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

**Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Date:** November 9, 2016  
**Time:** 2pm – 4pm  
**Location:** 4600 Valley Rd, Classroom 4A, Lincoln, NE  
**Interpreters:** Sharon Sinkler & Deb Teller  
**Minutes:** Cindy Woldt  
**CART:** Margaret “Mydge” Heaney / Exclusive Reporting

**Members Present:** Ms. Lisa Vogel, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Tracey Minto,

**NCDHH Staff Present:** Ms. Carly Weyers, NCDHH Behavioral Health Coordinator; Ms. Kim Davis, NCDHH Advocacy Specialist – Lincoln; Mr. John Wyvill, NCDHH Executive Director **Technical Advisors Present:** Ms. Tina Work, Rhonda Fleischer

**Absent:** Ms. Jan Goracke, Ms. Mandy Leamon, Ms. Ann Thompson, Ms. Kathleen Valle

**Meeting called to order:** at 2pm by Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell, Chairperson

Introductions were made by all members present

**Approval of the November 9, 2016 Agenda** – Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell noted the changes in the agenda – old business will be first with new business last, ending with the directors report. Ms. Vogel approved with changes noted, was seconded by Ms. Minto.Approved by all voting members present.

**Approval of the August 9, 2016 meeting minutes** – Ms. Minto commented that her first name is T-R-A-C-E-Y. Ms. Vogel made a motion to approve with the mentioned changes, Ms. Work seconded. Approved by all voting members present.

**Old Business**

* **List of Presentation – Ms. Weyers**
  + Ms. Weyers passed out a list of presentation ideas for the Advocacy Specialist and the Behavioral Health Coordinator that was compiled.
* **2017 Enrichment Foundation Grant – Ms. Weyers**
  + Ms. Weyers shared with the group that the she completed and submitted the 2017 Enrichment Foundation Grant. If the grant is approved, NCDHH would like to host a workshop in the spring about domestic violence within the deaf community. The guest speaker at the workshop would be Ms. Keri Darling, who is a deaf woman from Vermont. This is the same speaker that provided training to the Heartland Deaf Advocacy Services (HDAS). In addition, would like to have Lynn Lang who is the head of the Nebraska Coalition against Domestic Violence for Nebraska. Once Ms. Weyers hears if the grant is approved, she will notify the committee.
* **Teen Dating Violence – Ms. Weyers**
  + Ms. Weyers discussed the research that she completed on Teen Dating Violence. She found that a lot of it is similar to domestic violence in general.   
      
    Conversation within the group. Suggested to contact the Nebraska Coalition against Domestic Violence. Also noted that the month of February is the awareness month for teen dating violence.

**New Business**

* **DAVC Conference in Washington D.C. – Ms. Weyers** 
  + Ms. Weyers attended the Deaf Anti-Violence Coalition (DAVC) in Washington, DC. Ms. Weyers gave a brief re-cap of what the conference consisted of, and the information that she received. She offered to share the power points, etc with the group.
* **Certifications for shelters – Ms. Weyers**
  + At the DAVC Ms. Weyers met a lady what is working on developing certification for all shelters in that state. This would ensure that the shelters are able to accommodate deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing population. This means that the staff would all have to have training on how to serve this clientele. Ms. Weyers passed around a sample copy of the certificate that the shelters could receive.   
      
    Conversation on how the training is obtained for staff at the shelters to become certified.   
      
    Conversation on if other states are having issues with working with the shelters in their state.
* **2017 Meeting Dates – Ms. Weyers**
  + Ms. Weyers discussed moving the meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of the month verses the 2nd. Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell thought that would be fine. Here are the meeting dates for 2017.
    - February 21, 2017 – Omaha
    - May 16, 2017 – Lincoln
    - August 15, 2017 – Omaha
    - November 21, 2017 – Lincoln
* **Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) Executive Director Report – Mr. Wyvill**
  + Mr. Wyvill announced that Ms. Jenny Corum was the newest addition to the team, she is going to be our Education Advocate. Shared with the group about Jenny’s background. Mr. Wyvill shared about the Board’s Priorities – Education, Employment, and Emergency Preparedness. The three E’s. Ms. Corum will be overseeing the Education Task Force.
  + The Commission has created an Education Task Force that is a steering committee comprised of 13 members. They will be meeting every two or three months, and there will be a number of subcommittees set up. Anyone is welcome to participate, e--mail Ms. Weyers are Mr. Wyvill if you are interested in participating.
  + In the spring the Commission is looking at having an Education Summit, which will be a one-day event. There will be more details to come on this.
  + Mr. Wyvill shared that the Commission is advertising for an Advocacy Specialist in the Omaha office. Hope to have someone in place after the first of the year.
  + Discussion on the status of being a state agency and budget concerns that have been in the news lately.
  + Outreach events for NCDHH
    - On December 2, 2016 there will be a Town Hall Meeting at UNO with Governor Pete Ricketts present.
    - This winter to have an event at Marcus Theaters in which there would be a captioned movie. Also to have a panel discussion of prominent deaf and hard of hearing actors and actresses in the industry as well as movies. This is in the planning stages, hope to have something planned for the early winter months.

**Agency Updates**

* **Ms. Rhonda Fleischer:**
  + Department of Education is diligently working on the Technical Assistance Document for Educational Interpreters. This is near completion, next they will be providing training for parents, kids, and administrators.
  + Previously had the ACCESS Conference in York and Scottsbluff. Ms. Davis and Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell both did presentations at the Conference in York.
  + Sue and I just took the EIPA written test which is now a requirement for educational interpreters. They both passed! Now they can both proctor the tests.
  + Had an Elementary Extravaganza in northeast part of the state.
  + A fall outing in Omaha for the Extravaganza for third to sixth grade students.
  + Battle of the Books coming up for middle school kids
  + Academic Bowl coming up which consists of five people on the team. Last year’s team was able to go to Gallaudet.
  + Linsay Darnall Jr. has been doing some sign classes through Zoom for the regional programs. Talked about the success of doing this.
* **Ms. Kim Davis**
  + Ms. Davis and Ms. Weyers are spearheading a task force for law enforcement. This group will consist of individuals who either work with or are involved with law enforcement. The first meeting will be on November 18, 2016. Discussion on the purpose of the task force.
  + Ms. Davis gave a presentation to English Language Learners (ELL) students at Lincoln Public Schools. Ms. Davis shared with the group her thoughts on the working with this group of students.
* **Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell:**
  + Vocational Rehabilitation has been focusing on Workforce Innovation Act and Services Program (WOIA). For students we take 15% of our funding and focus it on Nebraska Transition Students. Providing five services: work based learning, job readiness, self-advocacy, independent living. Career exploration. Discussion on how Voc Rehab could train Ms. Jenny Corum, Education Advocate on what services that Voc Rehab can provide.

The meeting ended at 2:50pm

**Next Meeting** – 2.21.17 - Omaha