

Approved on 6.17.2022 Board Meeting

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Full Commission Board Meeting
Country Inn & Suites, 5353 N 27 St, Lincoln, NE**

March 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A. Opening

Chairperson Candice Arteaga started the meeting of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) full commission board meeting on March 11, 2022 at 8:37 a.m. at the Country Inn & Suites, 5353 North 27 St, 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 March 4, 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 the 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

Chairperson Candice Arteaga welcomed Ms. Brooke Fitzpatrick to the board.

For the record, Board Members Ms. Candice Arteaga, Mr. Robert Feit, Ms. Brooke Fitzpatrick, Ms. Valerie Hitz, Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams were all present for roll call. Ms. Frances Beurivage and Ms. Diane Schutt 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 and Ms. Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator. Sign Language Interpreters present were Ms. Tailyn Kaster and Ms. Amber Tucker. Ms. Margaret "Mydge" Heaney with Inclusive Communication Access Nebraska providing CART services.

D. Review of Agenda

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

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, Ms. Hitz, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beurivage and Ms. Schutt both were absent.

F. Acceptance of Minutes

Ms. Peggy Williams moved to accept December 10, 2021; minutes as presented. Ms. Sandra Shaw seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Hitz, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beurivage and Ms. Schutt both were absent.

G. Chairperson of the Board Report

1. Public Comments

No Public Comments

2. Dr. Staci Ray – Hearing Aid Banks Presentation

Dr. Staci Ray shared that NCDHH, Barkley Memorial Center at University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) and the Sertoma Clubs of Lincoln started the hearing aid banks in 1981, it's been one of the longest standing in the nation that we know of. The model that we have here in Lincoln, NE has been mirrored in other states, and have taken this beyond the United States (US).

What is a Hearing Aid Bank? A hearing aid bank is there to provide accessibility for those individuals or families interested in amplification, but they do not have the means to afford it.

There are three different banks with the Nebraska Hearing Aid Bank.

- Sertoma that cares for individuals that are age 65 and above
- Lions cares for individuals who are ages 19 – 64
- HearU Nebraska is for birth to age 18

HearU Nebraska was started in 2008 by Dr. Ray. One in three of every 1,000 children born in the U.S. is born deaf or hard of hearing. In Nebraska that equates to 65 – 70 children annually. Other children acquire a change in hearing based on their genetics or an illness such as meningitis. For families that decide to pursue amplification as a treatment option, if they are diagnosed and start early intervention and treatment by the age of 6 months, research is very clear that those children can learn language at a rate that is consistent with their hearing peers.

Dr. Ray shared how the hearing aids are a huge financial burden for families. Adding to the cost of the hearing aids is the cost of the ear molds plus services. Babies may have to get ear molds replaced approximately every two months up to the age of two. After the age of two, the ear molds are replaced a couple of times a year. About every five years on the average is how quickly the hearing aids need to be replaced.

Dr. Ray mentioned the passing of LB 15 that NCDHH and Ms. Brooke Fitzpatrick and her family, and others were instrumental in getting passed. LB 15 has done a great job of taking care of certain families that meet the criteria with their employers to cover hearing aids through their health insurance. HearU Nebraska is still needed due to families having a high deductible to pay out of pocket towards their insurance premiums.

HearU Nebraska can purchase hearing aids directly from the manufacturers by negotiating a price. Adding that they can get the hearing aids for Medicaid pricing. They are able to provide ear pieces, batteries, and assistance for repairs. Dr. Ray shared with the board how HearU Nebraska assists their families that come to them for assistance by breaking down their income levels.

Since 2008 when HearU Nebraska was established they have worked with 530 children and provided them with nearly 900 hearing aids. The children range from three weeks to age 18.

Dr. Ray shared testimonies regarding the great work that HearU Nebraska is doing.

Dr. Ray noted that all the hearing aids that give are all brand new, and digital. HearU Nebraska can get the hearing aids for about \$420 each which is a huge reduction compared to the retail cost.

HearU Nebraska is run by Dr. Ray and a graduate assistant, the graduate assistant is a candidate for doctor of audiology. Dr. Ray shared how the HearU Nebraska program is funded by various grants and a relationship with Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program.

Mr. Feit asked what happens to the hearing aids that he has donated to the hearing aids bank? Dr. Ray replied that they are used in the Lions or Sertoma Hearing Aid banks by being refurbished.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked if HearU Nebraska was unique or are there other University Systems across the U.S. that have similar banks? Dr. Ray replied that they have not done any research on this, but she has not seen a similar program with any places she has gone to.

Chairperson Arteaga thanked Dr. Staci Ray for presenting to the board.

3. 2021 Annual Report

Ms. Kelsey Cruz, Public Information Officer shared with the board the 2021 Annual Report that she has recently completed.

Mr. Jonathan Scherling moved to accept the 2021 Annual Report as presented. Ms. Peggy Williams seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Hitz, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beurivage and Ms. Schutt both were absent.

4. Legislative Update

Executive Director, Mr. John Wyvill shared the following with the board members.

- **LB 928** – Provide for closed-captioning or transcripts of certain campaign advertisements under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act.

One of the biggest complaints seen we have in advocacy is the lack of captioning in

campaign ads. Based in conversation with the Secretary of State office and the legal counsel of governmental affairs committee. The determination was made that the bill would address for statewide office only, Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Board of Education, Board of Regents for the University, and the Auditor of Public Accounts, all of these will be required to have captioning or offer a text of those ads.

A hearing was held on February 16, 2022. Based on that hearing there were a couple of amendments to the bill. Senator Carol Blood, who is on the committee, had a concern. To make a long story short the bill was amended, and the bill provides the Accountability Disclosure Commission to allow them to sanction a campaign for not having an accessible ad in these races.

The Accountability Disclosure Commission met as a board supporting the bill and testified in committee along with NCDHH. This bill has now been amended to be included into LB 843, which is the governmental committee affairs package bill.

Director Wyvill shared with the board the teachable moment for NCDHH since they were in front of a committee that they are not normally, explaining to them the captioning needs in meeting accessibility accommodations.

The sponsor, Senator Rita Sanders has a son with a hearing loss and was able to share that with the committee.

- **LB 1161** – Appropriate federal funds to the State Department of Education for programs and interpreters that provide services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing

The hearing for this bill was on March 1, 2022; Ms. Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator presented to the committee. The bill asks for \$400,000 to be allocated for interpreter training for Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) certified interpreters. Currently there are 60 EIPA interpreters out of 100 that are 4.0 or less under the EIPA scoring system. Experts say that between 40 % to 60 % is what is conveyed to someone who has a 3.9 score or under.

The bill is being carried by Senator Wishart. If the bill is passed the funding will go directly to the Department of Education earmarked for the office of special education for deaf and hard of hearing programs for training. Senator Anna Wishart seems encouraged that we have a good prospect, but we won't know until it gets out of committee.

- **LB 1162** - Appropriate federal funds to NCDHH to support in-person interpreting in rural areas and legal communication access.

The hearing for this bill was on March 1, 2022; Director Wyvill presented. This bill is asking for \$500,000 for providing in person sign language interpreters in rural Nebraska.

There are two aspects of the program. The first is the rural program by defining what this is. The second is how we are going to do this if we get the money because we'll have two years for the program. NCDHH will pay for mileage, travel time, site visit, hotel room and meals. Noted that in rural areas that cost is a major obstacle in providing in-person interpreters because they don't have an interpreter in the area.

Ms. Williams asked if LB 1161 and LB 1162 are still in committee. Director Wyvill answered with yes, they are both in committee. Explained to Director Wyvill by the appropriations committee is that the members will be voting internally. With each member ranking their priorities, based on these priorities the appropriations committee will be putting together a unified package.

Ms. Hitz asked what the timeline is? Director Wyvill replied probably in the next month, but it is hard to estimate.

- **LB 1267** – Appropriate federal funds for health equity liaisons for various state commissions.

Senator Tony Vargas introduced the bill along with six other sponsors saying that there's a health disparity that has been exacerbated by COVID. They have a few state agencies that need about \$500,000 to study the health disparity, provide recommendations and provide data in the next two years.

If this bill is funded NCDHH would have a health advocate for two years, this position would be federally funded. This position would be focused on healthcare.

Discussion regarding communication that took place with Nebraska Medicine during COVID and addressing the needs of deaf and hard of hearing patients. Director Wyvill shared with the board about an article that was in the Lincoln Journal Star (LJS) paper this past weekend regarding no funding for interpreters. NCDHH is using the opportunity to advocate and say that we need communication access.

Mr. Jonathan Scherling shared feedback that this would be an excellent opportunity for NCDHH to investigate the inequities with relationship to the nursing services with

the deaf and hard of hearing population. If we do get this funded position, Mr. Scherling would like to visit more with Director Wyvill on how NCDHH could go about this process.

Director Wyvill shared with the board that NCDHH recently worked with Aging Partners on putting together communication kits from a grant that was received for \$4,966.00. Included in the kits are 2 different assistive listening devices, a white board, and a point it picture book. NCDHH and Aging Partners is working with Tabitha on a launch for this initiative. The hope is twofold for senior living facilities that it will raise awareness for communication access and serve as an opportunity for others to enhance it.

Ms. Peggy Williams asked when does the legislative session end? Director Wyvill replied some time in April.

Mr. Robert Feit asked if this funding would be able to go towards the communication between hard of hearing patients and hospital staff wearing masks? Mr. Feit added that he uses an app called AVA to communicate with his nursing staff. Director Wyvill replied yes if this position is funded. Adding that we are currently doing this now but having additional resources will make this even better.

Ms. Sandra Shaw asked when the communication kits are available for nursing homes? Director Wyvill answered that the communication kits are intended for assisted living and senior centers. At this point it has not been decided who they will be given to in the Lincoln area. Director Wyvill agreed to visit with Ms. Shaw regarding communication kits next week.

Ms. Peggy Williams asked if the communication kits will be on loan, or do they go to the nursing homes? Director Wyvill answered that the kits go to the facility. Ms. Williams then asked if there are plans for additional kits to be purchased to accommodate the larger number of nursing homes? Director Wyvill responded that they are hoping through awareness and through outreach that the facility purchases on their own, as the cost is less than \$500 per kit.

Ms. Valerie Hitz asked Director Wyvill regarding LB 1162 if this would be a staff interpreter or if this would be for contracting interpreters? Director Wyvill replied that this would be for a community interpreter, not our staff interpreter at NCDHH. Director Wyvill gave an example of how the program would work.

A 10-minute break was taken.

5. Report on Biennial Budget Submission process

Director Wyvill gave reference to the handout in the board packet that is an overview of the budget process with being a state agency. 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 states system.
- **January 2023 – Budget recommendation from the Governor**
Director Wyvill shared with the board that this is a year that we will be electing a new Governor that adds a new wrinkle to the process making it a bit more complicated. Director Wyvill added that NCDHH has a lot of colleagues on the appropriations committee which will hopefully play in our favor.
- **February / March 2023 – Appropriation Hearing**
The Appropriations Committee decides what their recommendations are to our agency. Once their recommendations go out, our budget is set. Director Wyvill added that we are a \$1 million agency in a \$3 billion plus state government budget, we are low on the food chain in terms of the radar screen.
- **May 2023 – Finalized by Governor and Legislature**
The budget then gets finalized by the Governor, then the budget goes into effect in June 2023.
- **June 2023 – Goes into effect**

Discussion between Director Wyvill and the board on if NCDHH would consider offering a base level request to hearing aid banks for partial funding of their programs. A base level request means that NCDHH would keep the same base level funding. Typically, what happens is that every state agency asks for their base level will get the same plus additional to cover salaries and operation increases. Also asking that the agency keeps carry over or any unspent re-appropriations. Discussion on the agency keeping carryover or unspent re-appropriations.

Director Wyvill shared what NCDHH has the authority to spend money on, referencing cash funds. Discussion about what cash funds is, how they are received and when they are spent. Currently, NCDHH has \$78,000 in cash funds, we can only spend up to \$36,000 every year.

Director Wyvill referenced that projected today NCDHH would be under roughly \$9,400 in operating costs and spending authority for salary we would be under \$127,000. Director Wyvill added that with being a state government agency you don't want too much carry over money.

Ms. Peggy Williams asked for clarification on if money was given to the hearing aid bank, does that include both Sertoma, Lions and HearU Nebraska? Director Wyvill responded that it was his understanding that based on Dr. Ray's presentation that the donation would help all three hearing aid banks. Dr. Ray is asking for \$65,000 for each fiscal year to fund the programs.

Conversation on why Dr. Ray is not taking this request to the University of Nebraska for funding.

Ms. Arteaga added that she thought that the funding that Dr. Ray was asking for was only for the HearU Nebraska program. Director Wyvill agreed that Dr. Ray was only asking for funding for the HearU Nebraska program.

Ms. Hitz asked who owns the hearing aid banks, whose umbrella are they under? Conversation on this.

Director Wyvill added that the board chair's point is not a specific dollar amount for the budget at this time. It would be a direction to develop a base-level budget with a new program activity to include the hearing aid banks. Then the board can come back in June with a specific amount then.

Mr. Robert Feit added that he would like for NCDHH to be able to assist with funding the HearU Nebraska Program.

Ms. Peggy Williams commented that she would like to see us also assist with funding the Sertoma and Lions Hearing Aid Banks.

Conversation on how the Sertoma and Lions Hearing Aid Banks are funded currently.

Mr. Jonathan Scherling shared with the board about Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD) as they are in the process of developing a mentoring program working with parents who have newborns who are deaf or hard of hearing. Mr. Scherling is potentially asking NCDHH for support of this mentoring program, in addition the Deaf Heritage and Cultural Center.

Additional conversation regarding the base level budget that Director Wyvill covered.

Ms. Peggy Williams moved to direct staff to present a proposed budget which includes base level and new programs to support funding of any/all hearing aid banks. Ms. Brooke Fitzpatrick

seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Hitz, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Schutt both were absent.

Ms. Valerie Hitz moved to direct staff investigate the potential of funding for NeAD's Mentoring Program and the Deaf Heritage and Cultural Center. Ms. Brooke Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Hitz, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Schutt both were absent. Mr. Scherling abstained.

Ms. Peggy Williams asked for Mr. Jonathan Scherling to explain the Deaf Heritage and Cultural Center. Mr. Scherling respond that in 2015 they changed the name to Nebraska Deaf Heritage Museum and Cultural Center. It is in the school so there is a very rich history there. Mr. Scherling added that NCDHH having a space would be a perfect example to have included in the history.

Ms. Williams made an amendment to the motion to have staff investigate how to include NCDHH in the funding and report back to the board. Ms. Valerie Hitz seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Hitz, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Schutt both were absent. Mr. Scherling abstained.

Ms. Brooke Fitzpatrick moved to accept the report on biennial budget submission process as presented. Ms. Peggy Williams seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Hitz, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Schutt both were absent.

6 Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS) Advisory Committee Appointments

Director Wyvill gave the history of the open vacancies that are currently on the TRS Committee. The committee has seven members with three vacancies. The application that we received is from Ms. Annette Campbell who self identifies as hard of hearing with no previous ties to the commission.

Mr. Jonathan Scherling moved to appoint Ms. Annette Campbell to the TRS Advisory Committee. Ms. Peggy Williams seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Hitz, Mr. Scherling, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Schutt both were absent.

H. Executive Director Report (John Wyvill)

1. **Budget Report**

Director Wyvill introduced Ms. Jacqueline “Jackie” Novak, Business & Finance Manager for NCDHH.

Mr. Robert Feit asked for clarification on how we have operational and salary spending authority that is less than our agency and cash funds totals. It was decided that Director Wyvill and Ms. Novak would be back in touch with Mr. Feit on this question.

Director Wyvill gave a recap of recent staffing changes that are happening at NCDHH. Ms. Sharon Price will be starting on April 4, 2022 in the Behavioral Health Coordinator position, replacing Mr. Cody McEvoy. Also adding that Ms. Susan Whitaker, our Advocacy Specialist in the Scottsbluff office is taking on added responsibilities of the Educational Advocate position that was vacated by Ms. Jessica Larrison. The position that was held by Ms. Larrison has been reclassified as an Advocacy Specialist based in the Omaha office and serve as a technology liaison on the various assistive technologies to support deaf, deaf blind and hard of hearing individuals.

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

The LEAD-K Committee is getting close to where they are going to finalize the recommendations.

Director Wyvill shared that they have had some positive conversations with Ms. Amy Rhone, Special Education Director with State Department of Education.

3. **Top Ten Report**

Mr. Wyvill explained that the top ten report is in the board packet for their review.

Mr. Jonathan Scherling complimented Director Wyvill in his communication with the City of Lincoln on implementing captioning on televisions that are in public places. Mr. Scherling wanted to recognize Director Wyvill for his assertive action in getting this communication set up with the City of Lincoln.

Ms. Candice Arteaga asked Director Wyvill to thank the staff on their hard work and everything that they do.

A 5-minute break was taken.

4. **Marketing Report**

The top reaching posts have been:

- ACLU Demand Letter re: Paul Ruff – 8,842 people reached
- Cody McEvoy farewell – 1,554 people reached

- Dr. Sevier receives distinguished service award – 1,458 people reached
- Jamie Petersen welcoming – 1,454 people reached
- NCDHH DI Licensure – 1,450 people reached

Ms. Kelsey Cruz also touched base on the popularity of the vlogs that the agency has been doing.

Regarding upcoming events:

- Coffee with Cops will be tomorrow (3.12.2022), NCDHH is hosting Coffee with Cops in Lincoln at a local coffee shop. When this activity was last completed it was right before COVID hit, back in February 2020.
- Midwest Athletic Association for the Deaf (MAAD) Basketball Tournament is next weekend (3.18.22 – 3.19.22).
- Lincoln Children’s Zoo event will be coming up soon. Discussion on the Lincoln Children’s Zoo. Ms. Kim Davis and Ms. Abbigail Giambattista, both Advocacy Specialists in Lincoln are working with NeAD in setting up this event.
- Lincoln Salt Dogs game will be on July 20, 2022.
- Pioneers Baseball game in Scottsbluff is going to be on June 17, 2022.

5. Out of State Travel

Director Wyvill shared that since we are coming out of COVID, NCDHH staff members now can travel out of state.

Requests that are being considered for travel:

- Director Wyvill for traveling to the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference and the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH) Meeting in Orlando FL from June 29, 2022 to July 5, 2022
- Ms. Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist in the Lincoln office for traveling to the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference in Orlando FL from June 30, 2022 – July 4, 2022
- Ms. Kathy Scusa, Advocacy Specialist in the North Platte office for traveling to the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA) Conference in San Diego CA from October 19 – 23, 2022
- Ms. Susan Whitaker, Advocacy Specialist in the Scottsbluff office for traveling to the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Convention in Tampa FL from June 23 – 25, 2022.

Ms. Peggy Williams has requested that the staff members traveling to these conferences present to the board what they learned at the event.

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

I. Public Comments

There was a student sign language interpreter observing by the name of Laura Hish.

Mr. Jonathan Scherling shared with the board that on April 2, 2022 at The Deaf Heritage and Cultural Center will be hosting an event is recognition of Deaf History Month. Conversation regarding what will be taking place during this event.

Ms. Candice Arteaga also wanted to share that the board members will be getting a letter from Omaha Association of the Deaf (OAD) to raise the number of phones per household that deaf and hard of hearing individuals can get from the Nebraska Specialist Telecommunication Program (NSTEP).

J. Old Business

Nothing to discuss.

K. New Business

Director Wyvill shared that in September 2022 the board meeting will be held in North Platte, NE. He will be in communication with the Executive Committee in making decisions on location for the meeting and town hall meeting that is typically held the night before the board meeting.

Ms. Valerie Hitz requested that NCDHH develop a postcard for handing out to various individuals outlining the NCDHH services. Ms. Kelsey Cruz referenced a handout that is in the board members binders under addendums giving them an example of the postcard that she developed. Ms. Peggy Williams requested that Information and Referral be added to the postcard and to have a dash put in the VP # that is listed on the card. Mr. Robert Feit asked if Ms. Cruz was planning on mailing this postcard out, if so, he encouraged her to talk to the post office first. Ms. Hitz thanked Ms. Cruz for the great work that she has developed.

Ms. Cruz also brought up that the Interpreter Issues Committee (IIC) is asking for future topics or ideas for VLOGS. On the second page is a list of what has been completed and giving reference to NCDHH's You Tube channel. Discussion on what some future topics could be.

Director Wyvill also shared with the board a hand-out regarding an article that was written by interviewing Ms. Susan Whitaker, Advocacy Specialist in our Scottsbluff office.

L. Adjourn

Ms. Brooke Fitzpatrick moved to adjourn at 11:58 a.m. Ms. Peggy Williams seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Arteaga, Mr. Feit, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Hitz, Mr.

Scherling, Ms. Shaw, and Ms. Williams all voting aye. Ms. Beaurivage and Ms. Schutt both were absent.

Next Meeting Dates

- June 10, 2022 – Location will be 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln NE
- September 9, 2022 (North Platte, NE)
- December 9, 2022 – Location will be 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln NE