

Interpreter Review Board Meeting
February 11, 2011
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 by Chairperson Woodhead at 1:01pm in the Conference Room 4A in Lincoln, NE.

Board Members present: Dr. Peter Seiler, Ms. Barb Woodhead (Chair), Mr. Gary Theiler (Vice-Chair), Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Vickie Steinhauer-Campbell, Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff, Mr. David Montgomery, Mr. Bob Deaton
Interpreters: Ms. Lorelei Waldron and Ms. Margie Propp
Public attendees: Mr. Albert Sparks and Ms. Joyce Sparks
Staff: Ms. Traci Cooney, Mr. Ben Sparks

B. Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda as is.

[Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson/Mr. David Montgomery/Motion passed]

C. Approval of minutes:

- a. November 5, 2010 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes.

[Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson/Mr. Bob Deaton/Motion passed]

D. Public Comments – None

E. Chairperson's Report

- a. Ms. Woodhead updated the Board on the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee meeting on LB 39. She thanked Dr. Seiler for meeting with different groups who raised concerns and addressing those concerns. Ms. Woodhead provided the Board with example questions that the senators asked during the hearing and questions raised by the groups with the concerns. The senators asked things such as will this bill shorten the pool of interpreters for the state? The Nebraska Medical Association and Nebraska Healthcare Association were concerned if they have a staff person who knows sign and communicates with the deaf client, would that staff person be in violation for signing to the patient. Our response was that they would not as it is considered direct communication and socializing. The two association representatives were concerned with the

word “practice”. They would not; it would be considered indirect communication/socializing. It had been agreed that the bill would include the wording “for compensation” after the word “practice”.

- b. Dr. Seiler provided to information to the Board regarding Nebraska Department of Education’s concerns. Nebraska Department of Education is concerned about being able to use the educational interpreters for school sporting events, performances, etc. Dr. Seiler is currently waiting for Nebraska Department of Education to send him their recommendation for the language they are seeking. This Board agreed to read through email once Dr. Seiler receives it and submit a vote via email.

Motion to accept LB 39 as amended as of 2.10.11.

[Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson/Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff/Motion passed/Mr. David Montgomery abstain]

F. Old Business

a. LB 39

- i. Dr. Seiler stated that he has heard comments regarding this bill from different people and has heard that this time around, the atmosphere seemed friendlier with less resistance. Various groups are more willing to work together.

G. New Business - NONE

H. Public Comments

- a. Mr. Ben Sparks provided an update on his travel to western Nebraska and information he was given regarding LB 39 and licensing in general. He met with one interpreter who doesn’t agree with LB 39. She has let her certification lapse. She feels that she doesn’t get enough interpreting work to warrant the cost of the certification and license. She also feels that in Western Nebraska, there isn’t a way to easily earn CEUs without having to travel. Discussion ensued regarding the availability of earning CEUs in nearby communities in surrounding states. Dr. Seiler provided an update to Mr. Norman Weverka’s, NCDHH Field Rep, interaction with the deaf community in western Nebraska. Deaf persons were concerned that if they had to use licensed interpreters, their children and family members would no longer be able to interpret for them and that is who has been interpreting for them. Discussion ensued regarding the educating of the deaf community on their right to qualified interpreters and interpreter ethics.

I. Announcements - NONE

J. Next Meeting

- a. May 6, 2011

Meeting adjourned 2:07pm