

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

Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: October, 11, 2017

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Location: 1313 Farnam, Room 227, Omaha NE

Interpreters: Jenny Corum & Debra Seiler

Minutes: Cindy Woldt

CART: Margaret “Mydge” Heaney / Exclusive Reporting

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

NCDHH Staff Present: Ms. Carly Weyers, NCDHH Behavioral Health Coordinator; Ms. Beth Ellsworth, NCDHH Advocacy Specialist – Omaha; Mr. John Wyvill, NCDHH Executive Director

Technical Advisors Present: Ms. Diane Meyer, Ms. Karen Potter – Maxwell,

Members Absent: Ms. Mandy Leamon, Ms. Kathleen Valle, Ms. Lisa Vogel,

Technical Advisors Absent: Ms. Rhonda Fleischer, Ms. Jan Goracke, Ms. Ann Thompson,

Guests:

Meeting called to order: by Chairperson, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell at 2:02pm.

Approval of the October 11, 2017 Agenda – could not be approved due to not having a quorum

Approval of the August 16, 2017 meeting minutes – could not be approved due to not having a quorum

New Business

- **2018 Enrichment Foundation Grant** – Ms. Weyers shared that she applied for additional grant funds to be able to provide a self-defense workshop for more than 10-15 individuals. In addition, left over funds from 2017 Enrichment Foundation Grant will be used for the self-defense workshop so that they have have 2 instructors.
- **NASW (National Association of Social Workers) – NE 2017 Annual Conference** – This was the first year that Ms. Weyers attended this conference. Ms Weyers shared with the group about the conference, in addition that the group asked her to do a webinar presentation. The Webinar will cover deaf culture in regards to working with those social workers. Shared that this is a good opportunity for us.

- **HHS (Health and Human Services) Hearing** – Ms. Weyers attended the hearing that was regarding mental health therapists and their budgets. In addition there was a lot of discussion there about Medicaid.
- **NAD (National Association of the Deaf) Leadership and Training Conference** – Ms Weyers just returned this week from attending the conference in OK. Shared with the group that there was a number of items covered at the conference that she didn't know, it was beneficial for her to attend. Ms Weyers also added that it gave her the opportunity to understand the process of mental health services in a better way and bring that information back to NE.

Discussion regarding sending NE Interpreters to an Annual Mental Health Interpreter Training Conference that is held each year in AL. Conversation regarding the cost involved, and how we could make it work.

Ms Weyers also shared with the group the importance of making sure that we are providing the needed services for individuals in NE.

- **Executive Director Report from Mr. John Wyvill**
 - Educational Summit is scheduled for 10/21/2017. Ms. Jenny Corum is spearheading our effort to have a program for professionals and parents. The event will be at the UNO Center, same location as the governor's town hall meeting. NCDHH is going to have a speaker by the name of John Levy who is currently working for National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester.
 - NCDHH has been actively engaged in the SPOT analysis with the NDE (Nebraska Department of Education). NDE held a series of town hall meeting throughout the state getting feedback from parents, professionals, interpreters about what is and is not working in Nebraska. Conversation regarding the town hall meetings.
 - Another new hire is Ms. Pamela Duncan who is our Interpreter Program Coordinator. Currently Ms. Duncan is part time, will convert to full time in the future. Discussion on what Ms. Duncan's job duties will be.

Discussion on an interpreter workshop that will be offered the first weekend of December, 2017. NCDHH hopes to have a save the date card out soon.

- Ms Teresa Hevner is one of the Omaha Advocacy Specialists, who recently started with NCDHH. Discussion on all that Teresa has been doing for the agency.
- Mr. Wyvill shared gave an update on the process for getting captioning to be available at the various locations throughout Omaha and Lincoln. Discussion

Mr. Wyvill also gave an update on the mixed feelings for how things are going during the NE Football Games.

Ms. Minto explained that she is a mental health provider, she recently started seeing a deaf patient. Ms. Minto was inquiring on where to find a sign language interpreter. Discussion.

Ms. Weyers added to the comments relating to the Leadership Training and Child Protective Services. Discussion about how the foster parents need to have training / understanding relating to deaf culture. Discussion on how the needs for a deaf child are different from a CODA (Child of a Deaf Adult).

Old Business

- **WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan)** – Ms Weyers gave a recap of WRAP, and that they now have a meeting set for March.
- **Law Enforcement Task Force** – Ms Weyers shared that she is working with Ms. Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist in our Lincoln office in organizing this task force. They are currently working on a survey for the deaf and hard of hearing committee on their experience with law enforcement. The task force would also like to reach out to police departments, police officers and see their perspective and survey them as well.
- **Vlog** – Ms. Weyers asked for suggestions on doing a vlog regarding bully awareness, and making this a monthly topic. Ms. Weyers asked for suggestions to be given to her.
- **Agency Updates:**
 - Ms. Tracey Minto – Shared that she has had her practice open for a year. Discussion on the type of clients that she serves.
 - Ms. Karen Potter – Maxwell – In October she will be attending the RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) Conference in Iowa. The following weekend she will be attending the Nebraska RID Conference.

- Ms. Beth Ellsworth – Shared that in the Omaha office, they have been working with a lot of homeless people. Discussion on the frustration of being able to find an interpreter for various needed situations to get them in a shelter.
- Ms. Diane Meyer – Just returned from the Archway in Kearney from taking 105 kindergarten through 6th grade kids. Conversation on who were the presenters at the event for the kids.

This Sunday, they leave for Space Camp in Hutchinson for 7th – 9th graders. Conversation about what the kids will do at Space Camp.

The last weekend of September they had a dance for 7th through 12th graders. Discussion about the dance being held at Ralston High School and the activities that took place, and the speakers that they had. They also had a SPOT analysis so that the high school kids had a voice in what was working and not working.

Community Sign Classes are on Tuesday nights with Dr Peter Seiler teaching SEE (Signing Exact English) for the parents. Discussion on where to register for the classes and who attends.

- Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell – Shared with the group that she is covering for a counselor who is on maternity leave.

She is looking for individuals that are interested in being job coaches, people who know how to sign. Interested in finding individuals who are not interpreters. Discussion on how the job coaching works with her clients, and the type of individuals that she would like to find for this position.

Mr. Wyvill added that Ms. Pamela Duncan will be working with NeRID (Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) in planning their conference in 2018. Discussion about the conflict with the 2017 NeRID Conference and the Educational Summit.

The meeting ended at 2:55pm

Next Meeting – November 21, 2017 at 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Omaha NE, from 2p – 4p.