

Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

Draft I, current version as of 06.04.2025

Monday, June 2, 2025

Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

A. Welcome

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board was called to order by Chairperson Meghann Cassidy at 1:00 PM.

B. Notice of Open Meetings Act

Chairperson Meghann Cassidy 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. The agenda has been kept current and available at the Commission's office and on their website. The materials generally used by the board for this meeting are on the table in a public folder that is available to the general public for this meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, {Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1412 (8)}. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available with the public folder for the duration of the meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

C. Roll Call

For the record, board members Meghann Cassidy, Tami Richardson-Nelson, Vonda Apking, Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell, Margie Propp, Shawn Shannon, Briana Stradinger, and Kyle Miers were present. NCDHH staff members Kim Davis and Kendall Couture was also present. Hired interpreters Ben Sparks and Alecia Barnes were present.

D. Review of Agenda

Chairperson Meghann Cassidy reviewed the agenda with the board members.

E. Acceptance of Agenda

Ms. Margie Propp moved to accept the agenda. Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried with all voting ayes.

F. Acceptance of Minutes

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There were no changes suggested. Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell made the motion to approve, and Ms. Briana Stradinger seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried with all voting ayes.

G. Chairperson Updates

Subcommittee Discussion

Chairperson Meghann Cassidy and Mr. Kyle Miers introduced a discussion regarding the structure and responsibilities of the IRB, including the possibility of creating two subcommittees: one to focus on rules and regulations, and one to handle complaints. Mr. Miers raised questions regarding potential conflicts of interest under the current structure and proposed a long-term review of legal and legislative guidelines. No decisions were made, and the conversation will continue in future meetings.

Terms of Reference

Mr. Miers suggested replacing the current IRB bylaws with a formal Terms of Reference to better define the board's purpose and procedures. Board members supported continuing this conversation at the next in-person meeting. Mr. Miers will prepare a scoping document for review.

Voting Rights and Role Clarification

The board discussed the voting eligibility of NCDHH staff and ex-officio members. Mr. Miers and Ms. Apking noted that current statutes may not clearly define voting roles and recommended clarification with the Attorney General's office.

Licensing and CEUs

A detailed discussion was held on licensure responsibilities, CEU requirements, and whether Nebraska's current policies may be overly restrictive. Members discussed interpreting the ethics CEU requirement and the complications surrounding CEU titles, particularly for PPO (Power, Privilege, and Oppression) content. Mr. Miers will consult with

the Attorney General to determine how flexible the board may be with current wording in the rules and regulations.

H. NCDHH Updates – Kyle Miers

Mr. Miers provided the following agency updates:

- The Commission has developed a new 2025–2030 strategic plan centered on three core principles: Educate, Engage, and Equity. These principles will guide future programmatic and service decisions, pending board approval.
 - He raised concerns about the continued operation of programs such as the equipment loan program and hearing aid banks, which are not directly funded or within NCDHH's legislated scope. Mr. Miers is considering recommending discontinuation of these programs, pending further discussion and board approval.
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I. Public Comments

J. Old Business

CEU Requirements for Ethics

Further discussion continued regarding the ethics CEU requirement and whether PPO courses could count. The board acknowledged the complexity of determining eligibility and emphasized the need for guidance from the Attorney General's office.

License Renewal – Brianna Valentino

The board reviewed the unique case of a newly licensed interpreter, Ms. Brianna Valentino, who received licensure in March 2025 and is now due for renewal. Concerns were raised regarding her ability to meet the 24 CEU requirement in a short timeframe.

A motion was made by Ms. Margie Propp to request the Attorney General's office review the situation and determine if the CEU requirement can be waived in this instance. Mr. Miers will draft a recommendation and consult with the Attorney General's office. No official motion to waive CEUs was passed at this time; discussion will continue.

K. New Business

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Friday, September 5 (Omaha Association of the Deaf – in person)
 - Monday, December 1 (NCDHH office in Lincoln – in person)
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L. Announcements

There were no announcements.

M. Adjourn

Ms. Margie Propp motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 PM. Chairperson Meghann Cassidy seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried with all voting ayes.