

Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

(Final - approved at 8.17.2023 IRB meeting)

Friday, May 19, 2023 from 1 pm to 3 pm

4600 Valley Road, Conference Room 4A, Lincoln, NE

A. Welcome

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board was called to order at 1:04 PM by Chairperson Ms. Meghann Cassidy.

B. Notice of Open Meetings Act

Chairperson Ms. 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 Meghan Cassidy, Vonda Apking, Briana Stradinger, Arlene Gunderson, Tami Richardson-Nelson, Margie Propp were present. Sharon Sinkler, NCDHH Interpreter Program Coordinator was also present.

Interpreters: Nicole Christy and Amber Tucker

Minutes: Gina Petersen

NOTE: Ms. Margie Propp left the meeting at 1:39 PM

D. Review of Agenda

Chairperson Ms. Meghann Cassidy stated that the agenda has been reviewed, noting that in accordance with the Open Meetings Law, the agenda cannot be altered within 24 hours of the meeting except for emergency items. If there are no changes, there must be a motion to adopt the agenda.

E. Acceptance of Agenda

No changes were made. Ms. Vonda Apking made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Margie Propp. With no further discussion, the motion carried with all voting ayes.

F. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

No changes were suggested. Ms. Vonda Apking made the motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Briana Stradinger. With no further discussion, the motion carried with all voting ayes.

G. Periodic Review of Interpreter Review Board Bylaws.

Discussion regarding the review of IRB Bylaws was started by Chairperson Meghann Cassidy.

Ms. Cassidy stated that there have been some changes to the language used in the by-laws to make things clearer. Ms. Sharon Sinkler specified that a clearer definition of “active members” was added into the bylaws, as well as a more precise description of what constitutes a quorum.

No board action needed. Bylaws will be signed by current chairperson and kept on file.

H. NCDHH

a. Agency updates

- Ms. Arlene Gunderson, Executive Director, announced that there are going to be changes in the structure of NCDHH, specifically by creating teams that will be responsible for certain areas of focus, such as behavioral health and interpreting.
- Ms. Gunderson stated that one goal for this meeting is to do a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis for the interpreting community, so that by the end of the meeting there is an action plan. Discussion held about SWOT (see page 4).
- A video done by Innivee Strategies was shown by Ms. Gunderson regarding a needs assessment they conducted for the state of Louisiana. Members were invited to share their opinions on the video contents.
- A suggestion of conducting a statewide needs assessment was accepted by the members as an overarching goal, but the persisting question is how to go about getting it done. In answer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson suggested taking time to review everything that has been discussed, then developing one or two goals per SWOT category before presenting ideas to the full board.

I. Public Comments

None

J. Old Business

None

K. New Business

- a. Next Meeting date: Thursday, August 17th, 1pm to 3 pm in Omaha, NE

L. Announcements

- a. Ms. Sharon Sinkler announced that NCDHH is hosting a workshop for deaf and hearing interpreters over the weekend of June 23rd, and it is open to anyone.

M. Adjourn

- a. Ms. Meghann Cassidy made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 PM, and Briana Stradinger seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried with all voting ayes.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreters who want to provide mentoring support • UNO has recognized ASL as a minor • ASL has been recognized as a language in NE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 1 IPP in state (UNO) • Mentors • Lack of awareness (DI/HI teams; need to pay for 2 interpreters) • neRID involvement and leadership
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreter mentoring program • Host gathering for deaf and interpreters (partner with OAD/NeAD/LAD?) • Create outreach to raise awareness about interpreting as a career (recruiting video? Career day at middle and high schools?) • ASL Classes • Praxis test has been waived for new teachers – opportunities for Deaf ASL instructors to work in public schools to teach ASL as foreign language? • Internships • Scholarships • Set expectations of having both DI and HI teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New graduates from IPPs are not “ready” • No “teeth” with grievance process; discipline not strict enough, lack of accountability/follow through • Not enough mentors (deaf and experienced interpreters) • Time – people work and have little to give back (mentoring, etc.) • Interpreters who attend deaf-related events don’t feel confident or welcome • Attitude of interpreters – behaviors and respect for consumers and the field.

Possible resources?

Department of Rural Health – how do they provide scholarships and request recipients to stay and work after graduation? How long do they have to stay?

Uniform Credentialing Act (38-178 and 38-179)

Who is NCDHH’s agency attorney? Meeting with Maureen Larson? (Vonda wants to be involved)

Innivee Strategies (video on the needs assessment conducted in LA: <https://innivee.com/louisiana-statewide-interpreter-needs-assessment>). We know there is an identified and dire need for additional qualified interpreters, but HOW??