

Interpreter Review Board Meeting
November 6, 2009
1:00pm-3:00pm
4600 Valley Rd
Conference Room 4A

A. Call to Order:

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board was called to order at 1:05pm at the NCDHH office in Lincoln, NE. Board Members present: Dr. Peter Seiler-PS, Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson-TN (Chair), Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff-KB, Ms. Barb Woodhead-BW (Vice-Chair), , Mr. Gary Theiler-GT, Mr. David Montgomery-DM, Ms. Vickie Steinhauer-Campbell-VS

Interpreters: Ms. Sharon Sinkler and Ms. Lorelei Waldron

Absent: Mr. Bob Deaton-BD

Public attendees: Mr. Art Nelson

Staff: Ms. Traci Cooney, Mr. Ben Sparks

B. Approval of Agenda:

a. Additions to the agenda:

Dr. Peter Seiler recommended adding “VRI Interpret Licensing” under New Business.

Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson recommended adding “Bylaws” under Old Business.

Motion to approve agenda as amended.

[DM/GT/Motion passed]

C. Approval of minutes:

a. July 27, 2009 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes.

[VS/BW/Motion passed]

D. Public Comments

a. NONE

E. Old Business

a. License Application Investigation report

- i. Mr. Ben Sparks updated this board that the Full Commission Board approved the granting of a provisional license to one person as per the IRB recommendation.
- b. Changing of License Expiration Date
 - i. Dr. Seiler recommended changing the Interpreter/ Transliterators License expiration from June 30 every odd year to August 30 every odd year. His concern is that interpreters seem to obtain the majority of their CEUs during the RID conference at the beginning of August. Mr. Montgomery stated that in order to change the date, it would need to be changed in the Rules and Regulations which would mean opening them to changes. He recommended waiting to open them until there are more changes. Ms. Woodhead stated that it is the professional interpreters' responsibility to monitor their CEUs and meet the current expiration date. Discussion ensued regarding advance reminder notice for interpreters. Ms. Richardson-Nelson will look into other professions and see how they handle the re-application process and report back to this board at the next meeting.
- c. Bylaws
 - i. This topic had been tabled at a previous meeting. There being no discussion or topics, the board decided not to amend the bylaws.

F. New Business

- a. Interpreter Review Board Letterhead
 - i. Dr. Seiler stated that NCDHH has had letterhead for this board for quite some time and it never gets utilized. He would like to know if this board would like to keep it or no. Ms. Woodhead stated that any formal correspondence can be printed on NCDHH letterhead since this board serves under NCDHH. This board's letterhead will be removed.
- b. QAST Deaf Interpreter Assessment
 - i. Dr. Seiler presented the idea of developing an assessment tool to use for Nebraska's Deaf interpreters to be certified. Currently, QDI interpreters in Nebraska are just licensed. There is no performance assessment for QDI as there is for Certified Deaf Interpreter (issued by RID). There are not enough funds to develop a performance assessment for QDI. Ms. Woodhead suggested finding grants to cover the cost for the development of this test.
 - ii. Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson recommended that Deaf people should seek CDI certification from RID rather than obtaining certification from NCDHH. Ms. Woodhead stated that if the deaf are encouraged to obtain a CDI, wording in the Rules and Regulations would not need to be changed.
 - iii. Dr. Seiler shared with the board that interpreters (hearing or deaf) need to make some kind of statement at the onset of a legal

proceeding or court case. Dr. Seiler and Mr. Sparks will look into the wording for that statement and report it back to this board at the next meeting.

c. Deaf/Blind Interpreter

- i. Dr. Seiler stated that RID is considering adding “text to sign” certification. Most common clients who would use that would be those who are deaf/blind. Discussion ensued regarding whether NCDHH should add this to the specialty licenses offered by the Commission. In addition, specific training would be needed for interpreters who want to add this area to their certification and/or license. It was decided that more discussion with other agencies such as NCBVI is needed.

d. VRI Interpreter Licensure

- i. Dr. Seiler explained that Mr. Pat Bracken from Vocational Rehabilitation has a concern regarding the use of licensed interpreters through VRI for their agency. He would like this board to grant VRI interpreters an exemption from the requirement of state agencies to use only licensed interpreters. Reference was made to past discussions on this topic. The board feels that it is difficult to monitor whether VRI interpreters have a Nebraska license.
- ii. Dr. Seiler shared with the board that the Full Commission is interested in passing a licensure bill that requires all interpreters in Nebraska to be licensed. This draft bill does contain language exempting VRS and VRI interpreters from a Nebraska license. After speaking with Senator Haar, it was recommended to work on this bill in the legislative session in 2011. Ms. Richardson-Nelson requested for Mr. Sparks to look into the wording in the licensure in other states regarding this issue and report his findings to this board at the next meeting.

G. Public Comments

- a. NONE

H. Announcements

- a. Ms. Richardson-Nelson asked when this board should vote on new officers. It was agreed to do elections at the next meeting which will be in February.

I. Next Meeting

- a. February 5, 2010
 - i. 2010 meeting dates
 1. February 5, 2010
 2. May 7, 2010
 3. July 30, 2010
 4. November 5, 2010

- a. All meetings will be in Lincoln from 1p to 3p.

Meeting adjourned 2:45pm