



Town Hall & Board Meeting September 8 – 9, 2022

Arrive Thursday afternoon, 9/8/22

3:00-4:00pm - Optional Guided Tour
of the Golden Spike Tower at the
Union Pacific Railroad/Bailey Yard;
1249 N Homestead Road



5:30-6:30pm - Town Hall Meeting Location: North Platte Public
Safety Building

715 S Jeffers St 3rd Floor

Parking West or North sides of the building.

7:30pm – Dinner: Good Life on the Bricks

402 N Dewey St – Private Room

Menu: <https://www.goodlifeonthebricks.com/menus>

Overnight accommodations at Hampton Inn:

200 Platte Oasis Pkwy, North Platte, NE 69101

Friday 9/9/22

8am – 12:00pm

Board Meeting in Hampton Inn
Meeting Room

12:00pm Box Lunches Provided by:



Notice of Public Meeting
Friday, September 9, 2022 at 8:30 am
Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Location – Hampton Inn, 200 Platte Oasis Parkway, North Platte NE

Agenda

A. Welcome (Candice Arteaga) 8:30 a.m.

B. Notice of Open Meeting (Candice Arteaga)

At times the Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing will meet in closed session as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1410.

C. Roll Call (Frances Beaurivage)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arteaga | <input type="checkbox"/> Beaurivage | <input type="checkbox"/> Feit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitzpatrick | <input type="checkbox"/> Hitz | <input type="checkbox"/> Scherling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schutt | <input type="checkbox"/> Shaw | <input type="checkbox"/> Williams |

D. Review of Agenda (John Wyvill)

E. Acceptance of Agenda (Candice Arteaga)

F. Acceptance of Minutes (Frances Beaurivage)

1. **Full Commission Meeting – June 17, 2022**

G. Chairperson of the Board's Report (Candice Arteaga)

1. Public Comments
2. Recap of September 8th Town Hall Meeting
3. Over The Counter (OTC) Hearing Aid Update
4. **Legislative Agenda overview and discussion**
 - **NCDHH proposed budget**
 - **Legislative items to consider for December Board meeting**
5. **Executive Director Performance Review (closed session)**
6. **Election of Board Officers**

H. Executive Director Report (John Wyvill)

1. Budget Report
2. Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) Update
3. Top Ten Report

4. Marketing Report

I. Committee Reports

1. Interpreter Issues Committee

- Internal Policy Governing NCDHH's Pay Scale for Use of Contracted Sign Language Interpreters

J. Old Business

K. New Business

L. Public comments

M. Adjourn

Next Meeting Date

- December 9, 2022 – 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln NE

*DRAFT – Subject to Board review and approval on the
September 9, 2022, meeting date*

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Full Commission Board Meeting
4600 Valley Rd, Conference Room 4A, Lincoln, Nebraska**

June 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A. Opening

Chairperson Candice Arteaga called the meeting to order for the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) full commission board on June 17, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at 4600 Valley Rd, Conference Room 4A, Lincoln Nebraska.

B. Notice of Open Meeting

Chairperson Candice Arteaga announced that 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 June 10, 2022, edition of the Omaha World Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation in this state, as required by the Open Meetings Act. The agenda was kept current in the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's office and on the NCDHH website. The materials generally used by the Board for the meeting today are on a table in a public folder that is available to the general public for the purpose of this meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act {Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1412 (8)}. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for the duration of the meeting.

C. Roll Call

For the record, Board Members Ms. Candice Arteaga, Mr. Robert Feit, Ms. Brooke Fitzpatrick, Ms. Diane Schutt, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams were all present for roll call. Ms. Frances Beaurivage, Ms. Vali Hitz and Mr. Jonathan Scherling were absent for roll call. NCDHH Staff members present were Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director; Ms. Kelsey Cruz, Public Information Officer; Ms. Jacqueline "Jackie" Novak, Budget & Finance Manager. Sign Language Interpreters present were Ms. Tailyn Kaster and Ms. Jamy Elker. Ms. Kelly DeCamp with Inclusive Communication Access Nebraska provided CART services.

D. Review of Agenda

Executive Director John Wyvill reviewed the agenda with the Board Members.

Mr. Jonathan Scherling entered the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

E. Acceptance of Agenda

Ms. Peggy Williams moved to accept the agenda as written. Ms. Sandra Shaw seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Hitz both were absent.

F. Acceptance of Minutes

Ms. Peggy Williams asked for clarification on the following areas of the March 11, 2022 board meeting minutes.

1. On page 4 of the minutes, the second sentence, “based in conversation with the Secretary of State office and the legal counsel of governmental affairs committee.” Director John Wyvill added that there was a conversation with the Secretary of State’s office.
2. On page 6 of the minutes, the first paragraph, the second sentence. Mr. Jonathan Scherling shared feedback that this would be an excellent opportunity for NCDHH to investigate the inequities with relationship to the nursing. Ms. Williams asked Mr. Scherling if that was nursing staff? Mr. Scherling asked that we change that to nursing services.
3. On page 9 of the minutes, the third paragraph, last sentence. Ms. Williams asked Mr. Scherling for clarification on what he was asking the Commission to be involved in. Mr. Scherling replied that he was referring to NCDHH having a space at the museum that would focus on NCDHH history and activities. It was decided to leave it as written.
4. On page 12, the two paragraphs under public comments, asking if this should be moved to old business. Chairperson Candice Arteaga replied that was a public comment, this was not related to NCDHH business; decided to leave this as written.
5. On page 12 the section under old business. Discussion between the members of the board on if the paragraph should remain under old business where Director Wyvill is sharing that the September 2022 board meeting will be in North Platte. After discussion, it was decided to leave the paragraph where is currently was.

Ms. Williams stated that she would meet with Director Wyvill to review the punctuation errors after the meeting.

Chairperson Candice Arteaga asked for a motion to accept the minutes with Ms. Williams recommendations for corrections.

Ms. Diane Schutt moved to accept the minutes with Ms. Williams corrections that were discussed. Mr. Jonathan Scherling seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Hitz both were absent.

G. Chairperson of the Board Report

Chairperson Candice Arteaga introduced the first presenter, Ms. Amy Rhone, Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), SPED Director

2. Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), SPED Director - LB 1014 NDE Report by Ms. Amy Rhone

Ms. Amy Rhone introduced herself to the board members and shared that she was there to talk about LB 1014 which is now a state statute, the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds. The

Governor allocated the funds towards support for pandemic or COVID relief aid. NDE received an allocation because of the assistance provided by NCDHH. NDE was required to create a guidance document, a state plan to utilize the funds. This can be found on NDE's website at education.ne.gov/sped.

NDE was awarded 1 million dollars to support students with disabilities, specific to deaf or hard of hearing. NDE has broken this into three different categories.

- **\$300,000 towards services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing**

Ms. Rhone shared that the NDE Office of Special Education will be collaborating with the NDE Deaf and Hard of Hearing Regional Programs to do a needs assessment. This will include a survey for parents and families to see what additional supports are needed for families. The survey will give NDE a better understanding of the services that are available through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to support students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The needs assessment will be completed by October 2022 so that NDE can move into developing and designing what the use of funds will look like based on the needs assessment.

- **\$300,000 for equipment to support students who are deaf or hard of hearing**

Ms. Rhone shared that NDE will be doing a needs assessment, working with Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP), and the Regional Programs regarding equipment needed for deaf or hard of hearing students. ATP is partnering with NDE in having a technology warehouse where they will be keeping track of the equipment. Next, NDE will be doing a needs assessment with the Regional Programs to determine what additional equipment needs are out there so that NDE can make those purchases. This assessment will need to be completed by October 2022.

- **\$400,000 to support educational interpreter mentoring**

Ms. Rhone shared that NDE currently does two federal projects called Task 12. Task 12 is where NDE does training and assessments for K-12 educational sign language interpreters, as well as mentoring for sign language interpreters.

Ms. Rhone shared that NDE will be doing a Request for Proposal (RFP) process across the state with a focus on rural implementation of mentoring and support of educational sign language interpreters. These RFP's will be asked to support three goals. The first goal is to provide for development of and/or access to training modules for educational interpreters. This will attract and hopefully find additional educational interpreters. Ms. Rhone added that currently educational sign language interpreters are the largest shortage in the state of Nebraska, and nationally in the world of special education. Adding that NDE has a lot of work to do to find people to mentor to become quality educational sign language interpreters in our state. The second goal is to enhance the signing skills of educational sign language interpreters in Nebraska through on-site and virtual mentoring. Lastly, the third goal is to provide opportunities for providers to network on those low incidence issues to enhance and build their skills in educational sign language interpreting.

Ms. Rhone added that there is a great need to continue to enhance the ability to attract and prepare individuals to the educational sign language interpreting profession, and to support the

individual in becoming a highly qualified interpreter. Currently in Nebraska under Rule 51, there is a requirement that educational sign language interpreters need to receive a passing score on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) exam and maintain one or more additional assessments. Ms. Rhone shared that the current mentoring program is really focused on those educational interpreters who fall below EIPA level 4.0. NDE is working with these individuals to mentor them to enhance their skills to be able to receive a passing score of 4.0. Ms. Rhone added that the additional mentoring programs that NDE will be requesting proposals for will especially enhance the training and mentoring in the rural areas for educational interpreters.

Chairperson Candice Arteaga commented that she thinks it is wonderful that NDE has allocated the use of these funds in different ways, especially for the interpreters, adding that Nebraska is losing interpreters by them moving out of state or being burnt out. Chairperson Arteaga commended NDE for one of the goals to enhance and attract interpreters.

Ms. Peggy Williams had a question regarding the mentoring program. Will NDE be using other EIPA interpreters to do the mentoring? Ms. Rhone replied yes, adding that there is a process in place to become a mentor to a mentee. The educational interpreter wanting to be a mentor must meet certain qualifications. Obviously the first being that they have already received a 4.0 or higher on the EIPA and have gone through the training on how to be a mentor, which NDE provides.

Mr. Jonathan Scherling thanked Ms. Rhone for taking the time to come to the meeting to present NDE's report. Mr. Scherling asked if the bill specifically talks about services that include students who are deaf or hard of hearing and does this include those students that might have been affected by COVID because of their parents, interpreter, and teachers? Is NDE able to include in their assessment students that have had some emotional problems because of COVID? Mr. Scherling asked if NDE has a way to capture this information? Ms. Rhone replied that she hopes that the needs assessment will be able to gather this information.

Ms. Peggy Williams asked if this would include DeafBlind students. Ms. Rhone replied absolutely, any student with any verification, primary, secondary, tertiary of deafness or deaf and hard of hearing.

Ms. Rhone also shared that they have had several conversations with Ms. Susan Whitaker, Education Advocate with NCDHH regarding the greater need for enhanced services in the rural areas of the state.

Chairperson Candice Arteaga thanked Ms. Rhone for her time and presentation to the board members.

4. **Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) – Text to 911 Update by Director David Sankey**
Commissioner Tim Schram, who represents the third district which includes all of Sarpy and Saunders counties and the western half of Douglas county. Commissioner Schram mentioned all the boards that he has served on. Commissioner Schram commented that PSC administers the state 911 Fund, several years back the legislature also charged PSC to carry out the Next Generation 911 (NG911) Plan.

Commissioner Schram introduced Director David Sankey

Director Sankey shared that he is the state 911 Director with PSC. Since 2015, PSC has been funding Text-to-911 to various 911 centers across the state. Director Sankey referred to the map that he passed out, outlining the map shows where there is currently Text-to-911 capabilities.

Director Sankey added that the PSC has been working the last several years on transitioning the state from what they call Legacy 911 to Next Generation 911 (NG911). For Next Generation 911, PSC is working with all the 911 centers to form regions. They will have the ability to have redundancy so that the 911 centers can take each other's calls if they need to.

Director Sankey shared that PSC is in the process of connecting all these regions to our Emergency Services IP Network (ESInet). PSC is in the process of transitioning all the regions to the ESInet with being able to deliver not just voice phone calls or text in certain areas; but Text-to-911 to everybody. Director Sankey explained how the current system works. When an individual calls or texts 911 there are two text control centers in the United States. Once the control center receives the 911 text, they forward to the appropriate 911 Center.

PSC is currently working on connecting all the regions to the Next Generation 911 System. Director Sankey referenced the last map that he handed out to show the progress of where they are located. Additional conversation on where PSC is with getting additional regions connected and the time involved in getting this accomplished. Director Sankey shared the PSC's goal is to have everybody connected to the Next Generation 911 System by early 2023. This meaning that everybody in the state of Nebraska will have the ability to Text-to-911.

Chairperson Candice Arteaga asked how do individuals know if the text to 911 is operational; if an individual texts 911, how do they know someone is responding? Is there a responsive message that the individual gets back when you text 911? Director Sankey replied yes. Chairperson Arteaga responded that her question is not inbound it is outbound; how is the 911 Center answering the 911 text? Director Sankey responded that the 911 Operators have a text session with the individual.

Mr. Robert Feit asked how much turn around time are we talking about; when a call goes into a 911 Center from a deaf person who is having a heart attack to when services are sent to the person's home? Director Sankey replied that it will be just like a voice phone call. Conversation between the members of the board and Director Sankey on this subject.

Director Sankey also shared about realtime text coming. Right now, if someone sends a text message, they complete the entire message and hit send and it goes to the 911 Center. In the future, 911 Centers will be able to see the message as it is typed (realtime).

Chairperson Candice Arteaga asked what happens when the text to 911 is not working? Director Sankey replied that the 911 Centers will put out a message to notify individuals of this.

Chairperson Arteaga asked if she texts 911 and it is not working, will she get a reply text to tell her that the system is currently down? Director Sankey replied yes there should be a message reply to you stating that the text to 911 is not working.

Conversation on the 911 operators going through training.

Chairperson Candice Arteaga shared that it is important within the deaf and hard of hearing communities to have training when new services are developed. Would someone from PSC be able to go to the deaf and hard of hearing organizations to explain once the Text-to-911 is fully functional? Director Sankey responded yes. Conversation about the training that would be offered and by whom. Chairperson Candice Arteaga wondered if NCDHH could maybe provide a workshop in collaboration with PSC to provide information on how the Text-to-911 System works. Director Sankey said that PSC would be happy to assist with the training.

Mr. Robert Feit asked how is Nebraska in relation to other states, do most of the other states already have this in place? Director Sankey replied that Nebraska is in the middle of the pack. Discussion on where other states are with rolling out the text to 911.

Director Sankey shared that we could find additional information on PSC's website – psc.nebraska.gov.

Director Sankey thanked everyone for their time and questions that they asked.

1. Public Comments

No Public Comments

3. LB 1014 NCDHH Staff Report by Executive Director John Wyvill

Director John Wyvill started with how NCDHH will implement LB 1014, relating to legal and rural communication access funds and how the Commission plans on administering this program starting July 1, 2022. Director Wyvill passed out copies of the two postcards that were developed to assist in notifying the public of being able to utilize these funds.

Legal Access Funds

Regarding the legal access funds, for example, if a deaf or hard of hearing individual needs to meet with a lawyer that requires communication access, this program will reimburse the lawyer for that cost. Director Wyvill gave other examples of how this program could be beneficial to deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Nebraska. He explained that this is a statewide program, including Lincoln and Omaha. The Commission has developed a marketing plan to get the word out to the public.

Guidelines have been put together regarding what the program will provide reimbursement for, such as the interpreter's fee and portal to portal costs. The interpreter will give the lawyer a bill, the lawyer will pay that bill and then submit for reimbursement to NCDHH. Director Wyvill went on to explain that there are checks and balances for making sure that the reimbursements are being handled correctly.

Director Wyvill shared that for this program the Commission has a cap of 10 or 15 percent for administrative costs. This will cover the cost of advertisement in making sure that NCDHH is making people aware of the program. This includes mailings to various lawyers and law firms. Director Wyvill reported that next week NCDHH will meet with the licensed interpreters and the interpreter referral agencies to go over the components of the program, making them aware of the funding.

Conversation between the members and Director Wyvill as to whether deaf or hard of hearing individuals have recourse if a lawyer would not assist them with their needs. He noted that this program will do away with these issues that come into play on who is going to pay for what.

Rural Access Funds

Regarding the rural access funds, this program will pay for in person (on site) sign language interpreters in addition to the portal-to-portal costs. Director Wyvill gave some examples of how this program could be used in asking for reimbursement. Noting that this program does not pay for interpreter services in a K-12 setting or any federal government agency.

As far as marketing for this program, NCDHH will be using agency vlogs on social media, newspaper articles, and our Advocacy Specialists spreading the word to the clients and businesses in the areas that they serve.

Director Wyvill added that reimbursement for the rural access funds will be like the legal access funds that was already outlined. The rural access funds do not cover video remote interpreting (VRI); only covers in person interpreters.

Ms. Peggy Williams added that this is an excellent opportunity for the entire state of Nebraska, thanked Director Wyvill for his work and the staff's work in putting this together. Asking regarding the medical appointments where the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) typically would come into play; following the expiration of this program will there be education taking place that assures that the ADA standards still apply when it comes to medical appointments. Director Wyvill responded that NCDHH would like to come back to the board and give documentation that this program is working so that NCDHH can ask for additional funding from the state for additional years of this program. Conversation regarding how this would work.

Mr. Robert Feit asked if at the end of the program and if there is money left, can an extension be requested? Director Wyvill replied that he did not know the answer to that; thinking that left over money may have to be given back to the state.

Mr. Robert Feit confirmed that the total amount is \$500,000 that the Commission has been given for this program. Director Wyvill replied yes, for both the legal and rural access funds.

Ms. Peggy Williams moved to approve the LB 1014 report as presented by Director Wyvill. Ms. Diane Schutt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting

aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Hitz both were absent.

A 15-minute break was given at 10:02 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

4. NCDHH Proposed Biennial Budget by Executive Director John Wyvill

Director John Wyvill stated that he is asking for authorization for NCDHH to submit the biennial budget for the next two years.

This outlines the process:

- **March 2022 – Preliminary Board Discussion**
- **June 2022 – Proposed Budget**
Submitted to the board for their approval.
- **September 2022 – Last minute adjustments to submit online**
This is where Ms. Jacqueline “Jackie” Novak, Business and Finance Manager submits the budget into the state’s system.
- **January 2023 – Budget recommendation from the Governor**
Around the state of the state address by the Governor, there is a budget recommendation that is received by NCDHH.
- **February / March 2023 – Appropriation Hearing**
The Appropriations Committee decides what their recommendations are for our agency. Director Wyvill added that this is when we go and ask for funding.
- **May 2023 – Finalized by Governor and Legislature**
The budget gets finalized by the Governor, then the budget goes into effect in June 2023.
- **June 2023 – Goes into effect**

Director Wyvill went on to explain about the agency being able to keep our unspent money, meaning the money that we did not spend this fiscal year would carry over to the next. Adding that the Commission also needs to make sure that we have the spending authority for our cash fund. The Commission receives cash funds for sign language interpreter licensing fees and when our staff interpreter provides external, billable interpreting services for other agencies, these funds go into a cash account. NCDHH asks the legislature for the authority to spend that money and that is currently capped at \$36,000. Conversation on what the cash funds can be used for.

Director Wyvill shared that based on feedback, we have asked to include an estimated cost of

\$75,000 for a new advocacy specialist specifically for health care. This amount includes salary, fringe benefits and cost of equipment for an office.

The next item that we are recommending is \$54,000 for NCDHH to support the Hearing Aid Bank Program. Director Wyvill added that there is a constitutional prohibition of us giving money to the Hearing Aid Bank or to the University itself to run the program. NCDHH would be asking for a staff person who would then be working with the Barkley Center and the three hearing aid banks to help with the running of the programs.

Regarding how NCDHH can support the Nebraska Deaf Heritage Museum and Cultural Center (NDHMCC). NCDHH cannot give them money; however, if the organization has a fundraiser, we can be a sponsor at the event.

Director Wyvill added that our recommendation is for two program requests and the opportunity to support the NDHMCC through sponsorship rather than additional funds.

Mr. Robert Feit asked for clarification regarding the handout that was given to the board members regarding the funding for the Hearing Aid Banks. Director Wyvill answered Mr. Feit's questions. Conversation between the members as to why the University is not more supportive of the Hearing Aid Banks.

Ms. Peggy Williams commented regarding the additional advocacy specialist position that we are asking for specifically relating to health care. Would this new position if funded handle the Hearing Aid Bank programs? Director Wyvill replied that would be two different people.

Director Wyvill clarified that the state has said that NCDHH can not give money to the Barkley Center to assist with running the Hearing Aid Banks. NCDHH is offering to absorb the cost of the funded position that would assist with the running of the Hearing Aid Banks. Dr. Stacie Ray would like to have a graduate assistant serving in that position. Conversation between the members of the board and Director Wyvill on how this would work.

Mr. Jonathan Scherling moved to approve the proposed biennial budget as presented by Director Wyvill. Ms. Peggy Williams seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Hitz both were absent.

H. Executive Director Report by John Wyvill

1. Budget Report

Director Wyvill noted that NCDHH has been frugal with their budget and based on year end for May 2022, we are tracking \$179,000 under budget. Listed various reasons for being under budget.

Ms. Peggy Williams asked for clarification on where the money would fall into play in the budget if NCDHH is able to fund the Hearing Aid Bank position. Conversation on how this would work.

Director Wyvill also added that starting July 1, 2022 we will have two additional categories for the Legal and Rural Access Funds.

Mr. Robert Feit asked if NCDHH has left over money in our budget, is NCDHH able to carry over that money to the following year? Does NCDHH have to go before the appropriations committee to request to keep the carry over money? Director Wyvill responded that we must ask for that approval every two years. Conversation regarding the steps involved in being able to keep our carry over money.

2. Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) Update

Director Wyvill shared that the final report and recommendation on the process has been drafted and approved. The full advisory board for LEAD-K is meeting on June 27, 2022 to vote on the final report and recommendations that are going to be submitted.

NCDHH has also scheduled a meeting with the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Matthew Blomstedt on July 11, 2022. This meeting will take place at the Deaf Heritage Museum to present the report to Commissioner Blomstedt.

3. Top 10 Report

Director Wyvill shared with the members of the board that we have two new team members that have been hired at NCDHH. We have Ms. Briana Stradinger, Advocacy & Technology Specialist, and Ms. Sharon Price, Behavioral Health Coordinator; both are based in our Omaha office.

Director Wyvill also shared that NCDHH will be having a town hall meeting on August 9, 2022 at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. Ms. Kim Davis and Ms. Abigail Giambattista, both Advocacy Specialists in Lincoln have been tasked with planning and implementing the town hall meeting. There will be more information to come.

4. Marketing Report

Director Wyvill asked Ms. Kelsey Cruz, Public Information Officer to come forward and give the marketing report.

Events or activities that were discussed:

- Coffee with Cops in Lincoln – This was held right after the March board meeting; this was an awesome success and had news coverage.
- Communication Kits – NCDHH partnered with Aging Partners in putting together these kits. There was a promotional event that was held at Tabitha, which was an educational experience for the nursing staff to get more familiar with the products that deaf and hard of hearing people use.
- Omaha Storm Chasers – This was held on June 8 and was a great success.

Ms. Cruz shared her two biggest priorities right now are promoting the events we have coming up, including the Lincoln Salt Dogs event that will be on July 20, 2022. In addition to the Legal and Rural Access Fund Programs that are both starting on July 1, 2022. Ms. Cruz also referenced the additional activities that were listed in the handout that the board members received.

Ms. Sandra Shaw thanked the Commission for the communication kit that Ms. Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist from Lincoln delivered. Also noting that she was excited to hear that not all the kits were staying in just Lincoln, with Ms. Davis dropping off two other kits in Seward on her way back to the office.

Chairperson Candice Arteaga thanked Ms. Cruz for her presentation. Chairperson Arteaga asked for a motion to accept the executive director report as presented.

Ms. Diane Schutt moved to accept the executive director report as presented. Ms. Sandra Shaw seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Hitz both were absent.

I. Special Order of Business – Presentation of the Dr. Frank Turk Excellence in Education Award

Chairperson Candice Arteaga introduced that this year's award goes to Ms. Jill Hoffart, asking Ms. Hoffart to come forward and accept the plaque and small token of appreciation from NCDHH, thanking Ms. Hoffart for all her hard work. Various members of the board thanked Ms. Hoffart for all that she has done for the deaf and hard of hearing children and young adults in the school system. Ms. Hoffart thanked everyone for their kind comments and appreciates receiving the Dr. Frank Turk Excellence in Education Award.

J. Public Comment

No public comments

K. Old Business

1. North Platte Planning Update

Director John Wyvill shared with the newer members of the board that prior to COVID we used to have one meeting a year outside of Lincoln or Omaha to ensure that we are getting into the community. The September 9, 2022 meeting will be held in North Platte at the Hampton Inn, with a Town Hall Meeting being offered the evening of September 8, 2022. Ms. Peggy Williams asked if any of the staff will be speaking at the town hall meeting, or how it is going to be conducted. Director Wyvill shared that Ms. Kathy Scusa is the Advocacy Specialist in our North Platte office so she will be the team lead for this meeting. Adding that he will ask Ms. Susan Whitaker, Education and Advocacy Specialist from Scottsbluff to come to the meeting so that she can meet all the board members. Ms. Peggy Williams asked if Chairperson Candice Arteaga could speak at the town hall meeting on behalf of the board. Director Wyvill replied yes.

2. Interpreter Issue Committee Report

Director John Wyvill referenced that this handout was to inform the board of the meeting that was held with the Interpreter Issues Committee regarding LB 1014.

L. New Business

No new business

M. Adjourn

Ms. Diane Schutt moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 a.m. Ms. Sandra Shaw seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Schutt, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Hitz both were absent.

Next Meeting Dates

- September 9, 2022: Hampton Inn, 20 Platte Oasis Parkway, North Platte, NE
- December 9, 2022: 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln NE

NCDHH Process and Flowchart

March	Preliminary Board Discussion
June	Proposed Budget
September	Last minute adjustments Submit online
January 2023	Budget Recommendation from the Governor
February/March	Appropriation Hearing
May	Finalized by Governor and Legislative
June	Goes into effect

Proposed NCDHH Biennial Budget

"Baselevel Request"

Reappropriations

Cash Fund Authority

New Program Requests

NCDHH Budget Proposal

Baseline Funding

Standard Adjustment for Cost of Living

Reappropriations

Available Allotment as of 8/29:

General Funds \$47,553.63

Cash Funds \$14,322.55

Cash Fund Authority

Cash Appropriation \$36,600.00

In Cash Account \$50,922.55

New Program Requests

Advocacy Specialist \$75,486.56 (salary, fringe benefits,
and admin costs, i.e computer, etc.)

Hearing Aide Bank \$64,035.00 (\$32,017.50 over 2 years)

Cultural Center Sponsorship

Contract ADA Interpreter (Discussion Item)

At Contracted Interpreter Rate:

Part Time 20hrs/ \$52,000.00

Full Time 40hrs/ \$104,000.00

Employee Hourly Rate:

Part Time 20hrs/ \$20,240.01

Full Time 40hrs/ \$40,480.01

GETTING THINGS DONE

2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

KNOWING THE PROCESS, COLLABORATION & COOPERATION

NEBRASKA
COMMISSION FOR
THE DEAF AND
HARD OF HEARING

MISSION

WE ADVOCATE TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES BY RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH COLLABORATION.

VISION

ACCESS FOR ALL

GOALS

1: EMPOWER THROUGH TRAINING AND PROVIDE SERVICES TO CREATE AWARENESS.

Educate consumers on their legal rights under federal and state laws.

Update consumers on available technology, equipment and telecommunication access options and services.

Educate consumers on self-empowerment and self-advocacy.

Advocate to assure equal access to quality education for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and/or Hard of Hearing students.

2: COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO IMPLEMENT AND MAINTAIN PROGRAMS.

Provide access to quality, effective and accessible communication accommodations.

Identify and resolve gaps in services. Promote awareness through the collection and distribution of information.

3: PROMOTE AWARENESS THROUGH THE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.

Inform communities about programs and services operated by NCDHH.

Enhance the website to better provide information through emerging technology.

Research, gather and expand the dissemination of information through visual technology.

Promote partnerships with other agencies to encourage website visits.

4: ENSURE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.

Promote and/or provide healthcare/behavioral health care training to certified or licensed sign language interpreters in Nebraska.

Educate staff of health care facilities to ensure communication access for all.

Establish local support systems with mental health providers, domestic violence programs, and regional programs.

5: ENSURE ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE AND QUALITY INTERPRETING.

Oversee and enforce the licensing of deaf and sign language interpreters.

Review alleged violations of rules and regulations governing sign language interpreters.

Promote and/or provide interpreter training.

6: EDUCATE AND PROMOTE AWARENESS OF DEAF CULTURE.

Enhance and develop events about Deaf culture.

Collaborate with Deaf organizations to promote awareness of Deaf culture and history.

2021-2022 FY HIGHLIGHTS

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Boss of the Month Continuation

LEAD-K Committee Meetings & Wrap Up

LEAD-K presentation to NDE Commissioner and Special Education Director

Dr. Frank Turk Excellence in Education Award

Jill Hoffart award recipient

Administrative Professionals Day – Cindy, Jackie & Jamie

Bosses Day- John Wyvill

Interpreter Appreciation Day

Jessica Larrison receives Excellence in Leadership Award

Deaf Interpreter Licensure – Ashley Wulf, Cody McEvoy, Kim Davis

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Outgoing Board Member Jeremy Fitzpatrick receive service award

Peggy Williams Appointed to Full Board

Brooke Fitzpatrick Appointed to Full Board

Sandy Shaw Re-Appointed to Full Board

Frances Beurivage Re-Appointed to Full Board

TEAM NEWS

Hiring of Budget & Finance Manager, Jackie Novak

Hiring of Omaha Advocacy & Technology Specialist, Briana Stradinger

Hiring of Behavioral Health Coordinator, Sharon Price

Hiring of Administrative Assistant, Jamie Petersen

Susan Whitaker appointed as Education Advocate & Advocacy Specialist

EVENTS, COLLABORATION & OTHER NEWS

ARPA Funding Program Launches – Legal & Communication Access Funding

Strategic Planning Finalized & Implemented

Aging Partners Communication Kits Project

D/HH Awareness Day at Lincoln Zoo

Coffee with a Cop Event - Lincoln

D/HH Awareness Day at Omaha Zoo

D/HH Awareness Day at Riverside Discovery Center, Scottsbluff

StarHerald coverage on Scottsbluff Office

Kim Davis: ASL Sign Courses via Zoom

Town Hall Meetings on Communication Access in Medical Setting – Lincoln & Omaha

Scottsbluff Theater: Silent Natural movie showing

D/HH Awareness Night in Scottsbluff with Western Nebraska Pioneers

D/HH Awareness Night at Lincoln Saltdogs

D/HH Awareness Night at Omaha Storm Chasers

Omaha Eppley Airfield Outreach work – Ashley Wulf

OAD vs. NCDHH Outreach Softball Event

Behavioral Health in a Pandemic Virtual Presentation – Dr. Scot Adams

Deaf Comedian Comedy show with Keith Wann – Scottsbluff, NE

VLOGS

ASL Word of the Week Series

NCDHH ASL Series

OAD v. NCDHH Softball Game

NCDHH Advocacy Specialist Podcast Series

Communication Access in Omaha Airport

OAD v. NCDHH Softball Game Recap

Disability Employment Month

Turducken VLOG

Happy Thanksgiving from NCDHH

Accessibility Updates at Omaha Airport

Strategic Planning Update

NCDHH Media Loan Center

What is a Deaf Interpreter?

Cody McEvoy Farewell

Coffee with a Cop VLOG

MAAD Basketball Tournament

D/HH Awareness Day at Lincoln Zoo

Sharon Price Introduction Video

D/HH Awareness Night at Omaha Storm Chasers

D/HH Awareness Night at Lincoln Saltdogs

Lincoln Town Hall Meeting

Full Commission Board – Election of Officers

- Term Limits – page 2
- Executive Board Committee voting form – page 3
- Board Member Committees sign up form – pages 4 – 5
- Board Member Handbook – pages 6 - 24

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Full Commission Board Member Term Limits**

Name	Represents	Term Dates	Terms served
Ms. Candice Arteaga	Deaf	4.5.2017 – 1.21.2023	2
Ms. Frances Beaurivage	Professional	3.8.2019 – 1.31.2025	2
Mr. Robert Feit	Hard of Hearing	2.1.2020 – 1.31.2023	1
Ms. Brooke Fitzpatrick	Professional	2.14.2022 – 1.31.2024	1
Ms. Valerie Hitz	Deaf	2.25.2021 – 1.31.2024	1
Mr. Jonathan Scherling	Deaf	2.1.2020 – 1.31.2023	1
Ms. Diane Schutt	Hard of Hearing	9.7.2017 – 1.31.2024	2
Ms. Sandra Shaw	Professional	3.7.2019 – 1.31.2025	2
Ms. Peggy Williams	Hard of Hearing	11.9.2021 – 1.31.2024	1

Executive Board Committee



The **Executive Committee** serves as the personnel committee that develops and revises personnel policies as needed for approval by the full board. The Executive Committee also performs such duties in the management of the Commission as may be directed or delegated by the Full Commission. Members serving on the committee include the chairperson, vice chairperson, and the secretary.

1. _____, Chairperson
2. _____, Vice Chairperson
3. _____, Secretary

Board Member Committees



The role of the **Legislative Committee** is to develop, monitor, and recommend changes to current Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) State Statute or new legislation that will benefit people who are deaf and hard of hearing, in cooperation with the various organizations serving the deaf and hard of hearing community. This committee must meet prior to the beginning of the legislative session (fall) to formulate bills and be active during the legislative session.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The role of the **Interpreter Issues Committee** is to review and update interpreter best practices, sign language evaluation systems and internal procedures.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The role of the **Education Committee** is to review ways to educate the general public, state agencies, public entities, and people who are themselves Deaf or Hard of Hearing about the impact of hearing loss in general. Specifically, the Education Committee seeks ways to implement the vision, mission and goals of the Commission through awareness activities. In addition, the Education Committee reviews issues emanating from educational practices, rules and legislation.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The role of the **Recognition Committee** is to review and recommend awards for any outstanding work by staff of the agency. The full Board has approved an awards and recognition policy for the agency's staff. This policy also applies to the Interpreter Review Board.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Board Member Handbook

Updated November 10, 2021



Communication • Advocacy • Equal Access

Pete Ricketts

Governor

Candice Arteaga

Chairperson of the Board
Greenwood

Robert Feit

Vice Chair
Lincoln

Frances Beaurivage

Secretary
Lincoln

Brook Fitzpatrick

Board Member
Omaha

Vali Hitz

Board Member
Raymond

Jonathan Scherling

Board Member
Omaha

Diane Schutt

Board Member
Fairbury

Sandra Shaw

Board Member
Seward

Peggy Williams

Board Member
Lincoln

John Wyvill

Executive Director
john.wyvill@nebraska.gov

Dear Board Member:

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

It is an honor to have you on our board and to be working with you towards common goals in serving people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Nebraska.

By agreeing to serve as a Board Member for the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, you have shown a willingness to be part of an exciting team that strives to improve the lives of people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Because of your leadership, guidance and support, the Commission's efforts and goals in ensuring equal access for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in all state and local agencies in Nebraska can be accomplished.

The purpose of this handbook will provide you with an orientation and history of NCDHH which was developed to answer some of your preliminary questions about the foundation of the Commission and your duties as a Board Member.

I look forward to working with you and hope that you will find the time you serve on the Commission a valuable experience.

Sincerely,

John Wyvill
Executive Director

Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement

The mission of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is to promote and advocate for Nebraskans who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing; to achieve equality and opportunity in social, educational, vocational, and legal aspects impacting their daily lives; and to enhance and monitor access to effective communication and telecommunication technology.

Vision Statement

As a proactive and reactive state agency, the Commission strives to enhance collaboration by creating support, cooperation, and understanding to achieve fairness and equality in all aspects of the mainstream for all Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans.

Goals and Benchmarks of the Board for NCDHH

1. Provide and promote services and training to create awareness through the delivery of programs designed to empower Deaf, Nebraskans who are Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing

- a) Educate consumers on their legal rights under federal and state laws
- b) Educate consumers on available technology, equipment and telecommunication access options and services
- c) Train consumers on self-empowerment and self-advocacy
- d) Advocate to service providers, organizations, and governmental agencies in support of people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing to assure that the rights and benefits are available to that consumer
- e) Educate parents of children who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing about opportunities available to their children
- f) Advocate with parents to assure equal access to quality education for children who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and/or Hard of Hearing.

2. Implement and maintain programs through collaboration with consumer groups, the Governor, legislature, organizations, service providers, and governmental agencies and units

- a) Establish access to effective and accessible communication through various mediums
- b) Identify and collaborate with stakeholders, agencies, organizations, hospitals, social service entities, law enforcement agencies and educational institutions to identify gaps in service and work together to resolve those issues and build a relationship in the process
- c) Educate consumers and especially low income families on acquisition and use of telecommunication through internet accessibility
- d) Educate staffs at hospitals, jails, law enforcement and care facilities regarding access rights and reasonable accommodations for clients who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing
- e) In collaboration with appropriate state agencies and service providers, promote the establishment and installation of public access videophones

- f) Collaborate with various organizations to help individuals who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing access personal-social programs and other types of programs
- g) Collaborate with agencies and consumers on home and community disaster preparedness plans.
- h) In collaboration with appropriate state agencies and service providers, promote the establishment and implementation of accurate weather alerting services through weather and general emergency alerting devices
- i) Work closely with parent groups, Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing organizations, and school units to empower students who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing through developing leadership skills and deaf awareness activities
- j) Work closely with higher education institutions to develop better sign language skills in teachers and interpreters

3. Initiate, broaden and maintain the collection and dissemination of information regarding the strategies for living with, the prevention of, and the impact of deafness and hearing loss

- a) Promote community awareness about programs and services operated by NCDHH
- b) Initiate a viable and reliable system for developing a census of people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing in Nebraska
- c) Update the media lending library and newsletters in order to increase usage by clients
- d) Provide information through the NCDHH web page by increasing the use of vlogs and video presentations and by redesigning the web site
- e) Develop information packets and resources on home safety issues for placement on the NCDHH website
- f) Research, gather and expand the dissemination of information through electronic and/or visual mediums
- g) Disseminate brochures and service information on a scheduled basis to identified groups such as audiologists, professional groups, hospitals, nursing homes, Interpreter Training Programs, and private business groups
- h) Increase traffic to our web site using contact with other agencies; e.g., insert our links to other web sites

4. Ensure and monitor full access to comprehensive and appropriate mental health, alcoholism and substance abuse services for people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing by collaborating with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and behavioral health service providers

- a) Create recommended strategies to assist adults and youth in coping with late onset of hearing loss
- b) Establish a domestic violence/sexual assault support system in Nebraska
- c) Establish a alcohol drug/substance abuse support system in Nebraska Establish training programs to educate staffs at all Nebraska behavioral health programs
- d) Provide mental health/substance abuse training to certified and licensed interpreters in Nebraska
- e) Establish local support systems with mental health providers, domestic violence programs, regional programs
- f) Identify, contact and provide hearing loss/deaf awareness to agencies, programs & services that provide mental health, addictions and abuse services (support groups, eating disorder clinics, AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), NA (Narcotics

Anonymous), communication access, equipment and technology for existing programs)

- g) Work closely with NCDHH Staff Assistant for IT and Interpreter Program Assistant to provide information mental health-related topics and issues through the NCDHH web page by increasing the use of vlogs and video presentations and by redesigning the web site (See 4. D.)

5. Ensure and implement access to effective and quality interpreting services by collaborating with consumer groups, organizations, service providers, and governmental agencies and units

- a) Promote and/or provide interpreter training in cooperation with other organizations and agencies
- b) Monitor the licensing of sign language interpreters
- c) Promote and encourage sign language interpreters to be certified and licensed in Nebraska
- d) Provide review of alleged violations of rules and regulations governing the sign language interpreters
- e) Recruit qualified interpreters
- f) Implement and maintain an effective and efficient referral system
- g) Implement and maintain a system to measure, maintain and improve interpreter's skills
- h) Inform consumer groups and agencies how to use an interpreter, use of complaint procedures, and the NCDHH referral system
- i) Establish a system for recognizing Nebraska interpreters
- j) Coordinate with state and national interpreter groups to ensure maintenance of certification

Selection of Persons as Board Members

Nebraska Revised Statute §71-4720 states "There is hereby created the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing which shall consist of nine members to be appointed by the Governor subject to approval by the Legislature. The commission members shall include three deaf persons, three hard of hearing persons, and three persons who have an interest in and knowledge of deafness and hearing loss issues. A majority of the commission members who are deaf or hard of hearing shall be able to express themselves through sign language. Employees of any state agency other than employees of the commission shall be eligible to serve on the commission. When appointing members to the commission, the Governor shall consider recommendations from individuals, organizations, and the public."

The Board Members are the policymakers of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and also determines the goals and programs that direct the actions of the staff. The Board Members evaluates how well the Executive Director establishes the policies and goals while carrying out the Commission's vision and mission.

STATE OF NEBRASKA REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Direct Deposit

According to N.R.S. §81-1117.05 “The Department of Administrative Services may make payments that include, but are not limited to, wages and reimbursable expenses to state employees by electronic funds transfer or a similar means of direct deposit. For purposes of this section, state employee means any person or officer employed by the state who works a full-time or part-time schedule on an ongoing basis.” All reimbursements for expenses must be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT)/Direct Deposited into a personal checking or savings account or to a state authorized debit card.

W-9 Form

In order to receive reimbursement for expenses State Accounting requires that a completed W-9 be submitted to NCDHH. An updated W-9 shall be completed and submitted to the agency’s Business Manager any time there is a change with banking information or residential address.

Accountability and Disclosure Form and Requirement

N.R.S. §49-14, 108 states “Each person appointed to the commission by the Governor or the Secretary of State shall file with the commission a statement of financial interests, pursuant to sections [49-1493](#) to [49-14,104](#), prior to assuming his or her duties or prior to the legislative confirmation hearing, whichever occurs first. Each person appointed to the commission by the Governor or the Secretary of State shall file with the commission a statement of financial interests, pursuant to sections 49-1493 to 49-14,104, prior to assuming his or her duties or prior to the legislative confirmation hearing, whichever occurs first.”

Public officials and certain employees of the State of Nebraska are subject to laws requiring the disclosure of personal financial interests, interests in contracts with government and potential conflicts of interests. Board Members are considered public officials. This form ensures that you are free of conflicts of interests in your position on the Board.

As a Board Member you will be notified by the Business Manager when an updated form needs to be submitted. Persons who fail to timely file reports of statements are subject to late filing fees. For more information, visit their website: <http://www.nadc.state.ne.us>

As a Board Member of NCDHH, you cannot make a financial profit from your service on the Board. You cannot accept gifts or any form of gratuities in return for voting a certain way or encouraging the NCDHH to accept a business or provide a specific type of service.

Expenses

A Board Member may be reimbursed for expenses incurred when doing business as a Board Member for NCDHH. Any expenses submitted for reimbursement will follow the State Accounting guidelines. To receive reimbursement for expenses the State Accounting approved Expense Reimbursement Document (ERD) must be completed and submitted within 60 days of the date the expenses were incurred.

Expenses submitted after 60 days from the date they were incurred will not be reimbursed. The ERD can be found within the Board Member portal. All policies are subject to the current State Accounting Manual.

Mileage

Board Members will be reimbursed for use of a personal vehicle while on State business if an Expense Reimbursement Document is submitted according to the previously mentioned requirements. The reimbursement rate is the standard rate as established by the Internal Revenue Service through its Revenue Procedures. This mileage rate is effective for all Board Members. However, agencies may, at their determination, require Board Members to utilize state-owned vehicles (as opposed to personal vehicles) if the use of the state-owned vehicle would be more economical from both an auto rental rate and the time involved in renting the state-owned vehicle. If after such agency determination, the Board Members still wants to drive their personal vehicle, the agency is not required to reimburse the Board Member any more than it would have cost the agency to rent the state-owned vehicle. All policies are subject to the current State Accounting Manual.

When using your personal vehicle, you should document the actual mileage driven. Verify the mileage submitted is correct by checking Mapquest or another mapping website.

Meals

Overnight Travel - Pursuant to Section 81-1174, Board Members traveling on State business shall claim only actual amounts paid for food/meals. Board Members should not submit claims based on any per diem amount. (The Federal maximum per diem rates are only a guideline and should NOT be claimed). When requesting or approving food/meal costs, compare the average cost per day for the entire trip with the appropriate daily GSA rate. Exceeding the GSA daily rate by a small amount fits the State definition of reasonableness. Reasonableness in very limited cases may exceed such rates by larger amounts; however, the reasons must be fully documented. No reimbursement may be made for alcoholic beverages.

Meals can be reimbursed if:

Breakfast - When an employee leaves for overnight travel at or before 0630, breakfast may be reimbursed.

Lunch - When an employee leaves for overnight travel at or before 1100 or returns from overnight travel at or after 1400, the noon meal may be reimbursed.

Supper - When an employee leaves for overnight travel at or before 1700 or returns from overnight travel at or after 1900, the evening meal may be reimbursed.

All submitted claims for food/meals need to be adequately substantiated. A detailed receipt is required as support for all expenditures. According to the State Accounting Manual a detailed receipt is a receipt that shows a listing of each item purchased and the related cost. Detailed receipt does not include the receipt copy that only identifies an amount is being charged to the employee's credit card. In the absence of detailed receipts supporting an employee's claim, State Accounting will require a written acknowledgment that after-the-fact documentation will be provided. This documentation may be a copy of:

- Cancelled check;
- Charge card slip and signed written explanation; or
Subsequently acquired receipt and signed written explanation.
- If receipts have been lost, or where a receipt was not provided (such as when only one meal receipt is provided per table), the employee should create and present an affidavit.

Lodging

Board Members shall report only actual expenses paid for lodging. Parking charges incurred at the lodging site may be included on the lodging bill. Lodging expenses may either be directly billed to NCDHH or claimed on an expense reimbursement. If lodging is submitted on an expense reimbursement, detailed receipts for lodging are required to be filed with the claim. Lodging may be reimbursed when an employee is "away from home overnight".

It is State Accounting policy that a person generally be more than 60 miles from his or her workplace in order to be eligible for lodging. On occasion there may be reasons to pay lodging for distances less than 60 miles. Such reasons include, but are not limited to work requirements, medical conditions or weather; in those instances the reason must be clearly stated on the disbursement document.

Expectations for the Board Members

CODE OF ETHICS

Each Board Member shall comply with the following Code of Ethics:

1. Board Members shall carryout their duties with honesty and integrity.
2. Board Members shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations in the performance of their duties as a Board Member serving the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
3. Board Members shall not use or attempt to use their official positions to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for themselves or others.
4. Board Members shall maintain confidentiality about all matters that are considered in closed meetings.
5. Board Members shall exercise due diligence to avoid breaches of duty via negligence, intentional action or omission, and unauthorized communications with individuals trying to influence by improper means or seeking to receive personal gains through Board decisions. Board Members recognize that all Board decisions and actions are to be based on integrity, competence, and independent judgment on the merits and benefits to people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Nebraska.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Each Board Member shall comply with the following codes of conduct:

1. Board Members shall not engage in conduct that would compromise, discredit, or diminish the integrity of the Board and/or the Commission.
2. The Board will respect the authority of the Executive Director in daily operational matters of the Commission and will provide instruction and direction only to the Executive Director.
3. Board Members will be sensitive to the considerable workload of the staff when making requests for assistance and all requests for assistance shall obtain the Executive Director's approval.
4. The Board will respect the Executive Director's authority in all personnel matters.

Individual members of the Board shall not give orders or instructions to any employee of the Commission. This does not preclude an individual member from offering his or her opinion, based upon his or her expertise and/or experience, when an employee of the Commission requests such an opinion.

1. Individual Board Members are not to become involved in operational management of the Commission.
2. This does not include any Board Member serving as an acting Executive Director while awaiting the return of the Executive Director from an approved leave of absence or the hiring of a new Executive Director.
3. Board Members will strive to establish sound working relationships with each other by taking time to know and appreciate each other as individuals.
4. Board Members will be respectful of each other and will not utilize Board meetings to upstage or embarrass colleagues.
5. Board Members will respectfully consider the opinions of others during deliberations, strive for integration of viewpoints or consensus building in decision-making, and will respect the judgment of the Board in regards to its decisions.
6. Individual Board Members shall refer all proposals, concerns, grievances or any other communications regarding potential or existing programs, services, or persons related to NCDHH to a member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will review the communication and present it to the Full Board if the matter requires the attention of the Full Board or refer it to the Executive Director if the matter can be handled without a vote by the Board.

Role, Function, and Responsibilities of Board Members

It is the duty of the Board Member to:

1. Attend regularly and special meetings to achieve a quorum
2. Participate in the discussions of the issues on hand
3. Be prepared for the meetings by reading all materials prior to the meetings
4. Participates in committee activities either during regular Commission meeting or scheduled meetings outside of regular scheduled meetings
5. Establish policy, duties and regulations for NCDHH
6. Make decisions on general budgetary issues
7. Establish long range planning, goals and benchmarks for the goals
8. Be ready to accept positions of leadership
9. Review the financial statements carefully and ask for explanation of any items not understood.
10. Approve strategic plans, three-year goals and benchmarks for the goals
11. Represent the Commission to the public and to the community
12. Be well-versed on the needs and issues of the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing people
13. Represent the people that you serve
14. Participate in committees

15. Participate in the selection, evaluation and replacement of the Executive Director. In the event that the Executive Director is not able to complete his/her duties due to extraordinary circumstances or resignation of the Executive Director, determine how to provide qualified administrative leadership to the Commission staff either by assigning a Board Member the role of administrative leader or selecting a current employee to serve as an interim Executive Director. Long term is defined as any absence of 10 or more days
16. Ensure the continuity of the Commission.

Committee Expectations

Each Board Member is expected to serve on a committee of the Commission. Currently there are four committees: Executive, Legislative, Interpreting Issues, and Educational Issues. These four committees review specific issues and present such to the Commission Board for action or discussion. It is possible that a Board Member might serve on two or more committees.

Role and Function of Officers

Chairperson - It is the duty of the chairperson to review and approve the proposed Full Commission meeting agenda and make recommendations. It is also the duty of the Chairperson to call the meeting to order at the appointed time, to preside at all the meetings, to announce the business before the assembly in its proper order, to state publicly questions properly brought before the assembly, to preserve order and decorum, and to decide all questions of order (subject to appeal). When he/she "puts a question" to vote, when speaking upon an appeal, or otherwise presiding over any motion or discussion, he/she can sit. In all cases where his/her vote would affect the result, or where the vote is by ballot, he/she can vote. He/she should not interrupt a speaker so long as he/she is in order, but should listen to his/her speech, which should be addressed to him/her and not to the assembly. The chairperson should be careful to abstain from the appearance of partisanship, but he/she has the right to call another member to the chair while he/she addresses the assembly on a question. When speaking to a question or order, the Chairperson does not vacate the chair. The chairperson oversees the evaluation process of the Executive Director. The person selected as the Chairperson may serve up to two consecutive terms of one year as Chair.

Vice Chairperson – It is the duty of the Vice-Chairperson to preside over the Commission meetings in the absence of the Chairperson. The person serving as Vice-Chairperson may serve only two consecutive one-year terms as Vice-Chair.

Secretary – It is the duty of the Board Secretary to assist the NCDHH Business Manager in keeping minutes of all meetings. The Secretary records all motions; takes roll call; notes any significant comments or actions of the Board; and highlights minutes of the previous board meeting when requested by the Chairperson. The Secretary will serve as Acting Chair or Vice Chair in the absence of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson at the board meetings. The Secretary assumes the position of Vice Chair when the terms have been completed. The person serving as Secretary may serve up to two consecutive terms of one year as Secretary.

I. Annual Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director

On the annual anniversary of the Executive Director's employment the Board will review the Executive Director's work performance by a performance evaluation. The Executive Director will be evaluated by the staff of the Commission as well as by the members of the Board. Prior to the board meeting that is nearest the employment anniversary of the Executive Director, the Business Manager will correspond with the Board's Executive Committee regarding the communication of the performance evaluations that will be completed between the staff and the Board Members.

Once the performance evaluations are completed and collected by the Business Manager, he/she will deliver them to the Board's Executive Committee. The Board Chairperson will distribute them to the remaining Board Members.

To ensure 100% Confidentiality, the Business Manager will request that the performance evaluations be typed and mailed or put in he/she's office mailbox in a sealed envelope.

In addition to the performance evaluations, Commission Chairperson will ask the Executive Director to highlight their accomplishments and activities for the previous year. The Executive Director is to submit the report to the Commission's Board Chairperson by the agreed upon date between them.

At the board meeting closest to the Executive Director's employment anniversary the Board will enter into a closed session to review the Executive Director's performance. The Business Manager will provide budget information regarding the Executive Director's salary if the Board votes to give the Executive Director a salary increase.

The Chairperson:

- Presents the summary of the results
- Guides the discussion regarding the Executive Director's evaluation
- Guides the discussion regarding the Executive Director's salary review.
- Entertains motions regarding the increase in pay (Note: the motion must be made in open session but can be discussed and prepared in closed session).
- Reminds the Board Members that the evaluation specifics and summaries; in short, the discussion, are confidential.
- Invite the Executive Director to the closed meeting and shares the decision of the Commission Board regarding the evaluation and status of pay.
- Reopens the meeting by asking for a motion to do so.
- Ask for motions regarding the Executive Director's pay status and percentage increase if any.

Operations of the Board

Meetings of the Board

- A. Meeting Rules
 1. Six (6) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.
 2. Written notice of the date, time and place of all meetings shall be sent to each member not less than ten (10) days before the date of the meeting.
- B. Meeting Schedule
 1. The Commission shall hold at least four (4) meetings a year.

2. A public meeting notice shall be conducted for each meeting of the Full Commission by placing notice in area newspapers of general circulation within the State if reasonable, ten (10) days prior to each meeting.
- C. Emergency Meetings
1. The Board Chairperson upon recommendation by any Board Member or the Executive Director can call an emergency meeting as deemed necessary.
- D. Meeting Procedures
1. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Nebraska Public Meeting Act. A copy of the Open Meeting Act will be made available at all board meetings. (See Appendix D)
 2. All business shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition.
 3. The Board shall limit discussion and actions to items contained on the approved agenda.
 - a. Proposed agenda items can be submitted by the Full Commission members.
 - b. The board meeting packet shall be available for review to the Board Members no later than 7 days prior to the board meeting on the Board Member Portal. If the Board Member prefers, a hard copy of the packet will be mailed to the Board Member.
 4. There shall be a public comment section, during which any person or group can address the Full Board. The Commission members shall establish the length of the public comments.
 5. The minutes of each meeting shall be emailed after the meeting within ten (10) working days to the Board Members as well as placed on the Board Member Portal. The minutes are “draft” minutes until approved at the next Board meeting with any changes or additions that Board Members deem necessary to add.
 6. All meeting sites used by the Commission shall be free of communication and architectural barriers and accessible for all individuals.

Board Member Committees: The committees meet either between meetings of the Board or during the regular board meetings; and serves in an advisory capacity to the Board. A formal vote by the full Board shall be recorded for any recommendations of the committees. The term for each committee shall be for one year or until their replacement has been elected. If one of the committee members is unable to attend the meeting, the chairperson shall request another Board Member fill in for the absentee committee member.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee's serves as the personnel committee that develops and revises personnel policies as needed for approval by the full Board. The Executive Committee also performs such duties in the management of the Commission as may be directed or delegated by the Full Commission. Members serving on this committee include the chair, vice-chair, and secretary of the Board.

Legislative Committee

The role of the Legislative Committee is to develop, monitor, and recommend changes to

current NCDHH State Statute or new legislation that will benefit people who are deaf and hard of hearing people in cooperation with the various organizations serving the deaf or hard of hearing community. This committee must meet prior to the beginning of the legislative session (fall) to formulate bills and be active during the legislative session.

Interpreter Committee

The role of the Interpreter Committee is to review and update interpreter best practices, sign language evaluation systems and internal procedures.

Education Committee

The role of the Education Committee is to reviews ways to educate the general public, state agencies, public entities, and people who are themselves Deaf or Hard of Hearing about the impact of hearing loss in general. Specifically, the Education Committee seeks ways to implement the vision, mission and goals of the Commission through awareness activities. In addition, the Education Committee reviews issues emanating from educational practices, rules, and legislation.

Recognition Committee

The role of the Recognition Committee is to review and recommend awards for any outstanding work by staff of the agency. The Full Board has approved an awards and recognition policy for the agency's staff. The policy also applies to the Interpreter Review Board. See Appendix E.

HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

The objectives organized units of the Deaf society (clubs and state associations) are to improve the quality of life of deaf citizens. However, there is a significant or monumental gap between intent and achievement. Leadership in the Deaf community usually consists of working people with family obligations for whom community service intrudes on fundamental needs of greater importance. This problem has increased in magnitude because of the general trend where both parents are working, resulting in a correspondingly greater involvement in home-oriented activities.

A DREAM BECOMES A REALITY

It is unknown who had the idea of establishing a Commission for the Hearing Impaired. Nevertheless, it was recognized that services provided should be made available to all deaf and hard of hearing people in Nebraska. At the time the push began for a state commission in Nebraska, only a handful of states had a similar agency.

The Nebraska Association for the Deaf made the attainment of this objective a high priority. There were several meetings in both Omaha and Lincoln. In addition there was some TV exposure. Prominent government representatives and civic leaders gave their support. When Senator Bernice Laebetz agreed to sponsor the bill, the battle was half won. The 1979 Unicameral passed LB 101 and with the signature of Governor Thone, NCHI became a reality. The formal announcement of the newly appointed Commission members was made at a banquet held at Peony Park.

The names of the first nine Commission Members are as follows:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Henry Barthuly	Mitchell
Gerald Hoffmaster	York
James E. Kamas	Lincoln
Berton Leavitt	Lincoln
Betty Lof	Omaha
Dr. George Propp	Lincoln
Beverly Steskal	Omaha
Dr. Patricia Sullivan	Omaha
Beverly Thomas	Kearney

Their appointments were effective as of August 13, 1979. The first Commission meeting was held on September 28-29, 1979. The first year budget was \$150,000.

THE BEGINNING

The new Commission faced a formidable task. Funding for the new Commission was quite generous. However, the functions of NCHI were, as it should be, very general. The Commission members had to develop all of the details. There was little or no precedent for an agency of this kind, and most of the Commission members were unfamiliar with the way the State operates. We were fortunate that the first person hired was Jaime Galloway who was formerly employed in the State Department of Education. The Commission is indebted to Chairman Jim Kamas who always seemed to know where to find the answers. Dr. George Propp was the key individual in developing the organizational structure.

Although NCHI came into being in 1979, it was the beginning of 1980 before the appropriate staff was hired and trained. Jaime Galloway, the first Executive Director, started on February 1st, and other staff members were hired shortly thereafter. Initially there was only the Lincoln office. The original staff, in addition to Jaime Galloway, consisted of Eleanor Propp (Community Liaison Specialist), Suzanne Shackelford (Field Representative) and Karen Detmer (Secretary). The rest is history, which is documented in activity reports that follow.

NCHI activities are documented within filing cabinets full of records and pictures. These activities are summarized in sections that follow. The following paragraphs will highlight some of the accomplishments that have made a difference in the lives of deaf and hard of hearing Nebraskans.

OMAHA OFFICE

On July 1, 1981, additional funding was obtained and an office was opened in Omaha at the Nebraska School for the Deaf. The Omaha personnel were Tanya D. Wendel, who later became the Executive Director, and a part-time secretary (Mary Jo Jurek). A second field representative, Richard McCowin, was added in January of 1982.

HI-VIS

In April 1982, the Legislature appropriated funding for HI-VIS (Hearing Impaired Video Information System). This was a successful collaborative effort with Nebraska Educational Television (NETV). HI-VIS was piggy-backed on AGRI-VIS which provided information via Line 21 to farmers. HI-VIS became operational on August 16, 1982, and was the envy of deaf people everywhere. Eventually, this was discontinued.

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NCDHH began receiving funds from the Department of Education Regional Interpreter Training Grant to conduct training workshops for sign language interpreters throughout Nebraska.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING LAW

In 1987, a bill was introduced to revise and expand existing statutes for using sign language interpreters. This provided the basis for the vast increase in interpreting services that have become available to the deaf and hard of hearing citizens of Nebraska. This bill required that all state agencies, law enforcement agencies and the Nebraska court system must use licensed sign language interpreters.

TTY RELAY SERVICES

In 1980, NCHI provided TTY relay services by contracting with answering services in both Omaha and Lincoln. As the number of TTY's increased, this service became inadequate during peak hours, and TTY users demanded more effective services. The bill to provide this service was developed in 1989, but failed to obtain priority. It was revived in 1990 as LB 240 and, with the help of some parliamentary procedures, the bill passed and was signed by Governor Kay Orr. The Nebraska Relay Service became operational in January of 1991. When TTY relay industry began to expand and become more national, this service was discontinued.

VOLUNTARY CENSUS

One of NCDHH's major on-going activities has been the voluntary census. The census identifies deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Nebraska and provides the state legislators an idea of the population served by NCDHH.

QAST: QUALITY ASSURANCE SCREENING TEST

In 1991, the Commission trained sign language evaluators and started offering the testing for the Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST). QAST is a screening instrument that measures an individual's knowledge of the interpreters Code of Ethics and assesses their sign performance. Levels of skills were assigned based on the QAST. This was later contracted to a private evaluator firm.

EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In February of 1992, NCDHH initiated discussion with the Nebraska Department of Education to address qualifications of educational interpreters in the public schools. As a result, a task force was established and an action plan developed for the state. This resulted in the development of educational interpreters who were assessed by evaluators using the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) model.

EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETER WORKSHOPS

In 1993, the Commission received a grant award from the Nebraska Department of Education Comprehensive Systems for Personnel Development (CSDP), to provide training opportunities throughout the school year for educators, interpreters and parents. Over 70 hours of training on the topic of educational interpreting was offered. This project was expanded and funded for two additional years.

EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (EIPA)

In October 1993, training was conducted on an assessment tool for evaluating educational interpreters. There were 17 individuals trained to become evaluators using the EIPA, authored by Williams/Schick (1992). The evaluators received 20 hours of training in using the instrument and evaluations of educational interpreters working in the public schools occurred in 1994-1995.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE-LOAN PROGRAM

In October 1994, the Telephone Pioneers of America approved the expansion of the equipment loan programs to include assistive listening devices for hard of hearing people. Individuals are able to loan the equipment for a two-month period. This was discontinued.

MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION

During the 1995 Legislative Session, Legislative Bill 25 (Sections 71-4728.02 to 7128.03) was passed and went into effect on September 7, 1995. This bill allowed NCDHH to hire a mental health specialist who monitors and provides advice to mental health, alcoholism, and drug abuse programs that provide treatment to deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

In 1995, a sister bill to the Telecommunications Relay System Act (86-1302 to 86-1306) was passed to provide for specialized telecommunications equipment to qualified low-income deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech impaired persons in Nebraska. This led to the formation of Nebraska Specialized Telecommunication Equipment Program (NSTEP) in partnership with the Nebraska Public Services Commission.

ARTS FESTIVAL

Beginning in April of 1995, the Commission conducted an annual arts festival in cooperation with Nebraska School for the Deaf and the Deaf community. The arts festival highlighted a variety of artwork and talent done by children and adults. The festival included crafters and a host of activities for both children and adults. The arts festival was held in the spring of 1995,

1996 and 1997. With the closing of the Nebraska School for the Deaf, the Art Festival was discontinued.

RID APPROVED SPONSOR

In October 1996, the Commission was approved as a sponsor of continuing education activities for sign language interpreters through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). One major area is the continuing education unit (CEU) credits available to interpreters so they can maintain their certification and licenses. This is ongoing today.

COMMISSION NAME CHANGE LEGISLATION-EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS

On September 12, 1997, the legislation that impacted the changing of our name from Nebraska Commission for the Hearing Impaired (NCHI) to the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) took effect. The legislation broadened and modified language in our existing statutes. The legislation also included provisions that require the Department of Education to implement guidelines and adopt rules and regulations for educational interpreters. The rules and regulations apply to all educational interpreters employed for the 2001-02 school year and all years thereafter.

SERVICE DELIVERY AND NEW OFFICES

The Full Commission Members requested that the Commission staff expand travel throughout Nebraska. A field representative from the Omaha area is traveling the state one to two weeks a month to underserved areas of the state. Linkages have been established with the Division of Rehabilitation in Scottsbluff, Services for the Visually Impaired in North Platte and the League of Human Dignity in Norfolk for use of office space during our trips. This led to the establishment of an office in North Platte and in Scottsbluff. In 2010, due to budget cuts, the office in Scottsbluff was closed. To accommodate the needs of far western Nebraska, staff once again was asked to travel for a number of days to meet deaf and hard of hearing people in rural Nebraska.

THE FUTURE OF NCDHH

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing takes considerable pride in its many accomplishments. We continue to look into an evolution of goals and purposes to keep attuned to changing trends and needs. In a strategic planning move, NCDHH began a shift toward a service-centered model.

PERSONNEL

Employees are covered by either the Nebraska Classified System Personnel Rules and Regulations or the NAPE/ASFCME and State of Nebraska Labor Contract. These are accessible on the Department of Administrative Services website: <http://das.nebraska.gov/emprel/>. In addition, there is also a Commission Personnel Policies Handbook that either clarifies the position of the Commission or interprets how state personnel policies and the NAPE/ASFCME contract are applied to the Commission.

Position(s) covered by the Nebraska Classified System Personnel Rules and Regulations are as follows and is a non-exempt position:

Business Manager II

Position(s) covered by the NAPE/AFSCME and State of Nebraska Labor Contract is as follows and are non-exempt positions:

Staff Assistant II

Administrative Assistant I

Interpreter Program Assistant

Field Representative II

Mental Health Specialist

Public Information Officer

NON-COVERED/EXEMPT EMPLOYEE:

Executive Director

The Role of Executive Director:

Handles day to day operations involved with running the agency

Develops and implement the annual budget.

Interviews and hires staff when needed

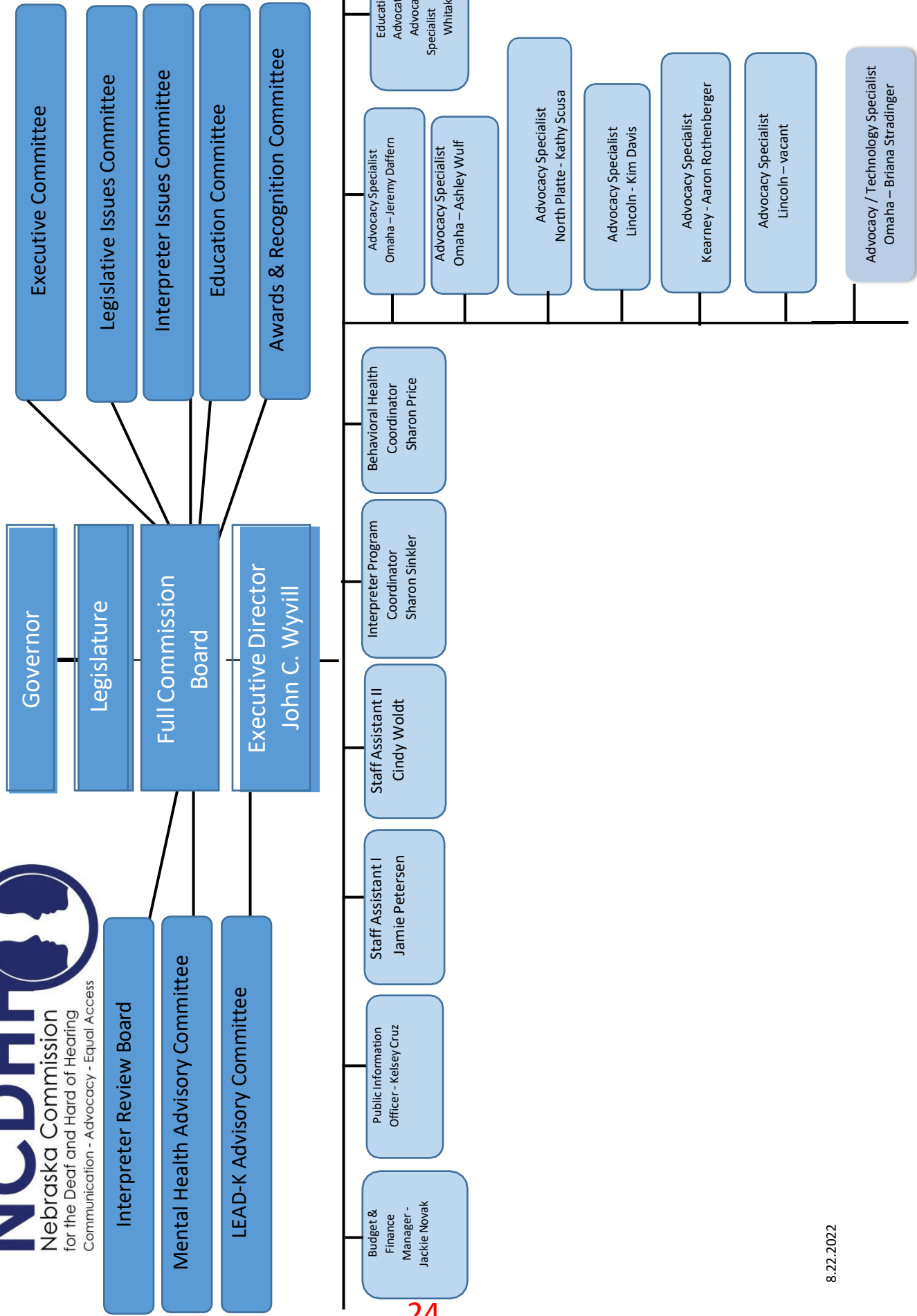
Supervises staff

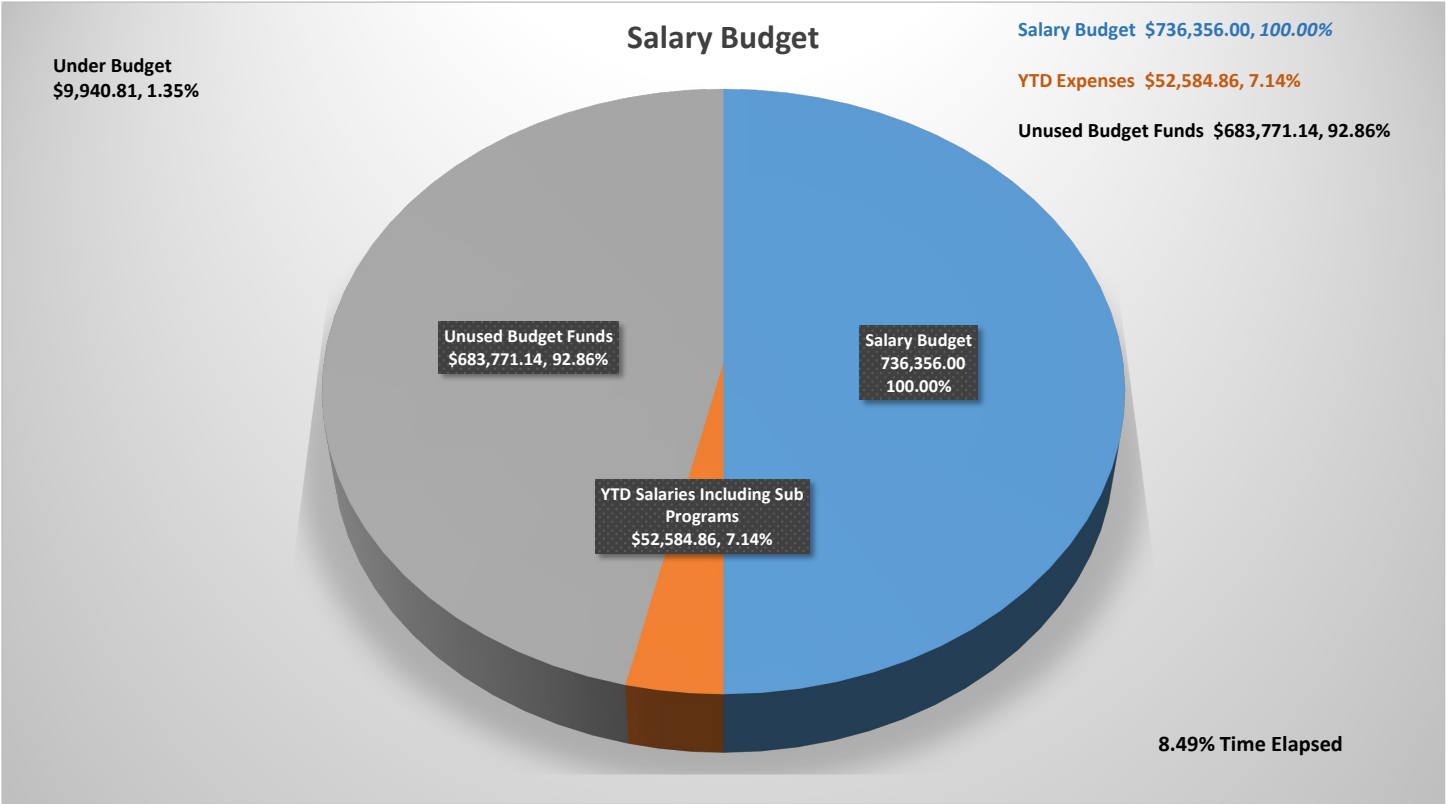
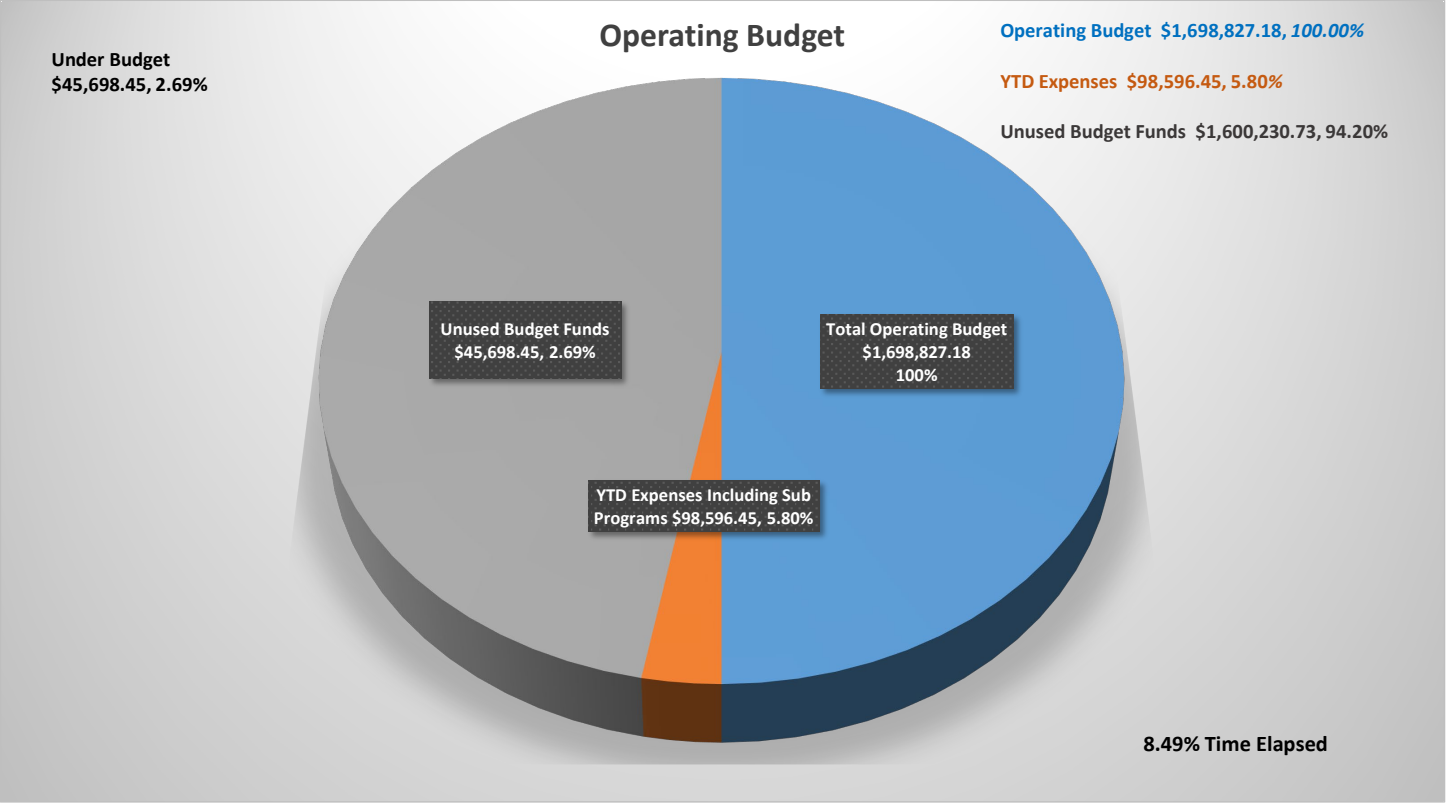
Strategic Planning for the agency with approval from the Board

Handles staff grievances/discipline

Reports to the Commission members

Organizational Chart





Agency 082 COMM DEAF/HARD OF HEARING

ACCOUNT CODE DESCRIPTION		BUDGETED AMOUNT	CURRENT MONTH ACTIVITY	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUALS	PERCENT OF BUDGET	ENCUMBRANCES	VARIANCE
BUDGETED FUND TYPES - EXPENDITURES							
510000 PERSONAL SERVICES							
111100	PERMANENT SALARIES-WAGES	736,356.00	41,350.91	41,350.91	5.62	18,770.86	676,234.23
12100	VACATION LEAVE EXPENSE		4,627.11	4,627.11		1,735.18	6,362.29
12200	SICK LEAVE EXPENSE		1,134.78	1,134.78		355.28	1,490.06
12300	HOLIDAY LEAVE EXPENSE		5,259.43	5,259.43		2,336.86	7,596.29
12600	CIVIL LEAVE EXPENSE		212.63	212.63		191.37	404.00
Personal Services Subtotal		736,356.00	52,584.86	52,584.86	7.14	23,389.55	660,381.59
15100	RETIREMENT PLANS EXPENSE	55,151.70	3,937.50	3,937.50	7.14	1,751.39	49,462.81
15200	FICA EXPENSE	45,647.00	3,645.41	3,645.41	7.99	1,619.52	40,382.07
15500	HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE	114,076.34	12,758.00	12,758.00	11.18		101,318.34
16300	EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PRO	185.40	185.40	185.40	100.00		
16500	WORKERS COMP PREMIUMS	6,216.00					6,216.00
Major Account 510000 Total		957,632.44	73,111.17	73,111.17	7.63	26,760.46	857,760.81

520000 OPERATING EXPENSES

521100 POSTAGE EXPENSE	2,954.62	144.11	144.11	4.88		2,810.51
521200 COMM EXP-VOICE/DATA	250.00					250.00
521400 DATA PROCESSING EXPENSE	28,000.00	1,551.38	1,551.38	5.54		26,448.62
521500 PUBLICATION & PRINT EXPENSE	4,900.00	79.22	79.22	1.62		4,820.78
522100 DUES & SUBSCRIPTION EXPENSE	2,900.00	699.50-	699.50-	24.12-		3,599.50
522200 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	2,950.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	74.58		750.00
522500 EMPLOYEE MOVING EXPENSE	3,000.00					3,000.00
522600 JOB APPLICANT EXPENSE	500.00					500.00
522900 EMPLOYEE PARKING EXP	300.00	58.75	58.75	19.58		241.25
524600 RENT EXPENSE-BUILDINGS	65,600.00	5,347.50	5,347.50	8.15		60,252.50
524700 RENT EXP-OTHER REAL PROP	1,330.00	82.50	82.50	6.20		1,247.50
524701 RENT EXP - BOOTHS	300.00					300.00
524900 RENT EXP-DUPR SURCHARGE	3,900.00	330.45	330.45	8.47		3,569.55
527100 REP & MAINT-OFFICE EQUIP	2,000.00					2,000.00
527900 SEE CHART OF ACCOUNTS	1,200.00					1,200.00
531100 OFFICE SUPPLIES EXPENSE	6,050.00	1,086.47	1,086.47	17.96		4,963.53
532100 NON CAPITALIZED EQUIP PU	2,000.00					2,000.00
534900 MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES EXPENSE	400.00					400.00

ACCOUNT CODE DESCRIPTION	BUDGETED AMOUNT	CURRENT MONTH ACTIVITY	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUALS	PERCENT OF BUDGET	ENCUMBRANCES	VARIANCE
541100 ACCTG & AUDITING SERVICES	3,260.00					3,260.00
541200 PURCHASING ASSESSMENT	163.00	163.00	163.00	100.00		
541500 LEGAL SERVICES EXPENSE	2,450.00					2,450.00
547100 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	5,250.00					5,250.00
547300 INTERPETER SERVICES	15,000.00	1,708.75	1,708.75	11.39	190.00	13,101.25
547301 CART SERVICES	9,950.00	600.00	600.00	6.03		9,350.00
548700 REFUSE/RECYCLING	30.00					30.00
554130 VIDEO SERVICES	2,800.00	239.90	239.90	8.57		2,560.10
554160 DATA CENTER HOSTING SERVICES	1,900.00					1,900.00
554900 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	20,400.00	9,004.25	9,004.25	44.14	200.00	11,195.75
556100 INSURANCE EXPENSE	291.97					291.97
559100 OTHER OPERATING EXP	21,411.52	18.90	18.90	.09		21,392.62
Major Account 520000 Total	211,441.11	21,915.68	21,915.68	10.36	390.00	189,135.43
570000 TRAVEL EXPENSES						
571100 BOARD & LODGING	106,500.00	1,114.74	1,114.74	1.05		105,385.26
571600 MEALS-NOT TRAVEL STATUS	50,750.00	137.64	137.64	.27		50,612.36
571800 TAXABLE TRAVEL EXPENSES	101,500.00	524.08	524.08	.52		100,975.92
571900 MEALS-ONE DAY TRAVEL	50,000.00					50,000.00
572100 COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION	2,400.00	1,118.70	1,118.70	46.61		1,281.30
574500 PERSONAL VEHICLE MILEAGE	116,103.63	492.44	492.44	.42	29.10	115,582.09
575100 MISC TRAVEL EXPENSES	102,500.00	182.00	182.00	.18		102,318.00
Major Account 570000 Total	529,753.63	3,569.60	3,569.60	.67	29.10	526,154.93
BUDGETED EXPENDITURES TOTAL	1,698,827.18	98,596.45	98,596.45	5.80	27,179.56	1,573,051.17
SUMMARY BY FUND TYPE - EXPENDITURES						
1 GENERAL FUND	1,147,904.63	96,780.51	96,780.51	8.43	26,889.56	1,024,234.56
2 CASH FUNDS	50,922.55	1,815.94	1,815.94	3.57	290.00	48,816.61
4 FEDERAL FUNDS	500,000.00					500,000.00
BUDGETED EXPENDITURES TOTAL	1,698,827.18	98,596.45	98,596.45	5.80	27,179.56	1,573,051.17
BUDGETED FUND TYPES - REVENUES						
470000 REVENUE - SALES AND CHARGES						

ACCOUNT CODE DESCRIPTION	BUDGETED AMOUNT	CURRENT MONTH ACTIVITY	YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUALS	PERCENT OF BUDGET	ENCUMBRANCES	VARIANCE
471100 SALE OF SERVICES		200.00-	200.00-			200.00
475100 REGISTRATION / LICENSE F		375.00-	375.00-			375.00
Major Account 470000 Total	0.00	575.00-	575.00-	0.00	0.00	575.00
480000 REVENUE - MISCELLANEOUS						
481100 INVESTMENT INCOME		79.25-	79.25-			79.25
Major Account 480000 Total	0.00	79.25-	79.25-	0.00	0.00	79.25
BUDGETED REVENUE TOTAL	0.00	654.25-	654.25-	0.00	0.00	654.25
SUMMARY BY FUND TYPE - REVENUE						
24 CASH FUNDS		654.25-	654.25-			654.25
BUDGETED REVENUE TOTAL	0.00	654.25-	654.25-	0.00	0.00	654.25

Executive Director Report

June 2022 – August 2022

- Executive Director Reports – pages 2 – 6
- Top 10 Reports from team – pages 7 - 19
- Agency Monthly Reports – pages 20 - 29

Executive Director Reports
from
July 5, 2022 –
August 26, 2022

Pages 2 - 6

Wyvill, John C

From: Wyvill, John C
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 12:14 PM
To: Beaurivage, Frances; Candice Arteaga; Diane Schutt; Fitzpatrick, Brooke; Hitz, Valerie; Jonathan Scherling; Robert Feit; Shaw, Sandra; Williams, Peggy; Sandy Shaw
Subject: NCDHH ED Bi weekly report
Attachments: LEAD-K 7.11 Event.pdf

All

Hope everyone had a good and safe July 4th. Here are the significant activities for the last two weeks.

- Attended and participated in NASADHH policy summit meeting/reception as President during NAD biennial conference.
- Meetings with Gallaudet University and RIT/NTID reps to discuss collaborative opportunities moving forward about possible internships and processes for more D/HH entering state government service.
- Presented at NAD conference and served as moderator of panel discussion of state agency directors on formula for success.
- Meeting with Lindsay Darnall JR about NAD legislative award and event in state for Senator Wishart the winner of award.
- Developing Text to 911 presentations in collaboration with NPSC in the five areas of the state as follow up of NCDHH full board meeting
- Launching of American Rescue Plan Act funding on July 1
- Finalizing of Lead K event on July 11
- In service training, review marketing plan and meeting with interpreters and referral agencies about launch
- Follow up meeting with Vali on town hall meeting in August in Lincoln
- Participate in Olmstead Advisory committee meeting
- Preparation finalization of North Platte out of town meeting

Attached is also an invite for our event on July 11 if you want to attend. Jonathan will be formally presenting the Lead K report to the Commissioner of Education and then then Lindsay will take him on a tour of the museum.

Stay cool!

John C. Wyvill, JD.

Executive Director

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

4600 Valley Road, Ste 420

Lincoln, NE 68510

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(402)471-3593

(402)261-2670 VP

Wyvill, John C

From: Wyvill, John C
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 5:18 PM
To: Beaurivage, Frances; Candice Arteaga; Diane Schutt; Fitzpatrick, Brooke; Hitz, Valerie; Jonathan Scherling; Robert Feit; Shaw, Sandra; Williams, Peggy; Sandy Shaw
Subject: NCDHH ED Bi Weekly report 7/15

Happy Friday One and All

Updates for significant activities for the last couple of weeks.

- Contact by Nebraska State Patrol about D/HH communication cards similar to a program just launched in Ohio.
- Several meetings on workshops for Text to 911 in state in the fall
- Further planning for town hall meeting in Lincoln
- Conducted monthly 1 2 1 Meetings with all teammates
- Participate in Lead K final report event at the Nebraska Deaf Museum and Cultural Center
- Finalizing plan for coverage for Advocacy Specialist in Omaha office with Brianna now on board
- Meeting on Department of Corrections case
- Jonathan Scherling got engaged
- Visit with NeAD about need for candidate forum
- Continued roll out of LB 1014 programs
- Reaching out to CHI about leadership change due to RIF
- Provide Tour for Dr. Rays students
- Transition planning for departure of Lincoln office Advocacy specialist
- Address an employee concern/briefed Executive Committee
- Final preparation for Lincoln Salt dogs event on July 20
- Several teammates out due to holidays and summer vacations

Let me know if you have any questions or additional information

John C. Wyvill, JD.
Executive Director
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Wyvill, John C

From: Wyvill, John C
Sent: Sunday, August 7, 2022 4:19 PM
To: Beaurivage, Frances; Candice Arteaga; Diane Schutt; Fitzpatrick, Brooke; Hitz, Valerie; Jonathan Scherling; Robert Feit; Shaw, Sandra; Williams, Peggy
Subject: NCDHH ED Bi Weekly Report 8/7

All,

Below are significant activities to report on:

- Met new NDE/SPED teammate Darsha Pelland (replaced retired Teresa Coonts)
- Scheduled meeting with NCDHH admin team
- CHI meeting about leadership changes and how impacts D/HH Patients
- Meeting with State Patrol on communication card for law enforcement
- APRA tracking mechanism for LB 1014 put in place
- Providing support for a Court on a communication access question
- Lincoln Saltdogs event/conduct interview with Channel 8
- Conduct in person staff meetings (Advocacy Specialist and all team meeting)
- Collaborative meeting with Nelnet
- Conduct NASADHH Board meeting/ reviewing report issued by NAD on Governors Press Conference for COVID
- Three days of vacation
- Transition activities with AL interpreter/Advocacy Specialist leaving
- Exploring options for additional interpreter coverage in Omaha office
- Attend Scottsbluff Nite out and Visit with audiologist in western Nebraska
- Participate in Mental Health Advisory Committee

Please let me know if you have any questions or desire further information on any items.

John C. Wyvill, JD.

Executive Director

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Wyvill, John C

From: Wyvill, John C
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 2:41 PM
To: Beaurivage, Frances; Candice Arteaga; Diane Schutt; Fitzpatrick, Brooke; Hitz, Valerie; Jonathan Scherling; Robert Feit; Shaw, Sandra; Williams, Peggy; Sandy Shaw
Subject: NCDHH ED Bi Weekly Report 8/26

All

Happy Friday... significant activities are listed below

- Presented to the Illinois Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on Strategic Planning process used by NCDHH Board
- Scotts Bluff Zoo event
- Participate in Olmstead Advisory Committee Meeting
- Finalize Out of town meeting and Board meeting in North Platte
- Meeting with Richard McCowin expressing his concerns and thoughts about OTC Hearing Aids
- Conduct orientation meeting with new TRS advisory member
- Reviewing OTC Hearing aid announcement, sharing information and conduct interview.
- Conduct monthly 1 to 1 meetings
- Engages with several teammates in mentoring sessions
- Celebrate Kim's 10th Anniversary with agency
- Participate in Chamber Networking Event
- Participate in Olmstead Employment workgroup meeting
- Quarterly meeting with NDE SPED Director
- Planning Advocacy Specialist Workshop Training session
- Submit BHC Enrichment Grant training for Omaha area
- Conduct exit interview with outgoing Advocacy Specialist
- Address interpreter coverage in Omaha office and staffing with departure with Admin team

As reminder HR related items are not covered in this report. Please let me now if you need additional information or have questions

John C. Wyvill, JD.

Executive Director

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

4600 Valley Road, Ste 420

Lincoln, NE 68510

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(402)471-3593

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Top 10 Reports

Interpreter Program Coordinator

1. Sharon Sinkler, Lincoln – page 8

Advocacy Specialist's

1. Aaron Rothenberger, Kearney – page 13
2. Ashley Wulf, Omaha – page 13
3. Jeremy Daffern, Omaha – page 14
4. Kathy Scusa, North Platte – page 14
5. Kim Davis, Lincoln – page 15

Advocacy & Technology Specialist

1. Briana Stradinger, Omaha – page 14

Education & Advocacy Specialist

1. Susan Whitaker, Scottsbluff – page 16

Behavioral Health Coordinator

1. Sharon Price, Omaha – page 18

Agency Staff Top 10 Reports from June, July, August 2022

Sharon Sinkler / Interpreter Program Coordinator – Lincoln office

- Sponsored and hosted a Zoom webinar on June 29th from 6 to 9 pm entitled, “Deaf and Hearing Interpreter Teams: Strategies and Effective Teaming Techniques” which was co-presented by Trenton Marsh, CDI and Jennifer Harvey, TASK-12 Director. There were 35 participants in attendance and the webinar received lots of positive feedback. I am currently working with the two presenters to plan and schedule an in-person weekend workshop to continue this important training.
- **THRILLED** to be hosting a workshop entitled, “Interpreting in Mental Health Settings” which will be presented by Steve Hamerdinger, Director at the Office of Deaf Services, Alabama Department of Mental Health. I feel VERY fortunate that I was able to convince Mr. Hamerdinger to provide this workshop IN-PERSON!! The workshop will be held at UNO, Roskens Hall 401 in Omaha on September 30th and October 1st and is open to deaf and hearing interpreters who might encounter assignments involving mental health and students interested in mental health interpreting. Currently working with potential sponsors for food options and other donations. The flyer and registration forms have been sent out and registrations are starting to trickle in.
- Will host two Zoom webinars entitled, “Ethical Application of Demand Control Schema: Today’s Ethics and Evaluation” presented by Jonathan Shive, MA, RID Certified and CEO of Shive Solutions. The same webinar will be presented on two different evenings from 6 to 9 pm on October 12th and October 24th. These are two opportunities for interpreters to meet their ethics requirements for Nebraska licensure. Interpreter/Transliterator licenses expire next year on June 30, 2023.
- Share and post opportunities for interpreter workshops, webinars, training and other important/pertinent information to licensed interpreter listserv.
- Provide communication support (internal interpreting) for staff, both in-person and through various virtual platforms.
- Provide external communication support during Governor’s and Mayor’s press briefings as needed, as well as other agencies as requested and/or needed.
- Assist with agency projects, provide research, draft letters, edit and proofread documents as needed.

Nebraska License Information (as of 08.10.2022)	Total Number
Number of Licensed Interpreters with National Certification	72
Number of Licensed Interpreters with State Certification	42
Licensed Intermediary (Deaf) Interpreters	7
Apprentice License Interpreters	3
Number of Licensed Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) businesses	13

NCDHH Sponsored Interpreter Workshop(s):

- Hosted a Zoom webinar on June 29th from 6 to 9 pm entitled, “Deaf and Hearing Interpreter Teams: Strategies and Effective Teaming Techniques” which was co-presented by Trenton Marsh, CDI and Jennifer Harvey, TASK-12 Director. There were 35 participants in attendance and the webinar received lots of positive feedback:
 - The examples were extremely helpful!
 - I would like to see more of Hearing Interpreter accepting their assignment with Deaf Interpreter since I am aware that there are some of Hearing Interpreter that aren't comfortable to work with Deaf Interpreter or refuses to work with one.
 - Very well done and meaningful. Presenters showed broad knowledge and were adept at sharing that knowledge in a beneficial way. Thank you!
 - loved the video examples
 - I think it was beneficial to have the discussion then later apply with visual aid such as the video examples watching, sometimes discussing, and watching can really contribute to our understanding. great application!
 - Great presentation! I loved the team format. Thank you!
 - Excellent practical tips and techniques, and the examples made things very clear.
 - thank you so much!

I am currently working with these two presenters to provide an in-person weekend workshop later this year or early next year to further this training of DI/HI teaming strategies and provide hands-on practice.

- September 30 and October 1st: “Interpreting in Mental Health Settings” presented by Steve Hamerdinger, Director at the Office of Deaf Services, Alabama Department of Mental Health. This will be held at UNO, Roskens Hall 401 in Omaha and is open to deaf and hearing interpreters who might encounter assignments involving mental health and students interested in mental health interpreting. Workshop is also open to others interested in this topic. The flyer and registration form have been sent out to licensed interpreters and others to share. Since neRID is currently on a hiatus and will not be providing a fall conference this year, I have asked them to sponsor food options (Saturday morning coffee bar, Saturday lunch, Friday evening snacks, etc.) Deb Teller, current neRID Treasurer is very interested in collaborating with us during this workshop and will be in contact with UNO catering to discuss different options.

- October 12th **OR** October 24th: “Ethical Application of Demand Control Schema: Today’s Ethics and Evaluation” presented by Jonathan Shive, MA, RID Certified and CEO of Shive Solutions. The same webinar will be presented on two different evenings from 6 to 9 pm. These are two free opportunities for interpreters to meet their ethics requirements for Nebraska licensure.

VRI Business License Renewals:

- Worked on Video Remote Interpreting business license renewals this year. We currently have 13 licensed VRI businesses. Three previously licensed businesses did not renew this year.

Staff Interpreting:

- Internal assignments from June 1, 2022 to August 10, 2022: 3,360 minutes
 - External assignments from June 1, 2022 to August 10, 2022: 150 minutes
- Continue to provide external, billable interpreting services for the Governor, Lincoln Mayor and other stakeholders on an as-needed basis.

“Interpreting in Mental Health Settings”
Presented by
Steve Hamerdinger, Director
Office of Deaf Services
Alabama Department of Mental Health

Friday, September 30, 2022; 6:00 to 9:00 pm and
Saturday, October 1, 2022; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
(1 hour lunch break)

University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)
Roskens Hall 401
6001 Dodge Street, Omaha

This workshop will examine mental health interpreting as a specialty made distinct from the broader field of interpreting by unique demands and challenges. Starting with an overview of how the field developed and ending with suggestions for best practices, this presentation is intended to be a broad “waterfront” view of the work.

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- 1) Define mental health interpreting
- 2) Discuss historical antecedents which gave rise to the specialty
- 3) Identify key participants in mental health encounters
- 4) Define mental illness
- 5) Discuss challenges inherent to mental health interpreting
- 6) List best practices in mental health interpreting

Target audience: Deaf and hearing interpreters who might encounter assignments involving mental health and students interested in mental health interpreting.

Interpretek (RID Sponsor Code 0024) is an approved RID Sponsor for Continuing Education Activities. This Professional Studies (PS) program is offered for 0.9 RID CEUs at the little to none content knowledge level or 9 clock hours toward Nebraska licensing requirements.
NO partial CEUs or clock hours will be awarded.

NCDHH promotes an environment of mutual respect, free of discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or any other protected class.

This workshop will be presented in ASL.

If you need reasonable accommodations, please contact
Sharon Sinkler at sharon.sinkler@nebraska.gov
PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 9TH



H.3.



About Steve

Steve Hamerdinger, Director of the Office of Deaf Services, Alabama Department of Mental Health has been involved with deaf rights since the early 1980's and has been a leader in the field of mental health and deafness since the early 90's. He has been the Director of the Office of Deaf Services since its inception.

After receiving his Master's Degree in Counseling at Gallaudet University in 1989, Steve moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico to work as a mental health counselor at the New Mexico School for the Deaf. His practice there focused on deaf children and their families.

An engaging and enthusiastic speaker, Steve is in national demand as a trainer and consultant on deafness and Deaf Culture as well as child development, counseling and other mental health and deafness and hearing loss related topics. He is also in demand as a motivational speaker and entertainer.



Wednesday, October 12th; 6 to 9 pm (CT)

OR

Monday, October 24th; 6 to 9 pm (CT)

FREE Webinar Via ZOOM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88090092121>

***“Ethical Application of Demand Control Schema:
Today’s Ethics and Evaluation”***

**Presented by: Jonathan Shive, MA, CI/CT, EIPA:5
CEO of Shive Solutions**

During this webinar, we will discuss the relevant factors that guide American Sign Language interpreters through ethical decision-making processes. The influence of personal ethics, ethical standards and other frameworks will be discussed. Next, these discussions will be situated within the Schema of Demand Control. The 4 Demands plus the 3 Controls will be examined in relation to how they inform our thought, processes and ultimate decisions for self and setting. Pair and group break out rooms will be used to further discussion and provide opportunities to dialogue. Role play and delving into scenarios will be also utilized.



GaRID is an approved RID sponsor for Continuing Education Activities. This Professional Studies (PS) program is offered for 0.3 RID CEUs at some content knowledge level or 3 clock hours toward Nebraska licensing requirements.

NO partial CEUs or clock hours will be awarded.

NCDHH promotes an environment of mutual respect, free of discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or any other protected class. This workshop will be presented in ASL. If you need reasonable accommodations, please contact Sharon Sinkler at sharon.sinkler@nebraska.gov prior to October 1, 2022.



Agency Staff Top 10 Reports from– June, July, August 2022

Aaron Rothenberger / Advocacy Specialist – Kearney office

- Over the past few months, the biggest item I have worked on is marketing of the two communication access funds that were started on July 1st.
- I have had two radio interviews that were used to discuss both funds, with the Rural Communication Access Fund being the first of those interviews. I think they were good interviews that focused on preferred communication and ease of access for services. I am happy with how they both went.
- I have also been traveling to the north and south part of my service area to talk with social service/disability service coordinators at hospitals in those areas. I was in Atkinson, Ord, O'Neill, Loup City, Lynch for one day. And I went to Franklin, Minden, Hastings and Red Cloud another day.
- The social service/disability service people were very receptive to the legislation and were happy to spread the word whenever needed. It was also nice to get out to some areas that I had not been for a while, or at all. This included Monowi, and Guide Rock Nebraska, which I had never been to before.

Ashley Wulf/ Advocacy Specialist - Omaha office

- ARPA Vlog
- Attended to OAD Senior Citizen and was able to meet a lot of new faces.
- Work with Omaha office and Datrell on meeting with Sgt. Aaron regarding communication barrier in DHH community in Douglas County
- Attend to MAAD Softball tournament
- Attended to Lead-K event
- Professional Development under Helen Keller and learned about the technology for DeafBlind

Briana Stradinger / Advocacy & Technology Specialist – Omaha office

- Create Technology Apps Chart
- Develop NCDHH ABC's Story
- Progress Festival as First Booth
- Provide several Presentations - Agencies
- Omaha Police Department Collaboration
- Resolving Problems with Clients – SSI/Medicaid/Medicare
- DMV Omaha Provides ASL for Clients
- Collaborate with Technology Agencies in state of Nebraska
- Educate Youth - Up Independent Living with Technology
- Assisting Co-Workers – Communication Problem Solving

Jeremy Daffern/ Advocacy Specialist - Omaha office

- Established a Safety Day for the deaf community in Omaha
- Started working with Norfolk Public Schools on potential safety day for deaf children and their parents
- Started doing outreach based on ARPA funds and spread the word to the communities
- Maintained my relationship with nonprofit organization working with persons with developmental disabilities

Kathy Scusa / Advocacy Specialist - North Platte office

- Contacting libraries, hospitals, law enforcement agencies and first responders, radio/TV stations & other businesses to discuss our ARPA/LB1014 funds, uses, reimbursement for rural interpreters and legal reimbursement.

- Have sent multiple group emails to discuss our ARPA/LB1014 funds, uses, reimbursement for rural interpreters and legal reimbursement.
 - Have presented information to area interagency meetings to discuss our ARPA/LB1014 funds, uses, reimbursement for rural interpreters and legal reimbursement.
 - Have completed marketing trips in my Eastern and Northern Counties. Planning my South & West Trips to discuss our ARPA/LB1014 funds, uses, reimbursement for rural interpreters and legal reimbursement.
 - Getting back out in circulation: Have done 4 radio interviews, 4 booths and 4 presentations since July 1.
 - Contacting NCDHH Database entries to update information.
 - Contacting Senior Centers in my 25 counties. Starting to set up presentations either in person or virtual.
 - Making contact with area Assisted Living facilities & Nursing Homes. Working to get back into facilities to schedule presentations/coffees & booth opportunities.
 - Developing and expanding my PowerPoint presentation for Law Enforcement and First Responders. Will be working to develop PP's for Hospitals and Libraries.
 - Updated my NCDHH Programs & Services PowerPoint with new Advocacy Specialists/Area Map and added ARPA slides for Legal Communication Access and Rural Interpret Access.
-

Kim Davis/ Advocacy Specialist – Lincoln office from 6.20.2022 – 9.9.2022

- Distributed and provided the basic training on how to use the Communication Tool Kit awarded to some of the 18 assisted living or long-term care residential facilities. The Communication Tool Kits is funded by Senior Foundation and sponsored by Aging Partners of Lincoln and NCDHH.
- Attended in support of the DeafBlind Awareness Month Proclamation Signing Ceremony by our Nebraska Governor with Outlook Nebraska and some members of the community who are DeafBlind.
- Took the lead to collaborate with Nebraska Public Service's State 9-1-1 Department regarding Text-to-911 training that aims to take place with their five Nebraska's Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and our NCDHH regional area offices in the near future.

- Participated as a member of the annual Disability Pride Celebration Planning Committee and participated in their event with a booth and as one of their keynote speakers.
 - Continued to participate as a member of the Nebraska DeafBlind Interagency Team to create a Support Service Provider (SSP) program in Nebraska. And on two separate functions coordinated by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities: the (1) Nebraska's Olmstead Housing Workgroup, and (2) Nebraska's Olmstead Education and Employment Workgroup.
 - Continued to provide sensitivity training for recruits of a local Law Enforcement Agency.
 - Co-planned the "NCDHH Lincoln's Town Hall Meeting Regarding Communication Accommodation in Medical Settings" with another of our Lincoln's Advocacy Specialist and took the lead as the moderator.
 - Took the lead in planning and developing sensitivity training for a group of leaders at the administrative level of a regional medical facility. And co-trained this group along with our NCDHH Behavioral Health Coordinator.
 - Continued to coordinate the NCDHH Community Roundtable.
 - Assisted several consumers with educating medical facilities or places of employment that did not provide effective communication or reasonable accommodations.
-

Susan Whitaker / Education & Advocacy Specialist - Scottsbluff office

- The Disability Disaster Preparedness Workshop set for October 6th is coming along very well. I have begun to collect donations for putting together the kits we will be handing out to all the attendees. We plan to broadcast the workshop via Zoom to Chadron, Alliance and Sidney so the whole panhandle has the opportunity to attend. The Panhandle Public Health District has joined us as a partner. They have offered to print any materials we need as well as help with providing 1 or 2 moderators at the northern satellite places. We will begin advertising this event the week of August 29th.
- I have attended 6 professional development webinars. These include Charting the Life Course, ADA Training, 211 and Answers4Families, Tips for Caregivers and Grief and Behavioral Health. I received very helpful information from these webinars.
- The Lion's Club in Alliance as well as the Lion's Club in Scottsbluff/Gering were some of the presentations I gave. I also did a presentation for the Gering Senior Center. These were all

related to the services NCDHH has. I also let the Lion's Clubs know that they are a great partner with our agency, through the Hearing Aid Bank, to help provide hearing aids to our community and state for those who qualify.

- Veterans are a group that I have tried to target for services. I attended a two-day event, Veteran's Stand Down, with a booth. It was a great experience. Several of the older veterans contacted me and applied for phones through NSTEP. A few of them received caption phones from the manufacturer. I also discussed Tinnitus with many of them. Probably 98% of the veterans I spoke to also suffered from Tinnitus.
- I set up a booth in Alliance at their Heritage Days Family Night. Had a couple of people who made appointments with me to see what we could do for them.
- I continued to attend the local partnership meetings. These are really good opportunities to network. One of these meetings was where the Panhandle Public Health District offered to join the Disability Disaster Preparedness Workshop. This partnership is showing to be invaluable with what they can help with.
- The events we had this quarter included the Western Nebraska Pioneer's game and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Zoo. These are always fun events and give me a great opportunity to educate the community on hearing loss and discuss the services we offer.
- Finally, I was given the chance to attend the Hearing Loss Association of America convention in Tampa Florida. This group, HLAA, is a great fit for my service area. In the Panhandle the vast majority of our population are hard of hearing. I learned so much from this convention. It was a wonderful experience!! I hope I can present a workshop next year!
- I attended two in-person meetings in the last few months. The first meeting was the EHDI Advisory Committee meeting in Omaha. This was a very informational meeting. It was good to see what is being done on the early detection of hearing loss in babies. It is important to detect this early so the families can begin to process the diagnosis and plan for their child's future. The second meeting was the final meeting of the LEAD K Full Advisory Committee. This was held in Ashland. The committee voted to accept the recommendation from all of the subcommittees. Anne Thomas drafted the final report which was presented to NDE on July 11th at the Deaf Heritage Museum in Omaha. It will be good to see how NDE plans to implement the LEAD K program.
- I also had four virtual meeting/webinars. The first one was a webinar on Parent Advocacy Strategies. This was great as I work with parents on how to advocate for their child's education. The other webinars I attended were IEP & Helpful Tips, Introduction to PTI, and Parental Rights

in Special Education. All of these were very educational and gave me some new information that will help in working with the families.

- John and I had our quarterly meeting with Amy Rhone and Darsha Pelland from NDE. These meetings are important in keeping NDE abreast of the issues we may be having with the different schools and districts. I will be serving on the committee that Amy is putting together to review the RFPs and choose those who will receive funding from the ARPA money. It is really nice to have the special education department of NDE so supportive and motivated to improve the special education system in Nebraska.
 - I attended the Lincoln Salt Dog game so I can become more visible to the Deaf and hard of hearing in the Lincoln/Omaha area. I feel it is important that they know who I am and what I can do to advocate with them in the school setting. Most of the issues we have with schools are in the Lincoln/Omaha area.
-

Sharon Price / Behavioral Health Coordinator

- Applied for Enrichment Grant to arrange workshop in Omaha area focusing on overall self mental and physical wellness.
- Accepted for Behavioral Health Region 6 Mental Health Advisory Committee, first meeting on Sept 7th.
- Accepted for the Medical Care Advisory Committee through the state, met on 8/17. Next meeting will be in person in Hastings in Oct. Role is to represent deaf/hoh Nebraskan Medicaid beneficiaries statewide as Medicaid is the largest funder of Mental Health services.
- Presented on mental health in deaf/hoh community and NCDHH services, promoted ARPA funds to Region 2 staff and providers in North Platte in person.
- Engaged in BH Region 3 meeting, informed of NCDHH BH services, role via zoom, promoted ARPA funds.
- Arranged presentation/training with Peru State College to inform of BH role, NCDHH services and promote ARPA.
- Recently attended Behavioral Health and Disaster Conference, met with Christian Burgess, Director of National Disaster Hotline who is very familiar with mental health in deaf community,

use of videophones. Consequently, I was able to provide national distress videophone number I learned from him to few clients who needed supports during off business hours.

- Coordinated with Mental Health Diversion program through Douglas County Court to advocate for a client, ensure reasonable communication needs when providing services to deaf/hoh.
- Currently planning to create training presentation to 988 call takers at Boys Town how to handle texts/calls from deaf/hoh in mental health crisis, how to ensure reasonable accommodations are met when mobile crisis unit is needed.

Agency Monthly Reports January 2022 – July 2022

Pages 20 - 29



January 1 – July 31, 2022

August 17, 2022

1

**The NCDHH Team Reached out to
1,750 People
to Assist with Better Communication**

January 1 – July 31, 2022

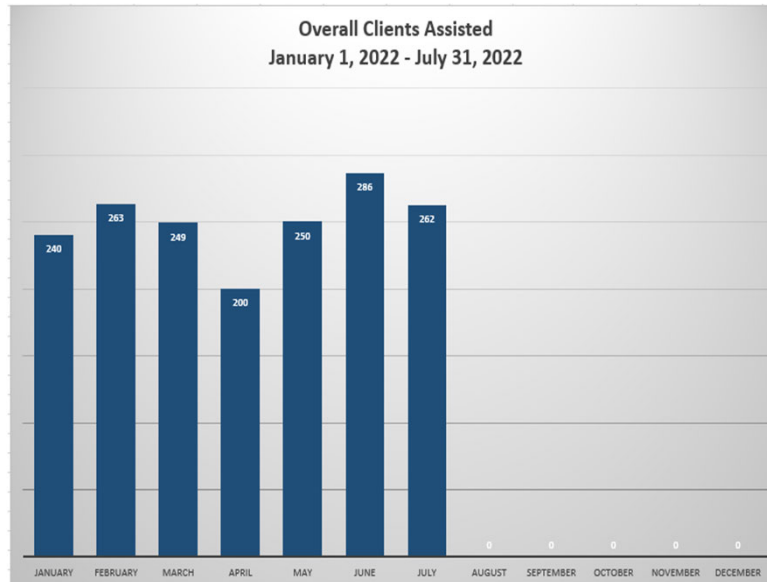


Where It All Begins

August 17, 2022

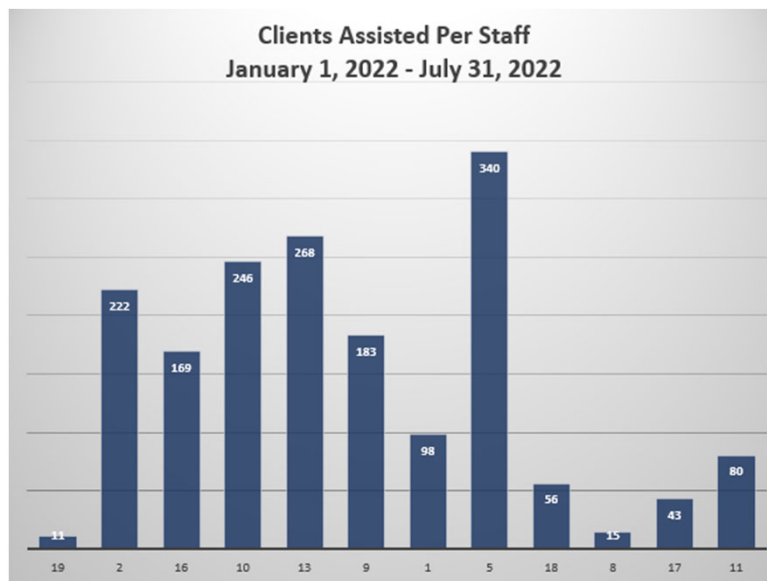
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August 17, 2022

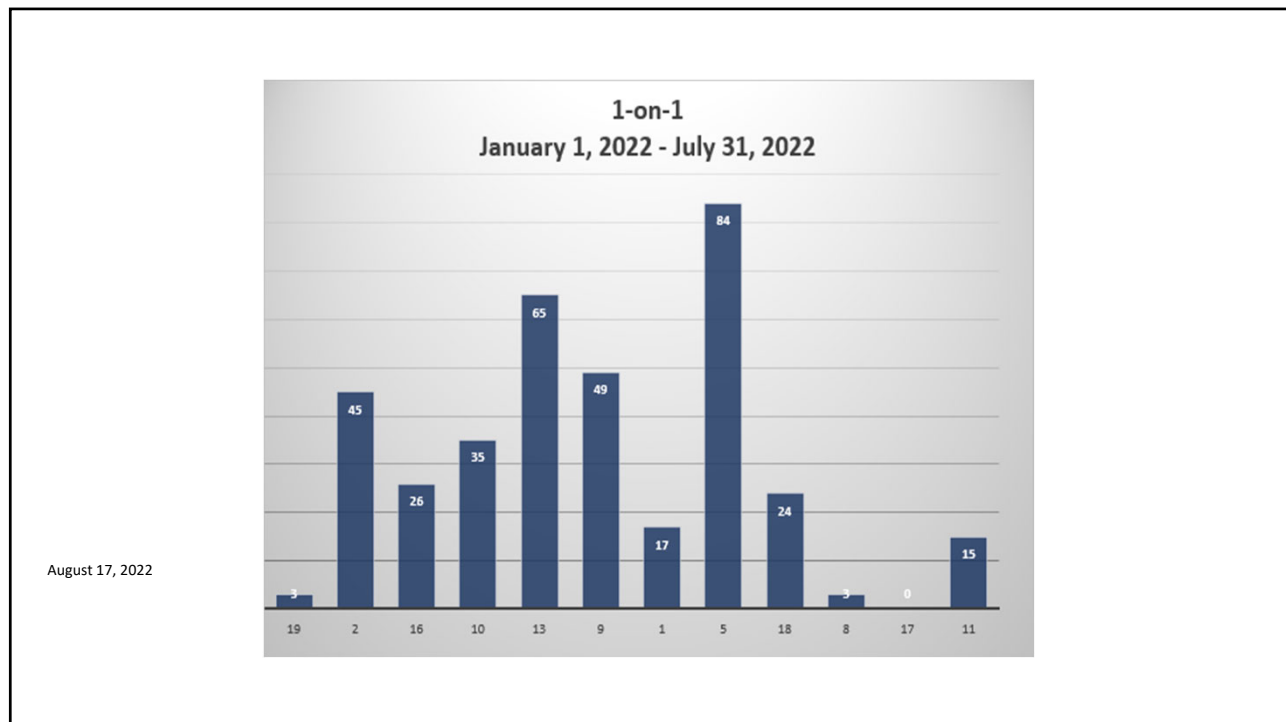


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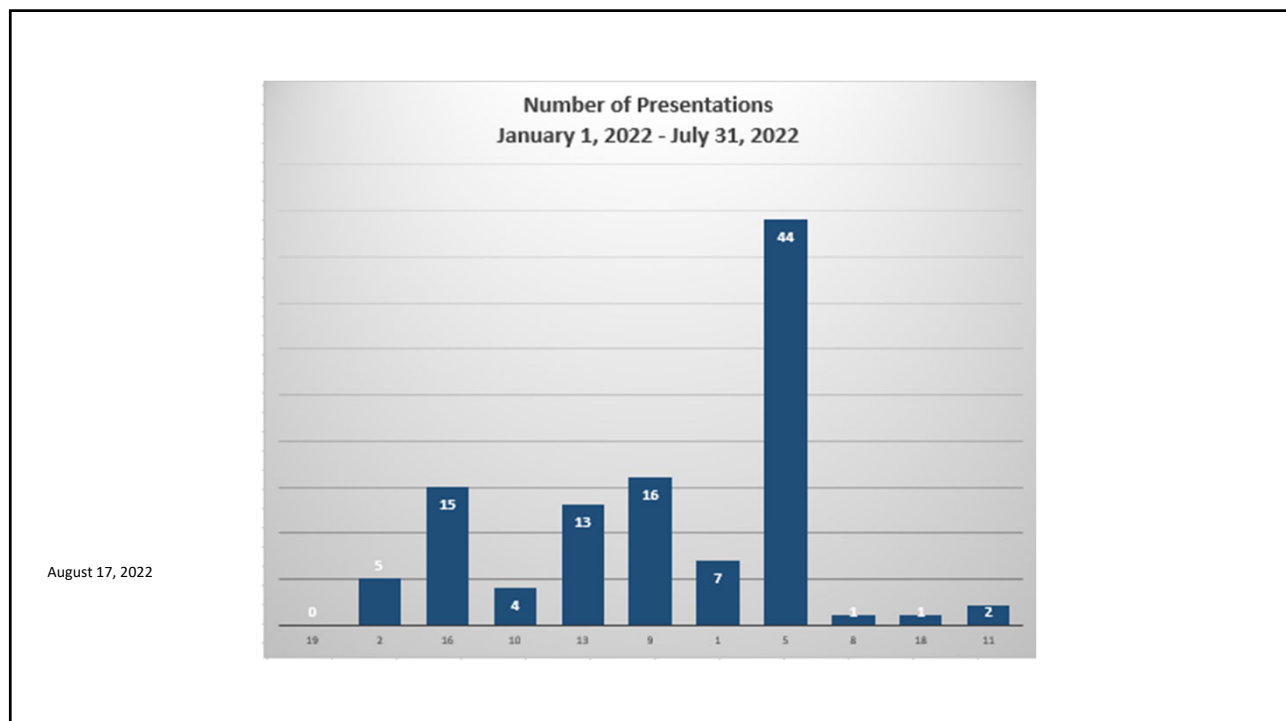
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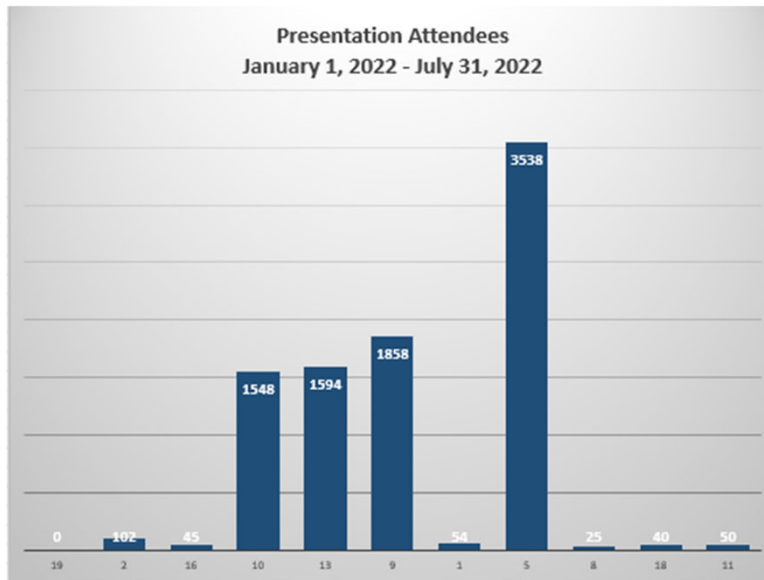


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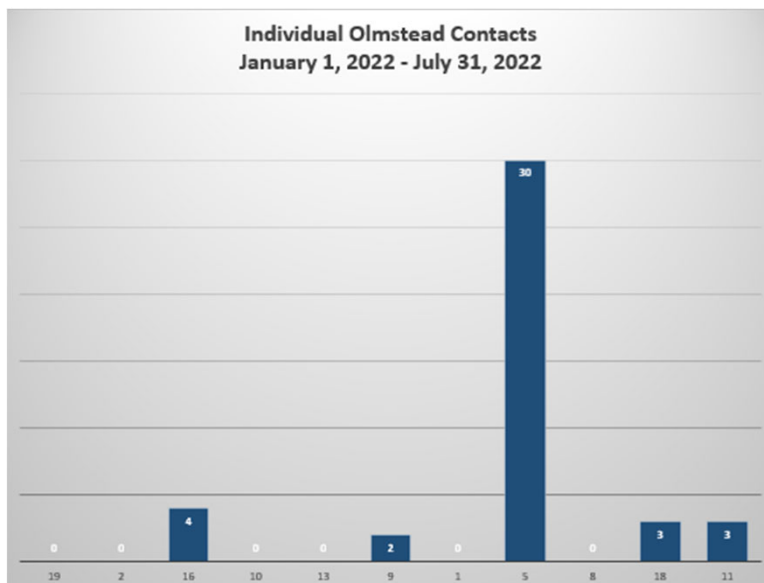
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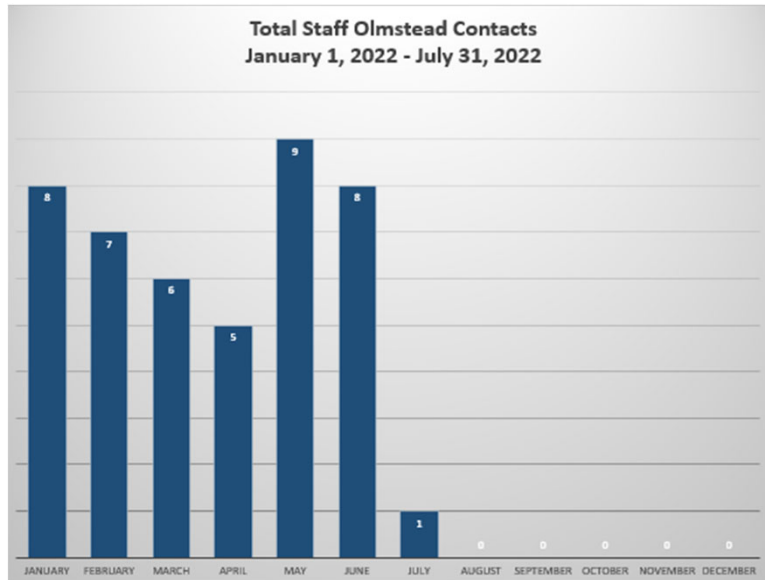
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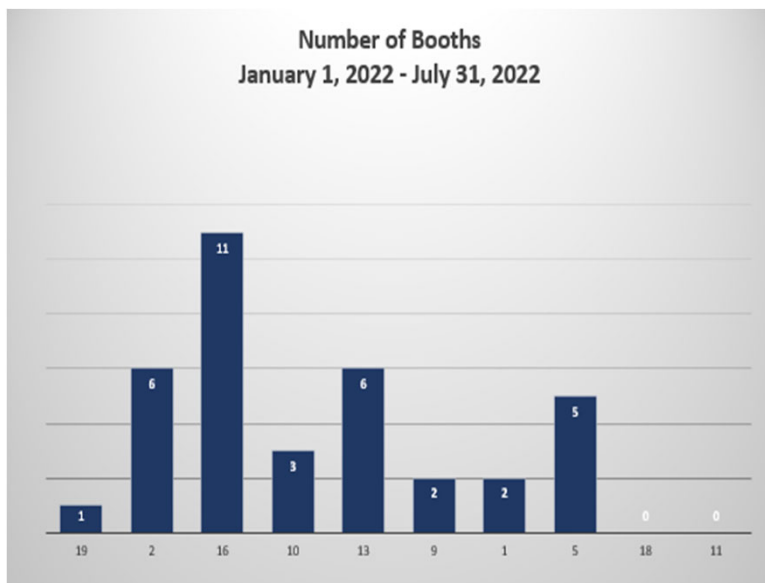
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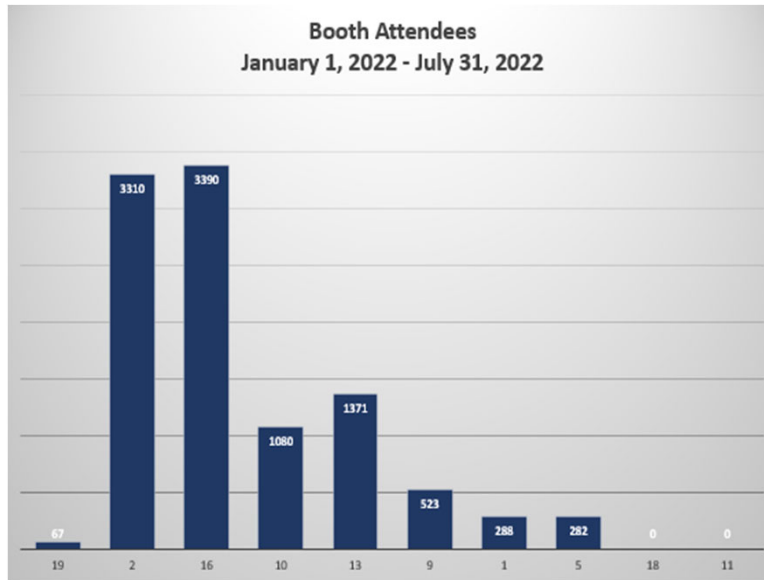
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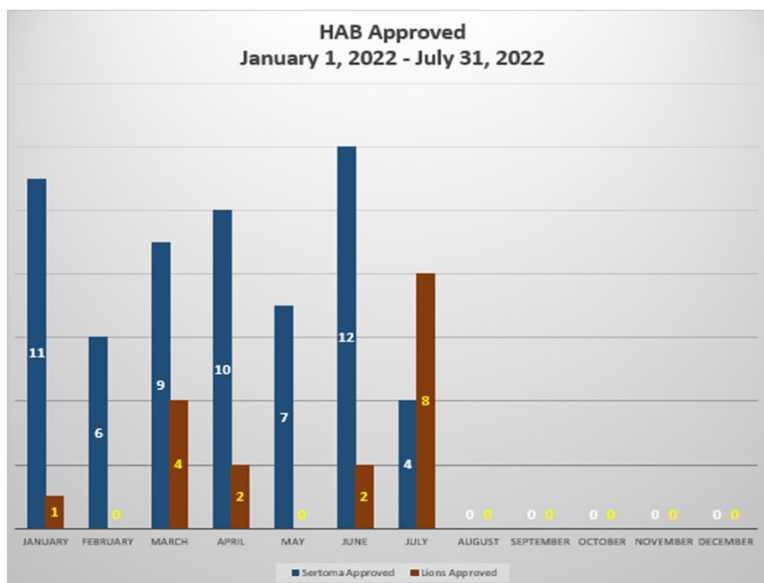
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August 17, 2022



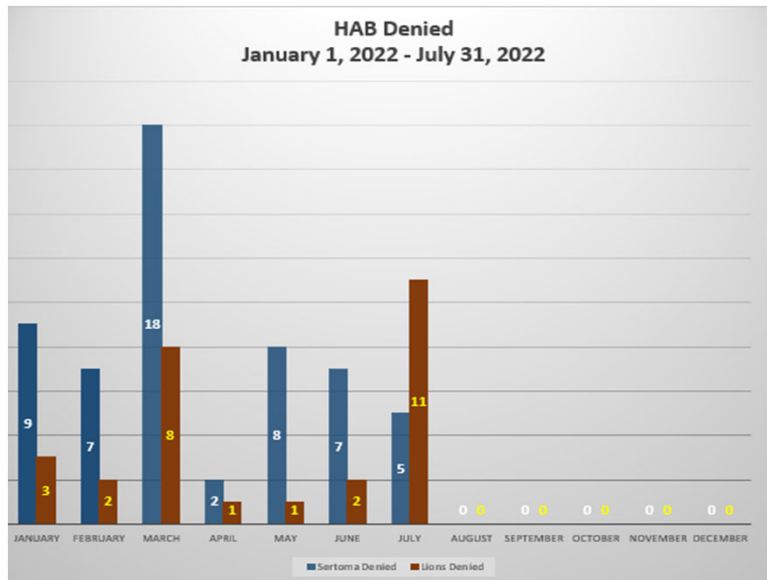
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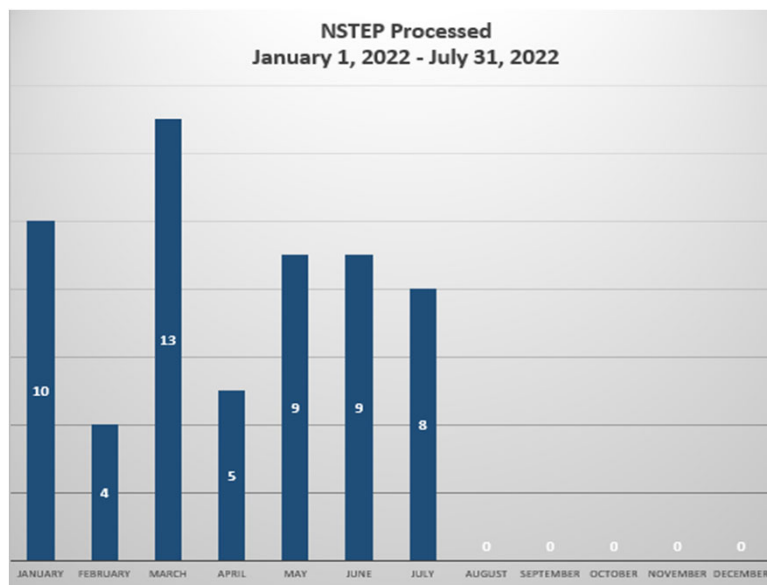
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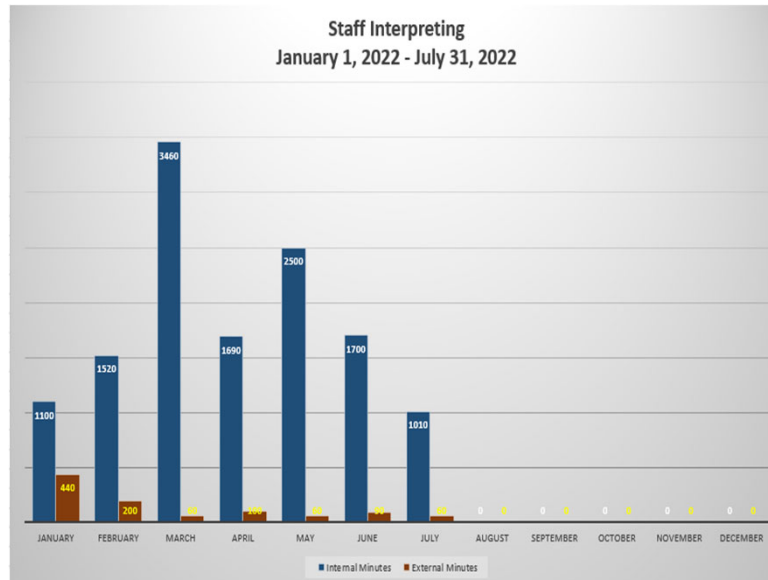
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August 17, 2022



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August 17, 2022



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August 17, 2022

Monthly Deaf and Hard of Hearing Walk-ins per office										
January 1, 2022 - July 31, 2022										
	Scottsbluff		North Platte		Kearney		Lincoln		Omaha	
	Deaf	HOH	Deaf	HOH	Deaf	HOH	Deaf	HOH	Deaf	HOH
January	0	0	0	1			5	15	15	0
February	0	0	2	3			3	14	22	2
March	0	0	0	1			3	16	22	1
April	0	0	0	0			10	14	21	2
May	2	1	0	1			0	10	9	0
June	0	3	0	3			3	2	13	1
July	1	1	0	1			2	4	9	2
August										
September										
October										
November										
December										
Total	3	5	2	10			26	75	111	8

16

KEY	
#1	Abby Giambattista
#2	Ashley Wulf
#3	Cruz, Kelsey
#4	Curren
#5	Davis, Kim
#6	DeGroot, Stephanie
#7	Larrison,
#8	McEvoy,
#9	Rothenberger, Aaron
#10	Scusa, Kathy
#11	Sinkler, Sharon
#12	Johns
#13	Whitaker, Susan
#14	Woldt,
#15	Wyvill, John
#16	Daffern, Jeremy
#17	Petersen, Jamie
#18	Price, Sharon
#19	Stradinger, Briana



FACEBOOK

TOP POSTS

1. LEAD-K/NDE Presentation – 5,616 people reached
2. Jill Hoffart Recipient of Excellence in Education Award – 3,052 people reached
3. Kim Davis 10 year Anniversary – 1,567 people reached
4. Omaha Storm Chasers event – 1,188 people reached
5. Lincoln Saltdogs VLOG – 1,111 people reached

VLOGS

Omaha Storm Chasers – Ashley Wulf

Mental Health Awareness Month – Sharon Price

Omaha Storm Chasers Ticket Information – Ashley Wulf

Lincoln Saltdogs Event – Kim Davis & Abby Giambattista

Lincoln Town Hall Meeting – Kim Davis & Abby Giambattista

ARPA Funding – Ashley Wulf

MEDIA

Lincoln Saltdogs – Channel 8 Eyewitness News

KGFW Radio, Kearney – Aaron Rothenberger

NTV, Kearney OTC Hearing Aids Interview – John Wyvill



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13-15: NCDHH Booth at Husker Harvest Days – Wood River, NE

September 25: Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at Henry Doorly Zoo – Omaha, NE

September 30: NCDHH Interpreter Workshop – Omaha, NE

October 6: Disability Disaster Preparedness Workshop – Scottsbluff, NE

**Interpreter Issues Committee (IIC) –
Internal Policy Governing NCDHH’s Pay Scale for Use of
Contracted Sign Language Interpreters**

- Internal Policy – page 2
- IIC Meeting Minutes from August 8, 2022 – page 3



Communication • Advocacy • Equal Access

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Lincoln**Brooke Fitzpatrick**Board Member
Omaha**Vali Hitz**Board Member
Raymond**Jonathan Scherling**Board Member
Omaha**Diane Schutt**Board Member
Fairbury**Sandra Shaw**Board Member
Seward**Peggy Williams**Board Member
Lincoln**John Wyvill**Executive Director
john.wyvill@nebraska.gov

TO: John Wyvill, Executive Director

FROM: Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator

SUBJ: Internal Policy Governing NCDHH's Pay Scale for Use of Contracted Sign Language Interpreters

DATE: July 12, 2022

A community licensed sign language interpreter, who we utilize often for NCDHH interpreting assignments, has notified us that they will be raising their rate for their provision of services from \$45 to \$55 an hour effective September 1, 2022.

Quite some time ago and under previous leadership, NCDHH created an internal policy outlining the rates the agency would pay to utilize contracted licensed interpreters. The latest internal policy was revised in August of 2019 after another community licensed interpreter stated that our rates were outdated. The Interpreter Issues Committee approved a new pay scale for the rate that we pay outside interpreters which became effective September 1, 2019. The policy stated that we would pay \$50 an hour for nationally certified interpreters and \$45 an hour for state certified interpreters.

Since we no longer provide interpreter referral services and now have interpreter referral agencies to provide these services, the cost of obtaining outside, community licensed interpreters has gone up. Private practice interpreters have also raised their rates based on the current economy and cost of living.

I propose that we no longer maintain an internal policy governing the rates that we will pay for utilizing outside licensed interpreters or for contracting with interpreter referral agencies when deemed necessary.

Approval of this recommendation will enable us to negotiate the rate or contract with the individual interpreter or interpreter referral agency on a case by case basis.

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Interpreter Issues Committee Meeting

August 8, 2022 at 1:00 pm

Members Present: Peggy Williams, Frances Beaurivage

Excused Absence: Candice Arteaga

NCDHH staff present: John Wyvill, Sharon Sinkler

IIC Meeting Summary prepared by NCDHH Executive Director

The Interpreter Issues Committee met and discussed three items:

- NCDHH staff presented a proposed internal policy change governing the rate of pay for NCDHH's use of contract interpreters. After discussion, the Interpreter Issues committee requested that this policy be placed on the NCDHH Full Board agenda for discussion and consideration with a committee recommendation of approval.
- NCDHH Executive Director provided an update about the provision of interpreting services in the Omaha office. The Director discussed the various options for interpreter coverage and the proposed short term and long term options being considered. After discussion and responding to questions, the Committee requested that the Director keep them informed on the progress.
- NCDHH Executive Director provided a report on the press release that the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) issued relating to all the Governors COVID 19 press conferences that were conducted. Discussion was had on the various concerns raised by several state directors and the likelihood that NASADHH would be taking a position. The Director explained that as President of NASADHH, he would be making it clear that he is not speaking for the NCDHH Full Board or Nebraska in any position that is being taken. This item was presented merely as a heads up on an issue that may be addressed down the road.

With no further business coming before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:40 pm.

Enclosure: Proposed Internal Policy RE Pay Rate for Contracted Interpreters