

Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

Feb. 6, 2015, 1-3 p.m.
Conference Room 4A (Fourth Floor)
4600 Valley Road, Lincoln, NE

A. Call to Order:

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chairperson Siders in the Conference Room 4A in Lincoln, Neb.

Board Members present: Mr. Jerry Siders, Ms. Vonda Apking, Pat Bracken, Mr. John C. Wyvill, Ms. Pamela Duncan

Interpreter: Mr. Ben Sparks

Public: N/A

Staff: Ms. Peggy Williams, Ms. Crystal Pierce

Members Absent: Ms. Cheryl Poff, Ms. Bethany Koubsky

B. Approval of Agenda:

Motion to accept agenda.

[Ms. Vonda Apking/Mr. Jerry Sider/Motion Passed]

C. Approval of minutes from Nov. 7, 2014:

Motion to approve minutes as written.

[Ms. Pamela Duncan/Ms. Mr. Jerry Sider/Motion Passed]

E. Old Business

a. Rules and Regulations Approval

Changes. Ms. Pierce explained several changes to the *State of Nebraska Rules and Regulations Relating to Sign Language Interpreters*, and opened them to discussion, which focused largely on time limits for temporary permits (*Page 14, Section 003.03, Temporary Permit*) and continuing education activities (*Page 18, Section 006.02A, Approval of Continuing Education Activities*).

Regarding temporary permits, Mr. Sider suggested the time limit should be 30 days as opposed to the current change of 30 hours, to better accommodate lengthy court situations. Ms. Williams explained that shorter time limits for permits are more equitable interpreters in western Nebraska, who have fewer opportunities to practice than their counterparts in the eastern part of the state. Mr. Bracken and Ms. Duncan suggested a special exception specifically for lengthy court situations. Mr. Bracken stated that any change to time limits should include an established definition of a working day in terms of hours. Mr. Sider recommended keeping the time limit of 30 days, explaining that it's a reasonable amount of time for medical, legal and other situations. Ms. Duncan noted that 30 consecutive days is a substantial, possibly overwhelming, amount of work for an

interpreter. The time limit should “consider the impact on the interpreter,” Ms. Duncan said.

Ms. Duncan and Mr. Sider asked whether the IRB can ask the NCDHH board for permission for commission staff to approve temporary permit extensions. This would expedite the process, they noted, because the NCDHH board only meets every three months. Ms. Pierce noted that if such permission were granted, its language must be specific to applicable situations. Ms. Pierce proposed adding language stating that permit extensions must be requested by the serviced agency (e.g., the court system). Ms. Duncan added that, in the case of a court situation, the extension request should come from court’s administrative office. Ms. Pierce suggested that the updated language state that the administrative services of the courts can request an extended permit. Ms. Pierce also recommended keeping language calling for equivalent requirements for out-of-state interpreters. Mr. Bracken asked about the semantic difference between the terms license and permit, and which might be most appropriate in this instance. Mr. Wyvill noted that a permit refers to one specific activity (e.g., one specific court case), rather than a broader, more general practice. Ms. Duncan suggested that any extension request should include a signature from the requesting agency as well as the interpreter’s signature.

Regarding changes on Page 15, the board conceded that “licensure examination” is the wrong term to describe documentation of interpreter qualifications. Mr. Sider suggested changing it to “providing official document that certifies qualifications.”

The board discussed changes on *Page 18, 006.02A*, which lists preapproved activities for continuing education credit. Ms. Pierce explained that interpreters provide a certificate or other tangible proof of completion of the listed activities and can use them continuing education credit. The board reached the consensus to remove Sections 006.02A2a and 006.02A2b, which describe activities which are approved by the Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf, Inc. (RID); Ms. Duncan asked what the approval process would be for entities not listed. Ms. Pierce noted that the commission would use the RID process, because the commission is considered an RID sponsor. She also noted that an activities sponsor doesn’t necessarily have to be RID member to have activity approved, if sufficient proof is provided. Discussion ensued among board member about the precise definitions of providers and presenters and the need to clarify the distinction between the two.

Ms. Pierce stated that changes to the rules and regulation will go to the NCDHH Board, the amended document will go to public notice for 30 days, and from there will be forwarded to the state attorney general’s office for finalization.

Motion to approve changes to rules and regulations.

[Ms. Vonda Apking/Ms. Pamela Duncan/Motion Passed]

b. Proof-of-education-requirements letters update

- **Update 1.** Ms. Pierce reported that four people have responded to letters requesting proof of education requirements, 19 have not. The letters ask interpreters to provide required proof of high school education, or college, in cases in which there is no high school diploma or GED. Mr. Sider recommended sending the letters by certified mail, to provide proof of instances in which the requirement is ignored.

c. Interpreter Complaint – Board Update

- **Update 1.** Mr. Sider stated that one case went to full board review, in accordance with his recommendations. The case has been forwarded to the attorney general. From there the commission will be working together with the state attorney general's office. The NCDHH board will address the case during its June meeting based upon the outcome with the attorney general's office.

F. New Business

a. Interpreter Complaint

Motion to go into executive session at 2:50 p.m.

[Ms. Pamela Duncan/Mr. John Wyvill/Motion Passed]

Motion to come out of executive session at 3:10 p.m.

[Ms. Pamela Duncan/Mr. John Wyvill/Motion Passed]

Motion to take complaint to board of education.

[Ms. Pamela Duncan/Mr. Siders/Motion Passed]

H. Public Comments

N/A

I. Announcements

Next Meeting - May 1, 2015, Omaha

Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:11.

[Ms. Vonda Apking/Mr. Jerry Sider/Motion Passed]

Meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.