

Mental Health Services

Statewide Services for a Better Nebraska

In June 1995, Legislative Bill 25 created a Mental Health Specialist position within NCDHH to ensure full access to comprehensive mental health, alcohol and drug abuse services for people experiencing deafness or hearing loss.

NCDHH Goals

- Expand programs and services in Nebraska to Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons.
 - Implement new programs through collaboration with consumer groups, the Governor, legislature, organizations, institutions and agencies.
 - Broaden the collection and dissemination of information on Deafness and Hearing Loss.
 - Ensure full access to comprehensive mental health, alcoholism and substance abuse services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons by collaborating with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, regional programs and behavioral health providers.
- Ensure and implement effective access of interpreting services by collaborating with consumer groups, organizations and agencies.



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Mental Health Services

Hope / Advocacy

Networking / Training

Serving Nebraskans since 1979
Lincoln • Omaha • North Platte
Kearney

Professionals

Mental Health Services

Individuals

Become more effective and efficient

Education on how to give the most accurate assessments and diagnoses with insight to Deaf cultural norms and key factors related to deafness and hearing loss and their impact on mental health.

Learn how to improve the accommodations in your professional environment. Ensure that effective communication is occurring to achieve higher standards of care and equal access for deaf and hard of hearing people.

NCDHH offers mental health professionals instruction in:

- **Available resources**
- **Treatment issues that impact deaf and hard of hearing people**
- **Access to communication**
- **Program design**
- **Reasonable accommodations**

“As a resource on mental health, the mission of NCDHH Mental Health Services is to assist providers, consumers and the general public in promoting accessible mental health and alcohol/drug services for citizens who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.”

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing can advocate for you to get improved services and better access to needed mental health and behavioral health services. The NCDHH mental health specialist can also advise you of your rights and educate medical service providers to ensure appropriate and reasonable accommodations.

NCDHH notes that serving this population presents special challenges due to cultural and communication issues in which general service delivery professionals do not have the background, experience or the assessment tools necessary to effectively serve.

The special needs of this population may require funding to provide such services as: interpreters, real-time captioning, special telephones and assistive listening devices.

To help you receive effective assistance

Gain a new sense of freedom! Learn where to get assistance. Find experts who are knowledgeable about Deafness issues and how this can impact access to behavioral health services and programs.

NCDHH offers free mental health information to Nebraska residents that assures a more effective treatment experience. Information includes:

- **Confidentiality; the role of an interpreter**
- **ADA Rights**
- **Locating resources outside of Nebraska**