

## **Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting**

February 28, 2020; 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

4600 Valley Rd Room 4A, Lincoln, NE

### **A. Welcome**

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board (IRB) was called to order at 1:00 pm by Ms. Peggy Williams, Chairperson at 4600 Valley Rd Room 4A, Lincoln, NE.

### **B. Notice of Open Meeting**

Chairperson, Ms. Peggy Williams announced 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 has been kept current and available at the Commission's office and on their website. The materials generally used by the board for this meeting are on the table in a public folder that is available to the general public for this meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, {Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1412 (8)}.

Publication of official notice of the meeting appeared in the February 21, 2020 edition of the Omaha World Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation in this state, as required by the Open Meetings Act.

### **C. Roll Call**

For the record, Board Members Ms. Peggy Williams, Mr. Thomas Beyer, Ms. Vonda Apking, Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director, and Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson, were present. Ms. Jessica Nickels (arrived at 1:04 pm), Mr. Richard McCowin (arrived at 1:04 pm), Ms. Nancy Flearl (arrived at 1:04 pm), were absent.

Also present were Ms. Traci Cooney, Interpreter Licensing Specialist and Ms. Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator.

Interpreters for the meeting were Ms. Margie Propp and Mr. Ben Sparks. Margaret Heaney of ERI was present to provide CART services.

Members of the public in attendance were Ms. Crystal Pierce, Ms. Frances Beurivage, Ms. Anne McBride, Ms. Barb Woodhead, Mr. Jeffrey Conger, Ms. Andrea Wisniewski, Ms. Harley Augensen, Ms. Lori Sutton and Mr. Jonathan Scherling.

### **D. Review of Agenda**

Mr. Wyvill added that items marked in red or pink are action times.

### **E. Acceptance of Agenda**

Board Member, Ms. Apking moved to accept the agenda as written. Board Member, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Nickels, Mr. McCowin, and Ms. Flearl were absent.

Ms. Flearl, Ms. Nickels, and Mr. McCowin arrived at 1:04 pm

**F. Acceptance of Minutes**

Mr. Beyer recommended a change on page 3 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet. That recommendation was to change CASTLI to CASLI, no "T". Mr. Wyvill made a motion to approve the December 6, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Board Member, Ms. Flearl seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. McCowin, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Flearl all voting aye.

**G. Chairperson of the Board's Report**

Nothing to report.

**H. Public Comments**

None.

**I. Executive Director Report – presented by Mr. John Wyvill**

a. Review of the Rules and Regulations

- Mr. Wyvill explained that the task force did not recommend any further changes after the public hearing. NCDHH staff and Executive Director recommend to move forward with the rule making process with the understanding that the issue being raised relating to provisional licensure has also been addressed to the full board and that the full board has asked NCDHH staff to specifically address that at the next meeting in March, involving the bridging the gap issue that is being confronted in the interpreter profession.

Mrs. Richardson-Nelson made the motion to accept the Rules and Regulations as changed, removing the strike through language left on page 8. Ms. Flearl seconded this motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Flearl all voting aye.

Mr. Wyvill asked Ms. Williams if she would like NCDHH staff to prepare letters from the IRB members thanking task force members for their service on the task force. Ms. Williams will work with Ms. Cooney to get those letters printed, signed and mailed.

b. Informal Licensure Complaint

Ms. Flearl made a motion to go into closed session at 1:18pm for purposes to discuss cases 2520 and 2521. Ms. Nickels seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Flearl all voting aye.

Ms. Apking made a motion to go into open session at 2:53pm. Mr. Wyvill seconded this motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms.

Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Flearl all voting aye.

During open session, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson made a motion to refer complaints 2520 and 2521 to the Full Board to move to formal complaint.

The motion was amended to add to have the license revoked for 2 years. Ms. Flearl seconded this motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Flearl all voting aye.

c. Agency Updates

Mr. Wyvill updated members on the status of 2 bills introduced, one to recognize ASL as an official state language and the other regarding LEAD-K. Both bills were combined and voted out of the Education Committee and have been designated speaker priority bills.

Mr. Wyvill mentioned that there has been some staff turnover within NCDHH and that Brittney Isom is now handling the Hearing Aid Banks.

**J. Public Comment**

Ms. Pierce spoke that she feels with the IRB being the regulatory board that it is in the realm of expertise to have the staff present to them what their research has shown in regards to the provisional license in order to advise the Full Board on that information.

**K. Old Business**

Nothing to report.

**L. New Business**

- **Set June 2020 meeting date and location**

The next IRB meeting will be on June 5 in Omaha starting at 1pm. More details will be provided to the members at a later date.

**M. Announcements**

**N. Adjourn (Ms. Williams)**

Ms. Flearl made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:05pm. Mrs. Richardson-Nelson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Apking, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Mr. McCowin, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Williams, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Flearl all voting aye.