

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH)

**Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting**

Approved by Committee January 14, 2021

**Date:** November 5, 2019

**Time:** 2pm – 4pm

**Location:** 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln NE

**Interpreters:** Ben Sparks, Sharon Sinkler

**Minutes:** Cindy Woldt

**CART:** CART Services of ERI / Margaret “Mydge” Heaney

**Members Present:** Mr. Benjamin Clancy, Ms. Tracey Minto, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Kathleen Valle

**NCDHH Staff Present:** Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director; Mr. Cody McEvoy, Omaha Advocacy Specialist; Ms. Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator

**Technical Advisors Present:** Ms. Sue Czaplewski,

**Members Absent:** Ms. Lisa Vogel, Ms. Linda Wittmuss

**Technical Advisors Absent:** Ms. Tina Work

**Meeting called to order:** by Ms. Carly Weyers called the meeting to order at 2:05pm

Ms. Carly Weyers 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. Publication of official notice of the meeting appeared in the October 31, 2019 edition of the Omaha World Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation in this state, as required by the Open Meetings Act.

Introductions made with all in attendance.

Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell entered the meeting

**Approval of the August 6, 2019 meeting minutes** – Ms. Kathleen Valle made the motion to accept the August 6, 2019 meeting minutes as written. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Mr. Benjamin Clancy, Ms. Tracey Minto, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Kathleen Valle all voting aye.

**New Business**

- **Introduce new members:**
  - **Ms. Carly Weyers to explain her role as Behavioral Health Coordinator and updates on her work** – Ms. Weyers shared that she recently returned from an

extended stay in Europe. Her goal is to zone in and focus on behavioral health and focus behavioral health access for Nebraskans who are deaf or hard of hearing. Ms. Weyers wants to ensure that behavioral health services are improving statewide.

Mr. Ben Clancy entered the meeting

Ms. Weyers shared with the group about her trip to Europe.

- **Enrichment Foundation Grant Application**

- **Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI) Workshop / Registry of Interpreters (RID) test** – Applied for the grant to see if we could host a 40 hour workshop. Would like to bring in a couple of people who are really adept at CDI training, then having a RID rater come in and certify people.

Conversation between the members on who would do the training and what is involved.

NCDHH cannot pay for the participants to take the RID test, they have to pay for this individually.

Ms. Weyers added the importance of educating Mental Health Providers on the importance of using CDI's if needed to make communication easier for the deaf client.

- **NCDHH Executive Director Report – Mr. John Wyvill**

- **Ending the Sign Language Interpreter Referral Service** – Mr. Wyvill shared at the previous Full Commission Board Meeting it was decided for NCDHH to no long have the interpreter referral service effective January 1, 2020. NCDHH will be listing on our website a list of options for the public to use when needing to find an interpreter. Any questions on this, please see Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator, or himself.
- **Interpreter Review Board / Rules and Regulations** – NCDHH is in the process of revamping and updating the rules and regulations involving the licensure of sign language interpreters and video remote interpreters.
- **Sign Language Interpreter Workshop** – scheduled for November 22 – 23, 2020

- **Omaha Advocacy Specialist** – new person starting on November 12, 2019 that is replacing Ms. Teresa Hevner.

## Old Business

- **Financial Stress Workshop** – Ms. Weyers shared that this is a grant funded workshop for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in NE. There are two presenters lined up for the workshop on November 9, 2019 from 9am – 12pm.
- **National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC)** – Ms. Weyers shared that she attended the conference under the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), along with representatives from NCDHH were Ms. Sharon Sinkler, Ms. Kim Davis, and Mr. Cody McEvoy.
  - **NAD Website** – NAD is updating their website to make it interactive, giving a list of each state groups.
  - **Advocacy Letters / Mental Health** – NAD has developed examples of advocacy letters for deaf or hard of hearing clients to show to mental health providers that is outlining their rights.

Discussion on Arkansas passing a mental health bill of rights for the deaf community.

Discussion on how to collaborate with other agencies.

## Agency Updates

- Ms. Tracey Minto – She moved her service to 180<sup>th</sup> & Q. Also added that she has been training to work with first responders and their families, especially couples.

Ms. Minto asked how to access mental health providers, how to bridge the gap. Providers are hesitant in providing services to deaf and hard of hearing individuals, because after they pay for the interpreter they do not get paid themselves. Conversation between the group on how to address this issue.

- Ms. Kathleen Valle - NCDHH provided presentations to two of the Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) hospitals, of course they were both a resounding success.

Mr. John Wyvill added that one of the board's priorities is communication access in the hospital medical setting. NCDHH will be inviting the Chief Medical Officer to come to the Omaha Association of the Deaf (OAD) Hall, of University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO), to be able to meet the deaf community.

- **Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell** – Shared that since November 1<sup>st</sup> for the order of selection Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) has had 1,000 people come off the list.

Mr. John Wyvill asked for a list from Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell on how many of the clients that VR serves are deaf or hard of hearing. Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell agreed to email the information requested.

- **Mr. Cody McEvoy** – Mr. McEvoy shared that he has been visiting with Mr. Wyvill to start addressing Child Protective Services (CPS). This is to ensure that there is proper communication for the deaf or hard of hearing child involved.

Another project that Mr. McEvoy and Ms. Weyers are working on is with Nebraska Emergency Management Association (NEMA). This is to make sure that all residents have equal access to communication in an emergency situation.

- **Mr. Ben Clancy** – Mr. Clancy works at CHI with Ms. Valle. Discussion about the referral process and how to ensure deaf and hard of hearing clients getting referred to providers who can provide the needed services.

Mr. McEvoy asked Mr. Clancy to share about his background. Mr. Clancy has been a mental health therapist for five years, he is originally from Nebraska. He has experience working with deaf and hard of hearing individuals from working at a facility in Wyoming.

- **Ms. Carly Weyers** – also added that she is working on updating the agency website that has listed the behavioral health information. Conversation with Ms. Valle on working with CHI on expanding the website in highlighting providers who work with deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Ms. Valle also asked if CHI could be highlighted in providing

interpretation when requested.

**Next Meeting Dates / Meeting Time from 2p – 4p**

- February 11, 2020 – Omaha
- May 12, 2020 – Lincoln
- August 11, 2020 – Omaha
- November 10, 2020 - Lincoln

The meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.