

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Full Commission Board Meeting – December 4, 2009 – Approved March 12, 2010
Omaha State Office Building, Room 222, Omaha, NE**

Chairperson Dr. Raymond Meester called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

A. Roll Call

Members present were Ms. Mary Ann Burke, Mr. Dillard Delts, Ms. Luana Duennerman, Ms. Maureen Larsen, Dr. Raymond Meester, Mr. Steven Manning and Dr. Jan Moore. Members absent were Mr. Cliff Carlson and Dr. David Rutledge. Staff attending was Dr. Peter Seiler, Executive Director and Ms. Lori Burrage, Business Manager. Interpreters were Ms. Jamy Elker and Ms. Pamela Duncan.

B. Acceptance of the Agenda

Dr. Meester asked for acceptance of the agenda. Dr. Seiler asked to add an update on the Interpreter Program Assistant and Public Information Officer positions under E. 11. and asked to establish meeting locations under J. **Ms. Larsen made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Ms. Burke seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carlson, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Larsen, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Dr. Rutledge, absent. Vote was unanimous of favor of the motion.**

C. Acceptance of the Minutes

1. Full Commission Meeting – September 18, 2009

Dr. Meester asked for changes or additions to the minutes. **Ms. Larsen made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dr. Moore seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carlson, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Larsen, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Dr. Rutledge, absent. Vote was unanimous in favor.**

D. Business Manager's Report

1. General Ledger Report

Ms. Burrage reported the budget status reports will be updated to reflect the budget reductions as a result of the special Legislative session after the meeting today.

E. Executive Director's Report

1. Confirmation of New Member for Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC)

Dr. Seiler announced that Ms. Vickie Steinauer-Campbell applied for the Mental Health Advisory Committee replacing Ms. Melinda Brown. **Ms. Larsen made a motion to accept Ms. Steinauer-Campbell. Mr. Delts seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carlson, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Duennerman, abstain; Ms. Larsen, yes; Mr. Manning, abstain; Dr. Moore, yes; Dr. Rutledge, absent. Motion passed with four votes in favor and two abstentions.**

2. Mentoring Interpreters Across Nebraska (MIAN) Update

Dr. Seiler provided background on the intent of the MIAN grant. Since the

last Board meeting, Dr. Seiler and Ms. Burrage have met and he is concerned that some of the grant funds were not used properly. There are missing documentations. He feels that the State Auditors will probably write up the violations. He sent a letter to one scholarship recipient requesting documentation or to return the funds. If the recipient does not respond, Dr. Seiler will contact the Attorney General's office for guidance. Discussion followed.

3. Report on Appropriations Hearing

4. Budget Adjustments and Use of Carryover Funds/LB 1

11. Interpreter Program Assistant and Public Information Officer Positions

Dr. Seiler stated E. 3., E. 4. and E. 11 are related and will be discussed together. NCDHH received reductions of 2.5% for this fiscal year and 5% for the following fiscal year during the special Legislative Session. He referred to documents sent with the agenda.

Ms. Dala McNew will return on December 7th from active military duty and resume the Interpreter Program Assistant position. Ms. McNew will need time to get re-certified and get her interpreter license reinstated. Mr. Ben Sparks will transfer to a temporary PIO position that includes interpreting responsibilities on December 7th. This will assist the agency until Ms. McNew is able to fully perform her job functions.

5. Report on Nebraska Supreme Court and Recommended Interpreter Calling Order

Dr. Seiler stated he has gotten no response from the Nebraska Supreme Court. Ms. Larsen reported there was no quorum at their last meeting. The letter will be discussed at the March, 2010 meeting.

6. License and Certification Renewal Dates: Correction

Dr. Seiler had asked for approval to change the license renewal date at the September Board meeting. The Interpreter Licensing Review Board informed him that the rules and regulations would need to be changed which would require public hearings. **Ms. Duennerman made a motion to rescind the action of changing the interpreter license renewal dates. Mr. Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carlson, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Larsen, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Dr. Rutledge, absent. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

7. Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NeRID) Conference

Dr. Seiler attended the conference in November. He provided information on the proposed interpreter licensure changes and received positive feedback from the participants.

8. Report of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Training – Enrichment Foundation Grant

Dr. Seiler reported that phase two of the training has been completed. Ms. Keri Darling conducted a workshop in November for deaf and hard of hearing women in Omaha. Ms. Peggy Williams and the Omaha YWCA have been working together on this project.

The new grant proposal would provide training for interpreters and shelter staff. Ms. Williams will attend the Omaha Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) meeting on December 8th in an effort to get hard of hearing women involved.

9. Reduction in Force Policy

Dr. Seiler explained two separate Reduction in Force policies must be in place; one is for NAPE/ASFCME employees and one is for State Personnel Rules employees. Additional policies are required for furloughing employees. After the policies are approved, a plan with specific information will be developed. **Mr. Manning made a motion to accept the Reduction in Force Policies as presented. Dr. Moore seconded the motion.** Ms. Duennerman asked for an explanation of the policies. Discussion. **Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, abstain; Mr. Carlson, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Duennerman, abstain; Ms. Larsen, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Dr. Rutledge, absent. Motion passed with four votes in favor and two abstentions.**

10. Furlough Policy

Dr. Moore made a motion to accept the furlough policy as written. Ms. Larsen seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carlson, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Larsen, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Dr. Rutledge, absent. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

F. Chairperson's Report

1. Executive Session: Personnel Changes as a Result of New Appropriations (LB 1)

Ms. Larsen made a motion to close the session to discuss personnel changes at 10:27 a.m. Ms. Duennerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carlson, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Larsen, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Dr. Rutledge, absent. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Ms. Larsen made a motion to open the session at 11:39 a.m. Ms. Duennerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carlson, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Larsen, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Dr. Rutledge, absent. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Ms. Duennerman made a motion as follows: do not fill the Public Information Officer position in FY 2010-2011; eliminate the .5 FTE Interpreter Program Coordinator position and reduce the Administrative Assistant position in Omaha to .5 FTE effective July 1, 2010. Dr. Moore seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Burke, yes; Mr. Carlson, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Duennerman, yes; Ms. Larsen, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Dr. Rutledge, absent. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

G. Subcommittee Discussion

2. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Issues Committee

Ms. Duennerman reported the Deaf Expo will be held in Omaha on April 10, 2010 at the Civic Auditorium. She attended a fishing event in Lincoln held by a disability group. The group invited Deaf and hard of hearing children, had a sign language interpreter but nobody showed up. The group requested Ms. Duennerman to assist with getting Deaf and hard of hearing children involved next year. The Nebraska Association of the Deaf conference was held in October and they voted to give the Commission \$500 to get a leadership program setup.

3. Legislative Issues Committee

Dr. Seiler reported Senator Haar agreed to sponsor a bill allowing the

Commission to charge for the initial QAST testing. The current language allows charging for QAST renewals but not for the initial testing. Senator Haar feels the licensure bill changes should be postponed until the 2011 session since the 2010 session is a short session with continuing budget issues. Dr. Seiler presented the proposed changes at the NeRID conference, has met with the Nebraska Department of Education and VR Assistive Technology Partnership and received positive feedback.

I. New Business

1. Language, Literacy & Listening Summer Aural Rehabilitation Program

Dr. Moore provided a presentation on a program the University of Nebraska, Kearney (UNK) is developing for Deaf and hard of hearing children and their parents. The five day program will focus on reading, language development, listening and speaking. Sessions offered for parents include stress management, behavior management, advocacy, working with schools/IEP, literacy, bullying and transitioning to high school and college. There will be evening events to support learning with an Oregon Trail Theme. UNK grad students in the Speech Language Pathology will partner with the Counseling and School Psychology program to work with the children and their parents. After the program, the grad students will write reports that will be provided to the child's school, physician or other professionals currently working with them. UNK would like to partner with the Nebraska Speech Language Hearing Association, Nebraska Regional Programs, ESUs and Boys Town National Research Hospital. More information will be posted on the UNK CDIS website.

J. Meeting Dates for 2010

March 12th – Lincoln at 8:30 a.m.

June 11th – Omaha at 8:30 a.m.

September 10th – Lincoln at 8:30 a.m.

December 10th – Omaha at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.