

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Full Commission Board Meeting
4600 Valley Road, Conference Room 1, Lincoln, Nebraska**

June 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes

A. OPENING

Chairman Margie Propp called to order the June 16, 2017 meeting of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing full commission board meeting at 8:39 a.m. at 4600 Valley Road, Conference Room 1 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

B. NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

Chairman Propp 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. The agenda was kept current in the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's office and on the Board's website. Materials generally used by the Board for this meeting were available in the public folder for inspection by the public, and in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for the duration of the meeting.

C. ROLL CALL

For the record, Board Members Margie Propp, Norm Weverka, Dr. Marc Brennan, John Hogue, Dr. Pete Seiler, Candice Arteaga, and Dr. Frank Turk were present. Board Member Jeremy Fitzpatrick arrived at 8:48 a.m. Dr. Stacie Ray was absent and excused. Also present were Director, John Wyvill; and Business Manager, Natasha Olsen. Interpreters present were Pam Duncan and Sharon Sinkler. Mydge Heaney was present for CART Services.

D. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Executive Director Wyvill reviewed the agenda with the Board Members.

E. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Chairman Propp reminded those present for the meeting that the agenda cannot be altered 24 hours prior to the meeting except for emergency items according to the Open Meetings Act. Board Member Hogue moved to adopt the agenda as printed. Weverka seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Propp, Artaega, Brennan, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Weverka, Turk and Seiler voting aye.

F. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. Chairman Propp asked for any additions or corrections to the March 10, 2017 minutes. Dr. Turk made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Dr. Seiler seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Propp, Arteaga, Brennan, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Weverka, Turk and Seiler voting aye.

G. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S REPORT

1. Chairman Propp welcomed everyone and began with talking about the Nebraska Association for the Deaf (NeAD) conference that was recently held. Chairman Propp stated that Teresa Coonts and Rhonda Fleischer from the Nebraska Department of Education presented as well as Shaley McFeeley, who is the mother for ASL Nook.
 - a. Chairman Propp welcomed the newest Board Member Candice Arteaga. Ms. Arteaga is the current President for the Omaha Association of the Deaf (OAD). Ms. Arteaga introduced herself and stated that she grew up in Iowa and moved to Nebraska almost 14 years ago. She is married and has an 11 year old daughter and is very involved in the deaf community.
 - b. Chairman Propp recognized John Hogue for his work on the NCDHH Board. Board Member Hogue stated he is resigning from the Board because he has accepted a position in Pennsylvania. Board Member Hogue stated his time on the Board has been a rewarding experience.
2. Director Wyvill made an announcement that Crystal Booker had to cancel coming to the board meeting at the last minute.

3. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Fitzpatrick nominated Chairman Propp to continue as the Chairperson of the Board. Dr. Seiler nominated Dr. Turk to continue being the Vice Chairman and Board Member Fitzpatrick nominated Dr. Seiler to continue as the Secretary. Board Member Weverka to accept the nominations by acclamation. Board Member Hogue seconded. The motion carried with Propp, Arteaga, Brennan, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Weverka, Seiler, and Turk voting aye.

H. BUSINESS AND HR REPORT

1. Natasha Olsen, the agency's Business Manager, explained fiscal year 2016 is coming to an end. NCDHH has two positions that have gone unfilled which has brought the agency in under budget. Ms. Olsen stated the Commission will be about \$100,000 under budget at the end of the fiscal year.
 - a. Ms. Olsen reminded the Board that the Legislature did remove \$160,000 from the current appropriations.

- b. Ms. Olsen informed the Board that she and Director Wyvill were confident that the Legislature would not increase the Commission's appropriations to increase the number of full time employees. After much discussion, it was decided to request the Legislature to move some of the operating budget to the salary budget to accommodate more staff so the Commission can meet the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing residents in Nebraska. Ms. Olsen stated she was happy to announce the Legislature approved the increase in salaries which will allow the NSTEP and Hearing Aid Bank Coordinator position to be full time and to hire a full time person for the Kearney office. Ms. Olsen continued to explain that \$30,000 was removed from the request but overall is happy with the \$998,000 budget that was granted in addition to \$100,000 of re-appropriations.
2. Director Wyvill announced to the Board that Pam Duncan has accepted the staff interpreter position. Ms. Duncan will take an active role in planning and working with the CEU program, recruiting new interpreters as well as investigating interpreter licensure complaints.

Recess: 10:22-10:35 a.m.

I. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

1. State
 - a. Director Wyvill stated the Legislature approved the Commission \$100,000 in re-appropriations and to increase the salary limitations, however; did not approve \$10,000 for the Junior Nebraska Association for the Deaf (Jr. NeAD) conference in addition to removing \$30,000 from the total budget request.
 - b. No discussion was held.
 - c. Director Wyvill updated the Board regarding LB269, the open captioning in the movie theaters and that he and Dr. Seiler met with a lobbyist for the movie theaters in Nebraska. The Lobbyist, Walt Radcliffe, stated open captions were not wanted because it would anger hearing people and they would lose business. Dr. Seiler stated that NeAD will continue to advocate for open captions.
2. Federal
 - a. Director Wyvill informed the Board there is a request on the federal level to sell hearing aids over the counter. Dr. Ray is not presented today but wanted to have a discussion about the Commission writing a letter in opposition to this. Dr. Brennan stated there is an access problem to hearing aids, however; has mixed opinions as an audiologist with over the counter

hearing aids. Board Member Weverka stated there needs to be a warning on the device if it is sold over the counter. Dr. Seiler made a motion for the Commission to write a letter of opposition. Board Member Hogue seconded the motion. The motion carried with Propp, Arteaga, Brennan, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Weverka, Seiler, and Turk voting aye.

- b. The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce hosts a Legislative Summit for our congressional delegation. That will be held in August and I will be attending that this year at the space museum halfway between Omaha and Lincoln.

J. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Director Wyvill explained every two weeks he sends Board Member Propp an overview of his activities. Director Wyvill reviewed a few things that the agency has been working on.
 - a. Director Wyvill reviewed the monthly reports that are completed by Advocacy Specialist and all staff. The average expectations is to do four presentations a month, one booth a month and ten appointments a week. The reason this is tracked is for performance standards and accountability.
 - b. No discussion was held.
 - c. Director Wyvill stated that the population in Nebraska is changing. By 2020, which is just three years from now, the populations between 60 and 69 will be increasing by 56%. Increasing in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties by 68%. By example, in Buffalo and Scottsbluff County you're looking at 66% and 49%. Director Wyvill continued to say that as the population is significantly getting older, and that statistically 1 out of 3 over the age of 65 have some form of hearing loss and then goes up to 1 out of 2 over the age of 80. Director Wyvill concluded by saying as the population the Commission serves changes the Commission will continue to adapt and adjust to that.

K. INTERPRETER PROGRAM REPORT

1. Director Wyvill updated the Full Board that the Interpreter Issues Committee has met and worked with staff to make a policy for interpreters that violate the referral program policies. The recommendation is as follows:

No Shows

(In reviewing types of violations, it is felt that no-shows are the most detrimental to the client as well as the business. We feel the violation process should be different than others)

- 1st offense – the Interpreter will receive a letter from NCDHH outlining the situation
- 2nd offense – NCDHH will notify the Interpreter Issues Committee as well as place the Interpreter on a 3 month probation
 - If **any** other violation occurs during that probation period, the interpreter will be removed from the Referral Service/Directory for 4 months
- 3rd offense – NCDHH will remove the interpreter from the Referral Service/Directory for 1 full year from the date of the last violation

All other violations

- 1st & 2nd offense – the Interpreter will receive a letter from NCDHH outlining the situation
- 3rd & 4th offense – the Interpreter will receive a letter from NCDHH outlining the repercussions of further violations
- 5th offense – NCDHH will notify the Interpreter Issues Committee as well as place the interpreter on a 3-month probation
 - If **any** other violation occurs during that probation period, the Interpreter will be removed from the Referral Service/Directory for 4 months
- 6th offense – NCDHH will remove the interpreter from the Referral Service/Directory for 1 full year from the date of the last violation

Note: The Interpreter Issues Committee is able to refer situations to the Interpreter Review Board if they feel the violation warrants it. We are also able to add wording that the Interpreter Issues Committee reserves the right to modify this process as deemed.

Lunch served at 12:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Member Fitzpatrick made a motion to go into closed session at 11:43 a.m. Board Member Hogue seconded the motion. The motion carried with Propp, Arteaga, Brennan, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Weverka, Seiler, and Turk voting aye.

Board Member Hogue made a motion to go into open session at 12:45 p.m. Board Member Arteaga seconded the motion. The motion carried with Propp, Arteaga, Brennan, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Weverka, Seiler, and Turk voting aye.

- a. Board Member Arteaga made a motion that cases R1, R2, and R3 are on probation until August 1, 2017. If another violation is made

with the referral program between now and August 1, the interpreter will be suspended from the referral program until August 1, 2017. Board Member Hogue seconded the motion. The motion carried with Propp, Arteaga, Brennan, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Weverka, Seiler, and Turk voting aye.

- b. Board Member Weverka made a motion that cases 17-1 and 17-2 be dismissed. Board Member Hogue seconded the motion. The motion carried with Propp, Arteaga, Brennan, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Weverka, Seiler, and Turk voting aye.

Board Member Fitzpatrick left at 12:50 p.m.

L. MARKETING REPORT

1. Kelsey Cruz, the Public Information Officer updated the Board on the most popular Facebook post of the quarter being the video phone that was installed at one of the libraries in Lincoln. Ms. Cruz continued by telling the Board that annual zoo event will be held on Sunday, September 17th and will be similar to last year's event. Ms. Cruz also added that she and Jenny Corum, Education Advocate, are working on VLOGS about text to 911 technology.
2. Ms. Cruz stated the 4th annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing night at the ballpark is schedule for Wednesday, June 28th and that Homer, the mascot, was in the promotion video.

M. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Out of State Travel
 - a. Director Wyvill stated that the Education Advocate, Jenny Corum, had an opportunity to go to a conference in Austin, Texas for the National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes. The opportunity was for her to travel at the expense of Vocational Rehab, however; the deadline was missed. The Executive Committee felt it was important for Ms. Corum to be present and approved the travel expense via email.
 - b. Director Wyvill stated Education Advocate Jenny Corum and Behavioral Health Coordinator were chosen to represent the Commission at the National Association for the Deaf Leadership Training Conference in Oklahoma City in October, 2017.

Board member Hogue made a motion to approve the out of state expenditures. Board Member Arteaga seconded the motion. The motion carried with Propp, Arteaga, Brennan, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Weverka, Seiler, and Turk voting aye.

2. Jenny Corum, Education Advocate, updated the Board on the Education Task Force subcommittees. Ms. Corum stated one of the primary focuses has been on developing a survey. There is a possibility that two surveys will be created, one for educators, etc. and one for students, etc.

Ms. Corum updated the Board on the Education Summit that will be held on Saturday, October 21st, 2017 and will be an all-day event. The schedule is not complete yet, however; will be shared with everyone when it is final.

Ms. Corum stated she was invited to sit on the interview panel with Lincoln Public Schools to the SNRP Coordinator position. Ms. Corum stated they have hired Lindsey Hinzmann for the position. Dr. Seiler asked if Ms. Hinzmann has Deaf Education training. Ms. Corum stated she thought it was Special Education and she is currently finished her certification with AG Bell.

Lastly, Ms. Corum updated the Board about her trip to Austin, Texas for the two day conference on Postsecondary Education Outcomes. Ms. Corum stated that a core team will be created in Nebraska to focus on five key impacts in the future.

3. Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator, updated the Board on the workshop she hosted in April about domestic violence. Ms. Weyers stated it was very successful and there is money remaining from the grant and plans to have Keri Darling back in the fall to teach a self-defense class.

Ms. Weyers informed the Board that she toured the Keya House. This is a mental health organization for people with emotional problems or mental problems and they need a support system. They currently have no services for deaf or hard of hearing people so Ms. Weyers is working with them to provide training.

Lastly, Ms. Weyers informed the Board that another grant was applied for and recently found out she had been awarded the grant.

N. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Turk recommended a plaque or letter of resolution be given to Jonathon Scherling for all of his hard work with NeAD.

Dr. Turk made a motion to give Jonathan Scherling a resolution thanking him for his work in making NCDHH and NeAD a collaborative team. Board Member Hogue seconded the motion with Propp, Arteaga, Brennan, Hogue, Weverka, Seiler, and Turk voting aye.

O. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

No discussion was held

P. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

Davida Schejbal and Jonathan Scherling were in attendance.

Q. ADJOURN

Board Member Hogue made a motion to adjourn the June 16 2017 board meeting at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Turk seconded the motion with Propp, Arteaga, Brennan, Hogue, Weverka, Seiler, and Turk voting aye. Board Member Fitzpatrick left the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

These minutes were available for public inspection on June 29, 2017, in compliance with Nebraska Statute §84-1413 (5).