Board on October 22 on Strategic Plan
- Testified in front of Appropriations Committee for American Rescue Funds for D/HH community
- Participate in Omaha Zoo event, good turnout and great collaboration by team and NeAD and Hands and Voices
- Meeting with President and VP of NeAD
- Met with NDE Board Chair and Commissioner on funding for Interpreter Training and D/HH student support
- Firm up Lincoln Zoo event in April 2022
- Meeting with OPD and Project Harmony regarding use of unlicensed interpreter
- Participate in ADA task force meeting
- Meeting with DHHS on Olmstead progress
- Attended NED Board meeting –two students requesting ASL be taught in school

Upcoming events

- Enrichment Grant events next week CDI training and two workshops via zoom.
- Saturday is the Keith Wann event in Scotts Bluff
- OAD 75th Birthday bash is October 23rd.

As reminder Monday is state holiday so the team will have a well-deserved day off

John C. Wyvill, JD.

Executive Director

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

4600 Valley Road, Ste 420

Lincoln, NE 68510

www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov

(402)471-3593

Wyvill, John C

From: Wyvill, John C
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Beaurivage, Frances; Candice Arteaga; Diane Schutt; Hitz, Valerie; Jeremy Fitzpatrick; Jonathan Scherling; Robert Feit; Sevier, Joshua; Shaw, Sandra
Subject: September 24 NCDHH ED Bi Weekly report

Members of the Board

See below my bi weekly report. As always please let me know if you need more information or need more on a different topic.

Significant Activities

- Finalize preparations for Omaha Zoo Event
- Attend Husker Harvest Days
- First Annual OAD v. NCDHH friendly softball game OAD won (rematch in works for next year)
- Meeting with Omaha airport officials as follow up of need to update communication access on site
- Conducted NASADHH monthly board meeting as NASADHH President
- Participate in Olmstead Advisory Committee
- Participated in Olmstead Steering Committee
- Draft proposed NCDHH position statement on American Rescue Fund plans for hearing
- Scheduled meeting with NDE Board Chair and Commissioner to discuss needs to be address by rescue funds for D/HH students in K-12 setting
- Finalize CDI workshop and wellness program with team
- Participate in quarterly meeting with Nebraska VR
- Attend ATP advisory Committee
- Scheduling of October 22 Full Board meeting for strategic planning follow up
- Planning Lincoln Zoo Event for Spring 2022

Upcoming Events

September 26th CODA movie showing in Scotts Bluff
 October 3rd Omaha Zoo Deaf/Hard of Hearing awareness event (contact Kelsey if still need tickets)
 October 9th Keith Wann Event Scotts Bluff
 October 12-15th CDI training / Wellness presentations with Enrichment Foundation funds
 October 23rd OAD 75th Bday Bash
 November 13 Interpreter workshop (NCDHH providing)
 April 24th 2022 1st Lincoln Zoo Event

John C. Wyvill, JD.

Executive Director

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

4600 Valley Road, Ste 420

Advocacy Specialist's
Top 10 Reports &
Other Agency Staff Reports
From
September, 2021 –
December, 2021

Pages 9 - 18

Advocacy Specialist's Top 10 Reports & Other Agency Staff Reports from September 2021 – December 2021

Aaron Rothenberger / Kearney

The big item I want to highlight from the past few months is our table at the Tri City Storm game that took place on November 12th. That night was military appreciation night for the organization, and seemed like a great fit for our presence at the arena.

Even though it was in my service area, Kearney, I was able to have Kathy participate in running the table with me. If you are not aware, she has many military connections from her family. It was nice to not only have another person for an even stronger presence, but also have someone who could chat with several of the military members that took part in the event on a deeper level.

We also had previous board member, Dr. Jan Moore join us at the table that night. This added even more to our presence for the event and gave us an interesting additional insight into some of the machinations of the game. She brought information on how loud a hockey game could get, and we saw from our phone apps that the game got up to 97db at times during the event. It was interesting and insightful.

Overall, 1800 people came to the game that night. In addition, we estimated about 400 some came to the table. There were many veterans, as advertised. However, there were also many kids from ages 5 and up, high school included.

It is always a nice opportunity to spread the word of hearing protection to the kids. It is one of the things I enjoy about Husker Harvest Days so much. And for the most part, they are very receptive and even seek us out occasionally.

I am quite happy with how this event turned out and I look forward to setting up another one in the future. We already have a date booked on Jan 15th.

Abigail "Abby" Giambattista / Lincoln

- Worked three high profile booths: Nebraska State Fair, Husker Harvest Days, and The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Expo.
- Weekly ASL Interpreting Mentor meetings with Amber Tucker with additional professional development assignments.
- Served 60+ Hearing Aid Bank Clients since last report (08.25.2021).
- Served 17+ consumers via NSTEP consultations since last board report (8.25.2021).

- Began planning the Lincoln Zoo event for spring of 2022 with Kim Davis.
 - Interpreted 17+ assignments for NCDHH.
 - Started the process of connecting with the Lincoln Airport for the sake of improving their in-house accommodations.
 - Collected ~150 donation items for the Hearing Aid Bank/Barkley Center.
 - Taken and edited notes for the majority of Advocacy Specialist Meetings and NCDHH's last in person All-Staff Meeting (10.27.2021)
 - Participated in Robyn Dean, PhD's "Demand Control Schema: An Introduction to the Normative Ethics of Interpreting" training.
-

Ashley Wulf / Omaha

- Attended to week long Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) workshop and passed DI test. Will be working on getting DI license
 - Worked closely consumers on getting new doorbell for her apartment
 - Worked closely with consumer on getting accommodation for her low-income apartment.
 - Provided two separate presentation to resident and staff at independent living home.
 - Visited Omaha airport in person and discussed bit more on accommodation issues with them
 - Send out Fall / Halloween ASL Series with Jessica
 - Took over Kim's position at Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council (NE-SILC)
 - Had some successful booths at few different places
 - Attended to National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) leadership conference via Zoom
-

Jeremy Daffern / Omaha

- Finished the presentation to the CPS/APS under DHHS and will do more later time.

- Started doing the outreach to Norfolk and South Sioux City to attract more clients. The purpose is to put myself in that towns for the clients to come and meet me.
- Completed all EDC modules
- Completed the several tours to my regions doing outreach and informing them about NCDHH
- Completed the emergency preparedness course and in process of working with three other advocacy specialists on developing emergency preparedness package and hopefully be able to establish training sessions with emergency personnel and Deaf communities

Kathy Scusa / North Platte

- Working in the office with regular business hours. Meeting with clients in person in the office, with precautions. Having more walk-in clients. Verizon is referring several customers each month for the NSTEP voucher for cell phones.
- Continued development on three Power Point Presentations for training for first responders. (law enforcement, fire personnel, & EMS) Am planning to contact my area agencies in 2022 for education and training of their departments.
- Worked with Aaron at the Kearney Tri City Storm Hockey Game Booth on Veteran's Appreciation Night. Handed out earplugs and talked to numerous people about NCDHH Programs & Services as well as educated parents about the danger of sporting events regarding their own & their children's hearing. Spoke with several veterans about NCDHH Programs & Services.
- Attended Two Days of Training with Niagara University on Emergency Management Disability Awareness.
- Watched 9 EDC Training videos for self-driven Professional Development.
- Attending Monthly Area Interagency Meetings through Zoom. Staying in touch with what their agencies are doing, how they are coping with COVID restrictions, and resources available for referrals.
- I created a Group SMART Goal for the Advocacy Specialists for 2022, regarding contacting libraries across the state. Each Advocacy Specialist is responsible for libraries in their assigned areas. We will educate libraries on agency programs & services, specifically the agency's media lending library and equipment loan programs. We will talk about what resources they already have related to Deaf & HoH. We will create and provide to them a list of suggested media to

include in their library if their budget permits purchases. I created an Excel Spreadsheet for Tracking the libraries we have contacted, enabling us to provide percentages and graphs.

- I am working with one 93-year-old woman to obtain Hearing Aids through the HAB and a new phone through NSTEP. We have had numerous phone calls and meetings regarding numerous complaints against her landlord and neighbors. I am assisting with resources to assist with many issues not necessarily hearing related, however all her problems are exacerbated by her hearing loss. Hopefully, some of those will be resolved when we get her hearing aids through the HAB. Will be an ongoing working case.

Kim Davis / Lincoln – from September 10, 2021 to December 10, 2021

- Participated as a member of two separate functions coordinated by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities: the (1) Nebraska's Olmstead Housing Workgroup, and (2) Nebraska's Olmstead Education and Employment Workgroup.
- Provided ten (10) presentations, five (5) of which were related to Olmstead and/or COVID-19, in the month of October!
- Provided basic training on *Marketing and Outreach: Booth and Presentation Networking* to all NCDHH coordinators and specialists during a NCDHH All Staff Meeting.
- Continued to participate as a member of the Nebraska DeafBlind Interagency Team to create a Support Service Provider program in Nebraska.
- Participated in the Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Workshop involving many emergency management participants from state/county/local government agencies, businesses, utility companies and non-profit organizations.
- Co-hosted the Coordinated Funding Committee meeting with Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership with NCDHH taking the lead.
- Co-organizing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day event at the Lincoln Children's Zoo that will be host by NCDHH and potential sponsors in the spring of 2022.
- Provided a workshop at the National Association of Social Workers Nebraska Chapter.
- Attended a one-on-one in-person meeting with an ADA Coordinator from the Nebraska Department of Corrections and a very hard of hearing prisoner regarding accommodation needs on the use of technologies.

- Obtained Certified Deaf Interpreter (C/DI) Training hosted by NCDHH and passed the written English language proficiency and ethics/ethical behavior examinations! Obtaining an Intermediary license is forthcoming.

Susan Whitaker / Scottsbluff

- On September 11th we had our annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Riverside Discovery Center. It was a beautiful day with no wind! Other agencies that participated with booths were ESU 13, Hands and Voices, and a new youth organization. We had close to 400 visitors that day. Several members of our Deaf community came. One member of the Deaf community signed a children's book in ASL. We had animal shows that were signed by one of our local interpreters. I met several new people and shared our services with them. Overall it was a successful day!
- On September 26th we hosted a viewing of the movie CODA at a local coffee shop. There were interpreters there as well as our local deaf educators. We discussed how we felt about the movie after we viewed it. We all felt it was a good movie and enjoyed it.
- The last event for the year was on October 9th. Keith Wann, ASL Comedian, came to Scottsbluff for an evening performance. This was a great time as Keith performed his hilarious slapstick routine. We had over 50 people in attendance. This performance helped raise the awareness of sign language and the life of a CODA. Keith knew my sign language students were present and he asked them on stage to perform with him. They all were very excited to do this. It was a wonderful night of fun and awareness.
- Some of the professional development events that I have participated in include being a member of a Denver Tinnitus Support Group which meets once a month, attending an Emergency Management conference related to people with disabilities, and going to After Hours events to network with other local business people.
- A success story we had recently was getting one of our deaf/blind clients back to work. She had been out of work for a while and was very excited to get back to work. She was able to do an internship with the Department of Labor. I went to the job site and assessed what kind of assistive technology would be required to be successful at this position. We got her set up with the necessary equipment and she completed this internship gaining confidence in her ability to work again. She then began applying for other jobs. She is now employed by our local hospital and is really enjoying her job. I again went to the new job site to advise them on what kind of equipment they should purchase for her to be able to do the job. This has worked out very well for her.
- As far as travels the last few months, I have gone to Alliance, Rushville, Lodgepole, Big Springs, Chappell, Dix and Potter. I only have 2 or 3 more cities to visit and I will have visited every city

in the Panhandle. This is a big accomplishment for me.

- One of my SMART goals for this year was to start a hearing loss support group. I have heard from several clients that they missed the one that used to be here. I am collaborating with Sara Peterson and Heather Esterdahl with ESU 13 on setting up this group. The time came for our first meeting on November 4th. At the first meeting we were going to ask the people who came to help decide on frequency, time, day of the week and other organizing details. I was hoping to get at least 10 people to help establish a core for the group. We had exactly 10 people show up! The group decided to meet on the first Thursday of every month, from 7 – 8:00 pm. Our December meeting we will be discussing strategies for good communication during the holidays as well as talking about some assistive listening devices. I am very excited about getting this group started.

On September 5th I broke my leg in 3 places and this has slowed me down a bit. Once I get healed up it will be full steam ahead again!

Cody McEvoy

Deaf Services Coordinator / Behavioral Health Coordinator

- Domestic Violence and Alcohol/Substance tab on NCDHH website has been revamped (now both counselor and DV/SA are newly updated)
- Trained Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services on special considerations when working with Deaf/Hard of hearing individuals, importance of interpreters, and resources when coming across Deaf people. The training was very well received, many positive feedback from audience afterwards. Training was with Jeremey in Ogallala.
- Enrichment Foundation – Deaf Interpreter Training, we had around 11 participants, 9 of them took the test, so soon we should have a bigger number of Deaf interpreters to provide interpreting services, such a big need here in Nebraska. Very exciting chapter moving forward!
- Met with Sheri Dawson, Director of Behavioral health in DHHS statewide, discuss lots of the concerns and challenges for Deaf Behavioral health services here in Nebraska, discussing strategies and ideas to improve services here in Nebraska – always pitching to have a Deaf Behavioral Health clinic here in Nebraska with ASL fluent staff.
- Working with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) on the new 988 texting for Behavioral Health Crisis Care, working on making sure we can include a call center for Deaf individuals to respond calls with a Video phone. Also setting up networks through this association to see what other state Deaf mental health directors are

doing, maybe we can gather ideas and resources to improve Nebraska's behavioral health care for the Deaf/HoH.

- Training Methodist Hospital Nursing ASL program on Deaf culture and considerations, ended up meeting the President of Methodist College and she expressed how much she has learned from this presentation/training. This is crucial as nursing students are in so many numbers and always moving in locations, departments, and promotions, but to impact a higher level executive position is where there can truly be change moving forward particularly in the "system". So I feel this was a big impact of this training.

Jessica Larrison / Education Advocate

- Helping two families attend ISD, one was a success one is in progress
- Helping a rural family with getting an interpreter for their daughter, they are moving as new jobs so are working on getting MDT that support an educational interpreter.
- Helping a mother get ASL classes for her child.
- Continue to engage with my Master Coaches and help them understand Deaf and Hard of hearing unique needs in an IEP.
- Working with Burke to help come up with transition plans for their D/HH students
- LEAD- K meetings are coming along and we are starting to make headway on some of the subcommittee goals, we have our next full board meeting on Dec 4th.
- Continuing to reach out to schools all over Nebraska to build relationships with them.
- Getting involved with Olmstead, education and employment committee along with ASL connect that is trying to host here in Nebraska.
- Nebraska transition Committee is coming together nicely this year and we are continuing making plans for this summers program
- Started an ASL series that is monthly signs along with headed with the Omaha office an ASL weekly signs to help internal office members learn signs along with preparing to start publishing them on Jan 1st for external use.

Sharon Sinkler / Interpreter Program Coordinator

- Attended virtual NAD National Leadership Training Conference workshops.

- Board Chair, Candice Arteaga and I attended the Keith Wann Comedy Show hosted by Susan Whitaker in Scottsbluff on Saturday, October 9th. I assisted in interpreting during the show.
- Proctored the Deaf Interpreter (Intermediary) written test at the Omaha Association of the Deaf (OAD) hall on Saturday, October 16th.
- Presented at the virtual neRID membership meeting about the new apprentice license and provided NCDHH updates.
- Hosted virtual NCDHH-sponsored interpreter workshop with presenter, Robyn Dean entitled, “Demand Control Schema: An Introduction to the Normative Ethics of Interpreting.”
- Continue to post opportunities for interpreter workshops, training, and other important/pertinent information to listservs.
- Provide communication support (internal interpreting) for staff in-person and through various virtual platforms.
- Continue to provide communication support during Governor’s and Mayor’s press briefings as needed, as well as other external agencies as requested and/or needed.
- Assist with agency projects, providing research, drafting letters, editing, and proofreading

Nebraska License Information (as of 11.17.2021)	Total Number
Number of Licensed Interpreters with National Certification	66
Number of Licensed Interpreters with State Certification	41
Licensed Intermediary (Deaf) Interpreters	3
Apprentice License Interpreters	2
Number of Licensed Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) businesses	14
License Action/Suspension (9/11/2020 to 9/10/2022)	1

NCDHH Sponsored Interpreter Workshops:

- NCDHH hosted an interpreter workshop entitled, “Demand Control Schema: An Introduction to the Normative Ethics of Interpreting” presented by Robyn K. Dean, CI/CT, PhD on Saturday, November 13th. This workshop was offered via Zoom and awarded 6.5 clock hours (0.65 CEUs) of ethics/mentoring-related continuing education which also meets Nebraska

Interpreter/Transliterators/Intermediary licensure requirements. There were 26 paid registrants and 23 who participated. Comments and feedback received:

- The decisions an interpreter makes in the moment are a result of trying to balance competing demands. There is a lot more involved in our work than what people think.
- I learned more about demand control schema and now have a better understanding of it. The four core principals are interpersonal, intrapersonal, environmental, and paralinguistic. I also took away the importance of how important it is for colleges to speak to each other in a sophisticated way.
- A way to discuss our work with colleagues without judgment.
- This was an impactful workshop that provided a wealth of pertinent information.
- Excellent workshop presented clearly even though it was a pretty heavy subject.
- Very well done. I enjoyed the variety of activities.
- I enjoyed the variety of activities and interactivity of this workshop. Not easy to be engaging for this long on Zoom, but Robyn did a great job of keeping me engaged the entire time!
- I'm glad NCDHH offered this quality workshop at a reduced rate.

Professional Development:

- Attended the virtual National Association of the Deaf (NAD) National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) during the week of September 20th. This conference was offered free of charge to NAD members.

COVID Related Services:

- Provide external, billable interpreting services for the Governor, Lincoln Mayor and other stakeholders on an as-needed basis.

Notice Regarding Removing Contact Information for Licensed Interpreters on NCDHH Website:

- At the board's request, the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) will no longer list contact information on our website for licensed sign language interpreters. In order to align ourselves with other states that license sign language interpreters, effective January 1, 2022, NCDHH will only list all Nebraska licensed interpreter's names, license number, license type, date of issuance and date of expiration on our website. The names and contact information for Interpreter Referral Agencies will remain on our website. A notice was sent out to the licensed interpreter listserv on September 14, 2021 and a reminder was sent out on November 17, 2021.

American Rescue Act Funds Proposal:

- Proposed that some of the American Rescue Act funds be used to create a supplemental fund to support costs relating to non-ADA in-person interpreting situations in rural areas of Nebraska. The fund would provide financial assistance related to interpreting costs for needs that fall outside of the ADA effective communication guidelines. Assistance would be given to cover costs associated with providing an interpreter for those entities not required to provide an interpreter or auxiliary aid or device under title III of the ADA. This program would be similar to what Colorado already has in place called the Rural Interpreting Services Project (RISP)

regarding gaps in providing services in the areas of medical, educational, support services and community services.

Agency Monthly Reports

Pages 20 - 29



January 1 – October 31, 2021

November 12, 2021

**The NCDHH Team Reached out to
5,768 People
to Assist with Better Communication**

January 1 – October 31, 2021



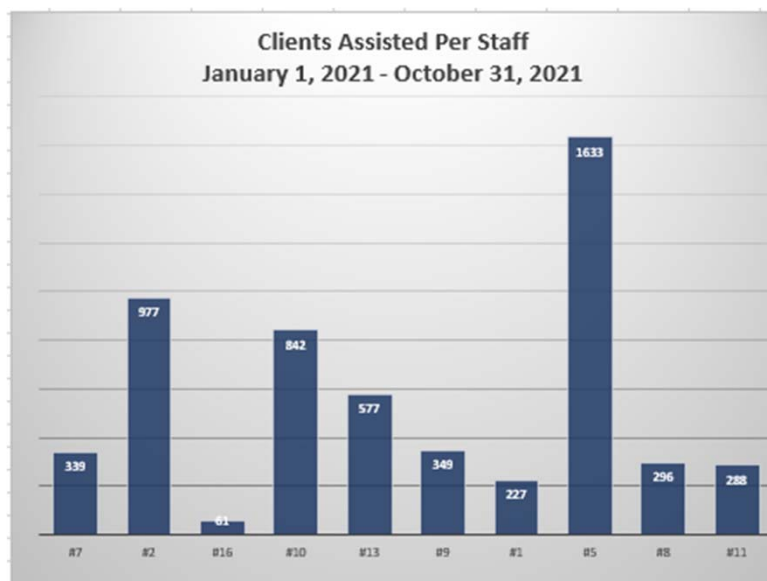
Where It All Begins

October 6, 2021

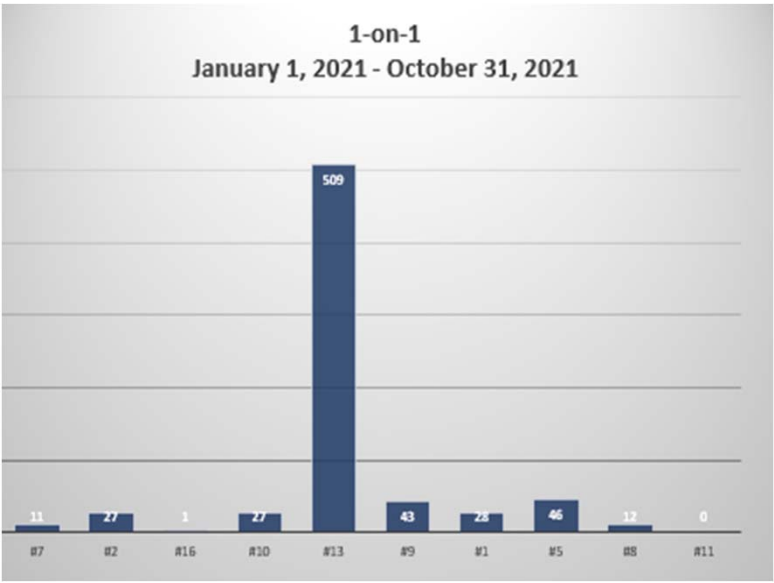
November 12, 2021



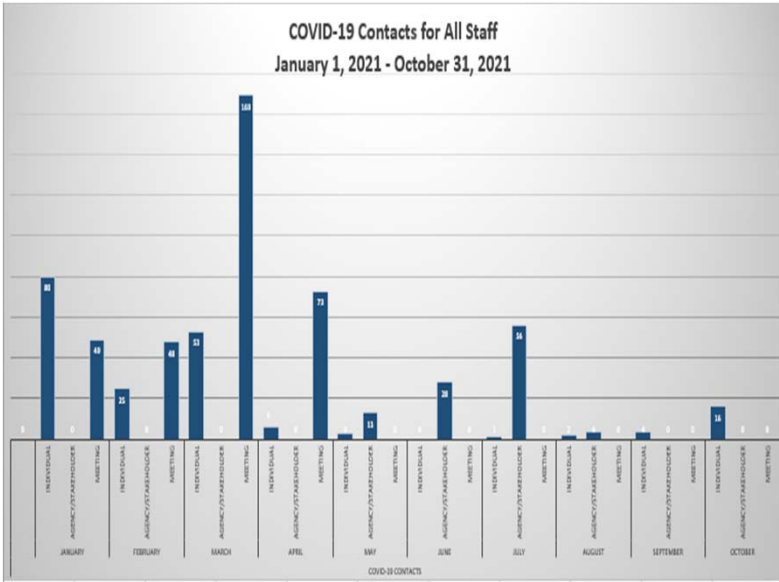
November 12, 2021



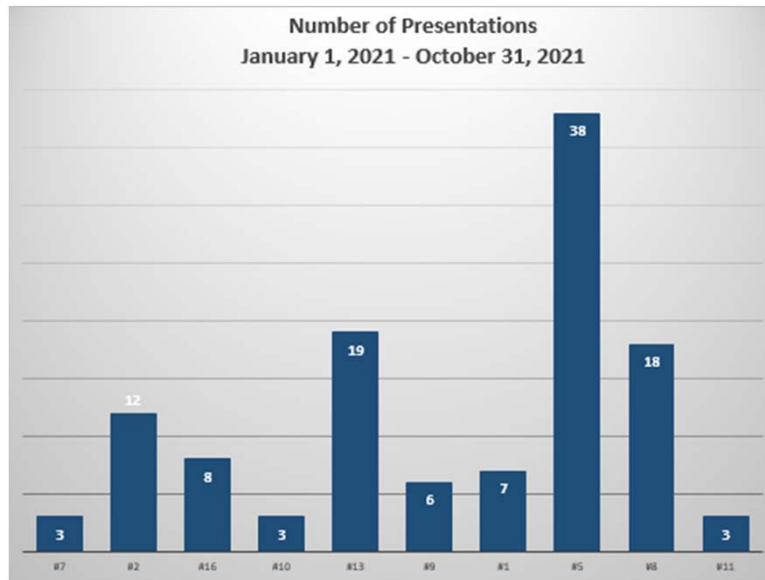
November 12, 2021



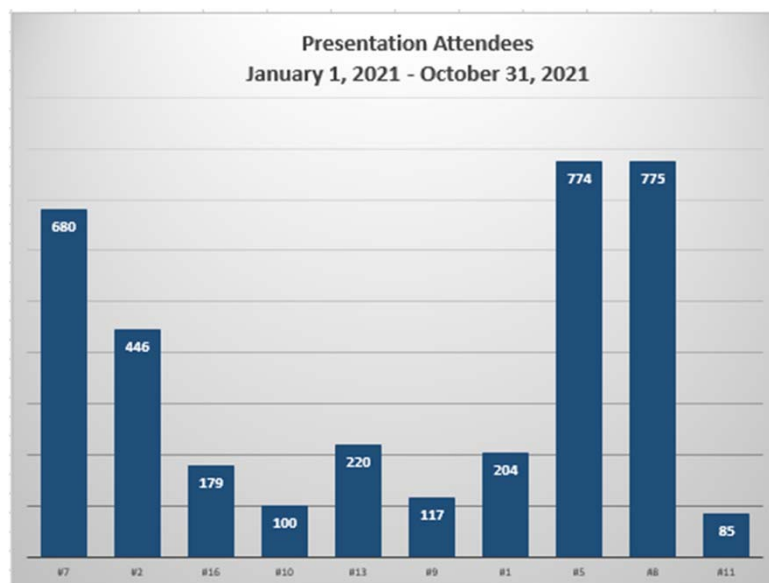
November 12, 2021



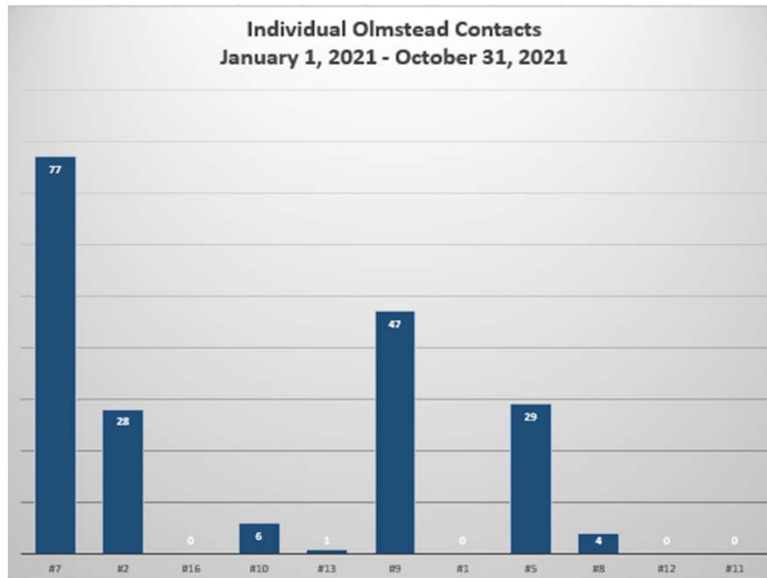
November 12, 2021



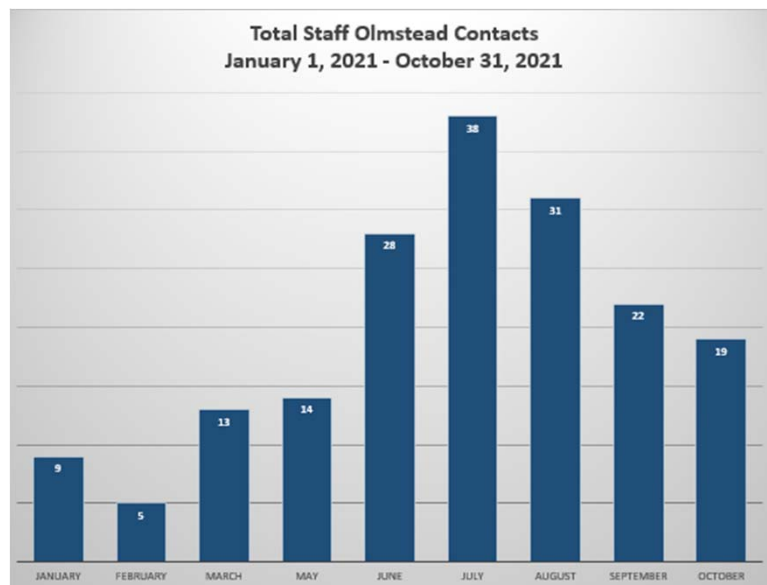
November 12, 2021



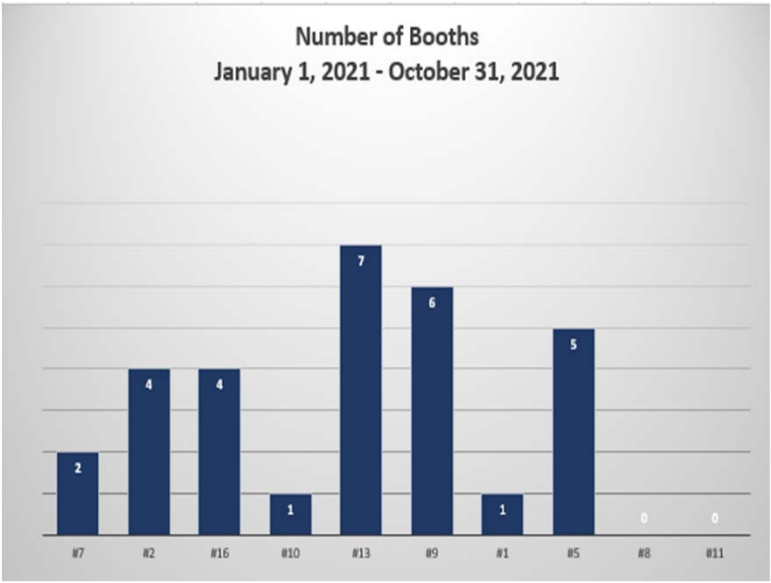
November 12, 2021



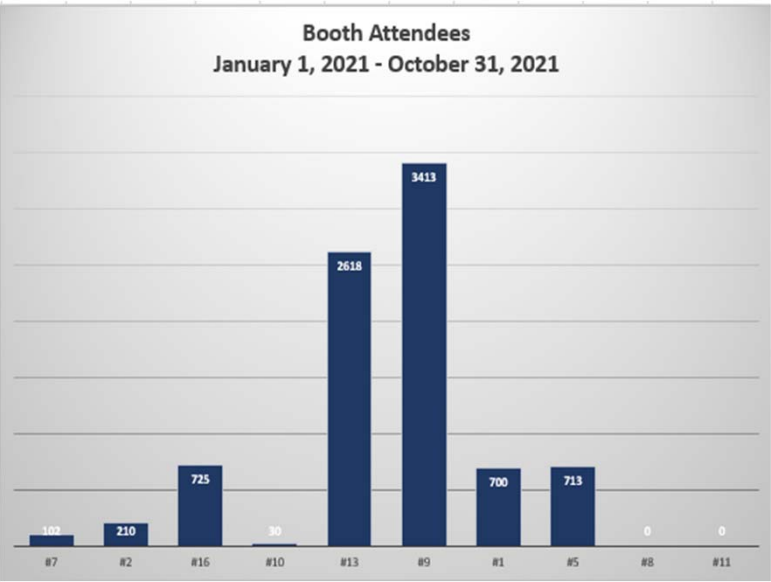
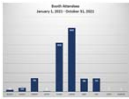
November 12, 2021



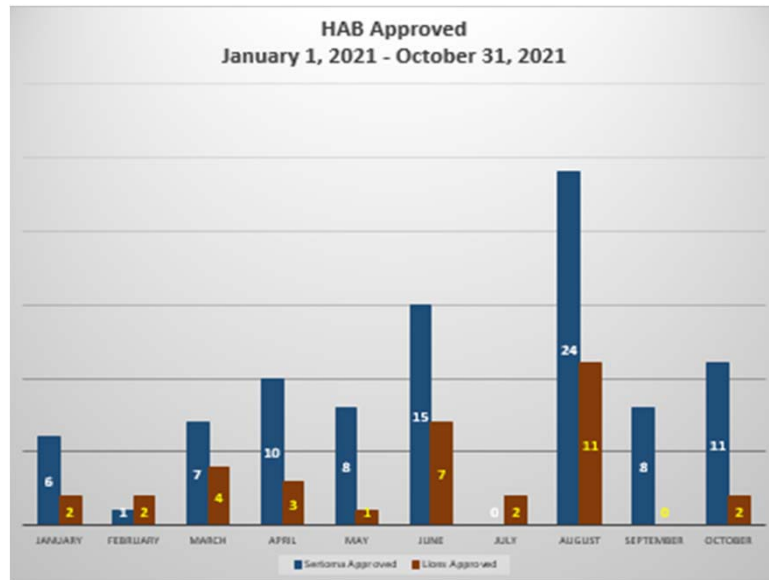
November 12, 2021



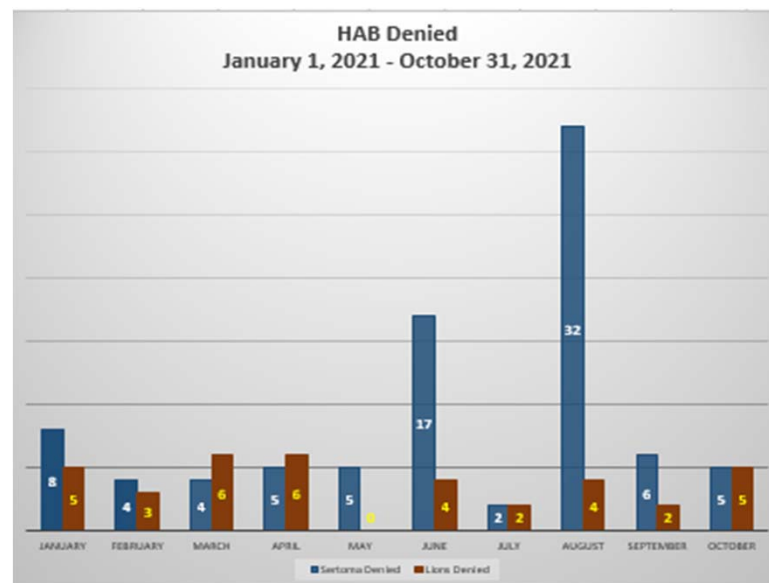
November 12, 2021



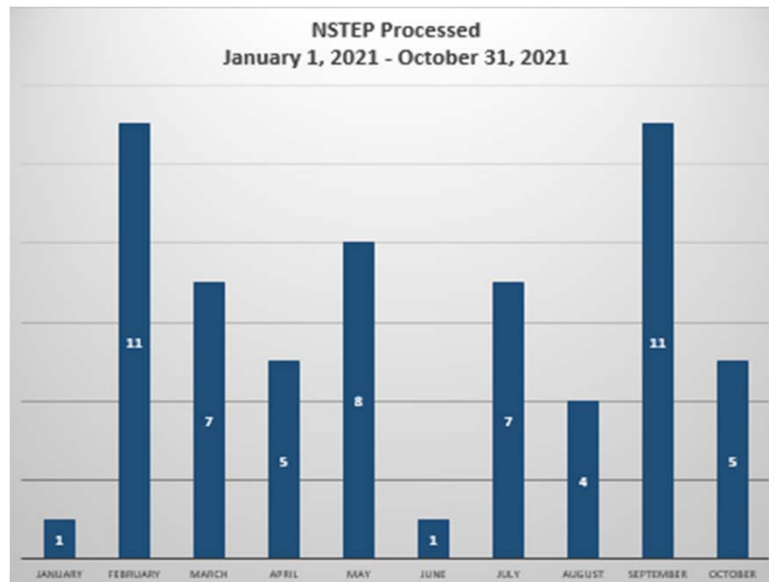
November 12, 2021



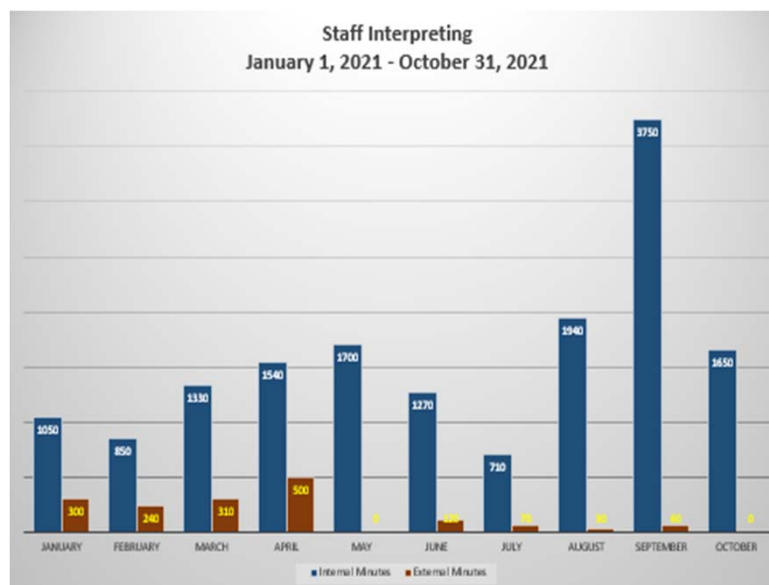
November 12, 2021



November 12, 2021



November 12, 2021



Monthly Deaf and Hard of Hearing Walk-ins per office										
January 1, 2021 - October 31, 2021										
	Scottsbluff		North Platte		Kearney		Lincoln		Omaha	
	Deaf	HOH	Deaf	HOH	Deaf	HOH	Deaf	HOH	Deaf	HOH
January	0	1	0	0			0	0	2	1
February	0	2	0	0			0	3	6	1
March	1	3	0	0			2	0	2	6
April	0	0	0	0			0	1	3	1
May	1	0	0	0			0	5	2	1
June	0	1	0	1			0	0	6	4
July	0	0	0	1			0	0	17	3
August	1	1	0	2			0	3	3	1
September	2	0	0	3			0	0	12	2
October	0	0	0	3			0	0	10	1
November										
December										
Total	5	8	0	10			2	12	69	21

November 12, 2021

Key for the Monthly Reports

KEY	
#1	Abby Giambattista
#2	Ashley Wulf
#3	Cruz, Kelsey
#4	Dillon Curren
#5	Davis, Kim
#6	DeGroot, Stephanie
#7	Larrison, Jessica
#8	McEvoy, Cody
#9	Rothenberger, Aaron
#10	Scusa, Kathy
#11	Sinkler, Sharon
#12	Traci Johns
#13	Whitaker, Susan
#14	Woldt, Cindy
#15	Wyvill, John
#16	Daffern, Jeremy



FACEBOOK

TOP POSTS

1. Lincoln students speak at Board of Education meeting on need for sign language classes – 20,543 people reached
2. Jessica Larrison Excellence in Education award – 1,742 people reached
3. Certified Deaf Interpreter Workshop – 1,704 people reached
4. Omaha Children's museum volunteers needed – 1,207 people reached
5. Happy Deaf Awareness Month – 1,138 people reached

VLOGS

Omaha Children's Museum – volunteers needed in ASL

NCDHH Advocacy Specialist Podcast – Jeremy Daffern

NCDHH Signing Series: Fall/Halloween

Disability Employment Month

Ashley Wulf: Update on communication access at Omaha Eppley Airfield

NCDHH Advocacy Specialist Podcast – Kathy Scusa

Deaf Awareness Month

Jeremy Daffern's trip to Norfolk & Sioux City

Turducken VLOG

Happy Thanksgiving VLOG

MEDIA

Scottsbluff Advocacy Specialist, Susan Whitaker & KNEB radio spots

UPCOMING EVENTS

Collaboration in plans for Lincoln Zoo Day

Working with LPD to plan Coffee with a Cop in early 2022



Communication • Advocacy • Equal Access

Pete Ricketts

Governor

Candice ArteagaChairperson of the Board
Greenwood**Robert Feit**Vice Chair
Lincoln**Frances Beaurivage**Secretary
Lincoln**Vali Hitz**Board Member
Raymond**Jonathan Scherling**Board Member
Omaha**Diane Schutt**Board Member
Fairbury**Dr. Joshua Sevier**Board Member
Omaha**Sandra Shaw**Board Member
Seward**Peggy Williams**Board Member
Lincoln**John Wyvill**Executive Director
john.wyvill@nebraska.gov

TO: NCDHH Full Board

FROM: Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator

SUBJ: Interpreter Issues Committee Meeting

DATE: December 1, 2021

The Interpreter Issues Committee, comprised of Candice Arteaga, Frances Beaurivage and Peggy Williams, held a zoom meeting with Executive Director, John Wyvill and myself on Tuesday, November 30th, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm to discuss the following items:

- A. Creation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to dismiss informal complaints without merit. A draft SOP was provided as a guide for discussion.
- B. Creation of an internal policy outlining the criteria to be listed as an Interpreter Referral Agency on the NCDHH website and to address concerns raised by Board Member, Vali Hitz. A draft policy was provided as a guide for discussion.
- C. Discuss IRB Member, Tami Richardson-Nelson's proposal that NCDHH develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding interpreter licensure discipline notification(s). An email from John Wyvill to the Interpreter Issues Committee dated September 3, 2021 was provided as a guide for discussion.

After discussions were held regarding letters A and B listed above, a draft of a SOP to dismiss informal complaints deemed without merit was finalized and the draft internal policy outlining the criteria to be listed as an interpreter referral agency on the NCDHH website was also finalized. Both documents are attached for your review.

After a discussion was held regarding letter C listed above regarding the proposal made by IRB Member, Tami Richardson-Nelson, the committee recommended not to forward interpreter licensure discipline findings to other states' licensing boards or to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).



Communication • Advocacy • Equal Access

Pete Ricketts

Governor

Candice ArteagaChairperson of the Board
Greenwood**Robert Feit**Vice Chair
Lincoln**Frances Beaurivage**Secretary
Lincoln**Vali Hitz**Board Member
Raymond**Jonathan Scherling**Board Member
Omaha**Diane Schutt**Board Member
Fairbury**Dr. Joshua Sevier**Board Member
Omaha**Sandra Shaw**Board Member
Seward**Peggy Williams**Board Member
Lincoln**John Wyvill**Executive Director
john.wyvill@nebraska.gov

TO: Interpreter Issues Committee Members

FROM: Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator

SUBJ: Internal Policy to Dismiss Informal Complaints Deemed Without Merit

DATE: December 1, 2021

The following standard operating procedure (SOP) will be used to dismiss informal complaints that are deemed without merit.

1. Investigator designee presents all informal complaints to the IRB Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.
2. If the IRB Chairperson and Vice Chairperson deem that the informal complaint has merit, it will go forward and a formal investigation will be conducted.
3. If the IRB Chairperson and Vice Chairperson deem that the informal complaint is without merit, the complaint will be dismissed.
4. Notice of the dismissal order must be provided to the complaining witness in writing within ten business days.
5. Within ten business days of the date of the dismissal letter, the complaining witness may file a written notice of appeal of the dismissal order with the NCDHH Executive Director.
6. Upon receipt of the notice of appeal by the NCDHH Executive Director, the complaining witness's request for reinstatement of the informal complaint shall be heard by the NCDHH Full Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting.
7. If the NCDHH Full Board agrees with the complaining witness's request, the informal complaint process will resume.



Communication • Advocacy • Equal Access

Pete Ricketts
Governor

Candice Arteaga
Chairperson of the Board
Greenwood

Robert Feit
Vice Chair
Lincoln

Frances Beaurivage
Secretary
Lincoln

Vali Hitz
Board Member
Raymond

Jonathan Scherling
Board Member
Omaha

Diane Schutt
Board Member
Fairbury

Dr. Joshua Sevier
Board Member
Omaha

Sandra Shaw
Board Member
Seward

Peggy Williams
Board Member
Lincoln

John Wyvill
Executive Director
john.wyvill@nebraska.gov

TO: NCDHH Full Board

FROM: Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator

SUBJ: Internal Policy-Interpreter Referral Agency Criteria

DATE: December 1, 2021

Based on an inquiry from a licensed community interpreter about being listed on the NCDHH website as an interpreter referral agency, a draft internal policy was created and discussed during an Interpreter Issues Committee meeting held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. The following is the final draft policy:

In order to be listed as an Interpreter Referral Agency on the NCDHH website, you must attest to the following criteria:

1. *Your business entity must be registered with a state as such¹; and*
2. *You will follow an ethical business model and employ practices consistent with interpreter referral agencies; and*
3. *You will have a mechanism in place to be able to be contacted 24/7.*

¹ *In Nebraska, the Secretary of State's office has information regarding starting a business: <https://sos.nebraska.gov/business-services/new-business-information>. It is highly recommended that you seek legal, tax and financial advice from professionals before starting a business.*

Woldt, Cindy

From: Wyvill, John C
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Beaurivage, Frances; Jeremy Fitzpatrick; Candice Arteaga
Cc: Sinkler, Sharon
Subject: Action item/ IRB motion

Members of the Interpreter Issues Committee

Discussion has been had and motion made by IRB membership about the need for an agency SOP to make people aware out state of NCDHH Full Board licensure action against VRI providers or interpreters. At present, with the advice of the Nebraska Attorney General's office, the posting of the announcement of the suspension or license revocation is made on our agency website and distribution of the notice to our interpreter license list serve. It was recommended by the AG's office to wait till after the rules and regs get approved and in force before addressing this IRB request. What Tammi Richardson Nelson (the person making the motion) is suggesting is that NCDHH have a SOP in place to require NCDHH to refer copies of the NCDHH Full Board licensure actions to licensure departments in other states or to RID if the interpreter is national licensed.

At present NCDHH doesn't make such referrals to out of state licensing agencies/RID and has made a conscious decision not to do so based on previous informal conversation with past board members. We provide the complaining party the opportunity to file a complaint with RID on our website.

I would recommend that the IIC discuss this request and maybe at the Board meeting set up time for zoom meeting later in the month or meet in person at the flying J in Gretna to give NCDHH staff guidance and direction.

John

John C. Wyvill, JD.
Executive Director
Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
4600 Valley Road, Ste 420
Lincoln, NE 68510
www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov
(402)471-3593
(402)261-2670 VP



This message (including any attachments) contains confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this message. Any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited.