Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Date:** August 9, 2016

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Location:** State Office Building, 1313 Farnam on the Mall, Omaha, NE

**Interpreters:** Crystal Pierce & Pam Duncan

**Minutes:** Peggy Williams

**CART:** Not used

**Members Present:** Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell,Lisa Vogel, Kathleen Valle, Tracey Minto

**NCDHH Staff Present:** Beth Ellsworth, NCDHH Field Representative-Omaha

**Technical Advisors Present:** Diane Meyer

**Staff Training:**  Peggy Williams attended for training purposes for Carly Weyers

**Agenda**

1. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Ms. Campbell
* Introduction’s
* New Behavioral Health Coordinator – Carly introduced herself and explained that she was a graduate from the Iowa School for the Deaf and from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. She stated that she has 2 degrees from Gallaudet in Sociology and Communication Studies. She reported that she did her internship in San Diego, California and worked as a mentor and with patients and families. MHAC members followed by introducing themselves:

Kathleen Valle: Works with CHI Health and oversees Language/oral population within the hospital and clinics and provides translation services.

Lisa Vogel: Is a Therapist in Nebraska and Iowa and has her office in Omaha. She has been counseling for 34 years.

Tracey Minto: Is a Marriage and Family Mental Health Therapist in Bellevue and grew up in Nebraska. She stated her mother is an interpreter for ESU 9 and her father is a Speech Therapist at ESU 9.

Diane Meyer: Coordinator for the Metro Regional Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students. She stated she has been working in the field of education for 30 years. The Metro Regional Program provides mental health services for their students utilizing three therapists from Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH) in Omaha. They serve eight counties in Nebraska.

Vickie Steinhauer-Campbell – Has been working for Vocational Rehabilitation for 11 years. She was previously a counselor in Omaha and is now in the Lincoln office. She provides services for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and serves as chairperson for the NCDHH Mental Health Advisory Committee.

Mandy Leamon: Social Worker/Counselor and provides Alcohol/Drug therapy at the Fremont Health Medical Center in Fremont, NE.

Beth Ellsworth: Advocate Specialist for the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Omaha office. She stated she provides advocacy services, presentations and workshops.

* Approval of August 9, 2016 Agenda

Ms. Vogel moved to accept the agenda as written, Ms. Steinhauer-Campbell seconded. All were in favor.

* Approval of May 11, 2016 minutes

Ms. Valle moved to accept the minutes as presented and Ms. Vogel seconded the motion. All were in favor.

1. New Business
* NCDHH Executive Director Report

Ms. Weyers reported in the absence of Mr. Wyvill about the upcoming Zoo event in Omaha in September.

* Program Suggestions

Ms. Williams provided information to members about the MHAC By-Laws and updated members about upcoming terms ending. Ms. Vogel is asking for assistance in finding interested people available to provide Extended Family Home care for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Adults that experience Developmental Disabled for such services as going to the grocery store, etc. Positions are available in Iowa and Nebraska. Even if the person could only provide assistance for 1 hour a week would be of help. Please contact Lisa Vogel if you know of anyone who is interested in working with this program.

Ms. Meyer suggested setting up training available for family members of Deaf developmentally disabled people. Ms. Vogel will send Ms. Weyers agencies she can contact.

Ms. Steinhauer-Campbell announced that HDAAS is having a workshop at the Nebraska Coalition in Lincoln on advocating for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people that experience domestic violence. She stated you will need to know sign language to attend. The presenter is Kari Darling from Vermont. She stated that HDAAS wants to work with shelters.

Ms. Minto questioned about how people who are deaf or hard of hearing learn about the Commission services. Ms. Williams explained about the Commission services/programs and how the Commissions promotes its’ services. Ms. Meyer explained the Regional Program’s services and transition. Ms. Ellsworth noted the importance of needs for people who are hard of hearing and explained more about the population she services.

Ms. Valle expressed concern about people who are Deaf and experience communication challenges that come to the Hospital. She indicated that often times the patient is dropped at the door. She informed members that CHI is the largest provider of mental health services in the area. She thought it would be a good idea to bring in Dr. Haley to present on assessments and treatment of the deaf and hard of hearing population. Ms. Ellsworth talked about the importance of using assistive listening devices for people who are Hard of Hearing that use hearing aids.

Discussion was held about setting up a regional residential treatment facility to accommodate children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Efforts have been made in the past both with the Regional Program and NCDHH with Boys Town National Research Hospital. BTNTH has not been willing to collaborate in establishing this program. It was expressed having phones that amplify, VP’s, fire alarms and alarm clocks are very important to meet the accommodation needs for people who are Deaf or Hard of

Hearing.

Ms. Vogel would like to have the Commission meet with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) about contracting with qualified interpreters. It was suggested to develop a list of qualified interpreters for DHHS team meetings, family meetings, etc. Ms. Weyers and Ms. Pierce will work on this.

Ms. Valle reported that establishing the deaf advisory committee for CHI has been put on the back burner at this time. Ms. Valle will contact Ms. Weyer’s when she begins to work on establishing this committee.

* 2017 Enrichment Grant

Ms. Williams reported that Ms. Weyer’s is working on ideas for the upcoming grant. Please send any ideas to her. Ms. Meyer suggested having a wrap-around workshop for family to assist with families so there are more connections with the person who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing. She stated that younger students become depressed because of communication issues with families.

Ms. Valle would like have a list of presentations that NCDHH provides. Ms. Weyer’s will develop this list. It was also discussed about having more information provided on warning signs for students on domestic violence and dating violence.

1. Old Business

None at this time.

1. Agency Updates

Ms. Ellsworth stated that there are younger people with hearing loss now and it is having effect on the family. She also mentioned elderly Deaf abuse and mentioned this is creating more isolation and that Assisted Living facilities need assistance understanding the effect of hearing loss and the elderly.

Ms. Leamon informed members that Fremont Health Medical Center now has a Psychiatrist one day a week for the outpatient program. They now have 20 beds serve ages 19+.

Ms. Vogel had nothing to report at this time.

Ms. Minto reported that she had a baby 5 months ago and she is in the process of working on getting her practice set up.

Ms. Meyer reported that they took 60+ students, 5th grade through high school to the Salt Dogs baseball game in July. The Metro Program will be hosting a workshop “Access to Your Future” on September 24th, Mark Keith is from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind will present. He is also a parent of a deaf child. She announced that Roots and Wings will be held in September for newly identified families and deaf or hard of hearing children age 0 – 3 months. Twenty spots are open for families. Other areas Ms. Meyer reported on include:

* Week-end at Lied Lodge in Nebraska City
* Five host families – Will share panel with kids
* Language enrichment activities
* Hands and Voice
* Guide by Your Side support and advocacy for families – goes to audiological appointments with families
* First Spanish speaking person is working with Guide by Your Side
* Hispanic families have concerns about their child’s needs
* S.E.E. workshop will be held in Norfolk, James Kirkpatrick will present
* Fall kick-off picnic

Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell announced that Pat Bracken has retired. Vickie Rasmussen will now be the Director of Human Resources and conduct some of Mr. Bracken’s role which includes interpreting contracting.

Kathleen Vale announced that CHI currently has an ASL Interpreting position available.

1. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 2016 in Lincoln.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM