

Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

June 1, 2018 – 1pm – 3pm

4600 Valley Rd, Conference 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. Vonda Apking, Chairperson at 1313 Farnam, Conference Room 227, Omaha, NE

B. Notice of Open Meeting

Chairperson Ms. Vonda Apking 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 our 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 May 25, 2018 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. Vonda Apking, Mr. Jerry Siders, Ms. Nancy Flearl, Ms. Jessica Nickels, Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director, were present. Also present were Ms. Traci Cooney, Interpreter Licensing Specialist; Ms. Pamela Duncan, Interpreter Program Coordinator; Ms. Teresa Hevner, Advocacy Specialist; Ms. Macee Helmick, Intern with NCDHH. Interpreters present were Ms. Debra Seiler and Ms. Victoria Deuel. Mydge Heaney was present for CART Services. Members of the public in attendance were Mr. Thomas Beyer, the grand children of Mr. Richard McCowin, Serenity and Demetri who entered the meeting at 1:47pm.

D. Review of Agenda

Executive Director, Mr. Wyvill reviewed the agenda with the Board Members. Items in pink require action. Mr. Wyvill gave a brief outline of the agenda.

E. Acceptance of Agenda

Ms. Peggy Williams voted to change K to reflect Bethany Koubsky and Peggy Williams Proposal. Board Member, Mr. Siders moved to accept the agenda with the amendment noted. Board Member Ms. Flearl seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Williams, Ms. Koubsky, Mr. Siders, Ms. Flearl, Ms. Nickels, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Mr. McCowin was absent.

F. Acceptance of Minutes

Board Member, Mr. Siders moved to accept the minutes for the March 2, 2018 meeting minutes as written. Board Member Ms. Flearl seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Koubsky, Ms. Williams, Mr. Siders, Ms. Flearl, Ms. Nickels, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Mr. McCowin was absent, Ms. Apking abstained.

G. Chairperson of the Board's Report

Ms. Apking stated that she did not have a chairperson's report so we can move to obtain a motion to go into closed session.

Ms. Pamela Duncan added a correction that the case numbers are 2503, 2504, 2505. The case numbers on the agenda are 2505, 2506, 2507.

Ms. Koubsky moved that they move into closed session for the three interpreter complaints at 1:09pm. Mr. Siders seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Koubsky, Ms. Williams, Mr. Siders, Ms. Flearl, Ms. Nickels, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Mr. McCowin was absent.

Mr. Richard McCowin entered the meeting at 1:15pm

H. Closed Session

Ms. Flearl made the motion to end closed session at 1:47pm. Ms. Koubsky seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Koubsky, Ms. Williams, Mr. Siders, Ms. Flearl, Ms. Nickels, Mr. McCowin, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye.

Mr. Siders made a motion to suspend the interpreter's license for one year regarding case 2503, case 2504, and case 2505 and requested that the interpreter take an ethics class and an anger management class. Mr. McCowin seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Koubsky, Ms. Williams, Mr. Siders, Ms. Flearl, Ms. Nickels, Mr. McCowin, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye.

I. Public Comments

Mr. McCowin introduced himself and his 2 grandchildren who came with him, Serenity and Dimitri.

Mr. Wyvill also requested that Macee Helmick introduce herself to the group. Ms. Helmick is an intern with NCDHH for a 10 week period.

J. Executive Director Report

a. Executive Committee Update

• Legislative Session

The budget for NCDHH is relatively good. Unfortunately, Vocational Rehabilitation did not fare well, along with Blind and Visually Impaired Agency. NCDHH had a couple of thousand dollars taken away from our re-appropriation funds.

NCDHH did not get anywhere with the movie captioning bill. That bill by way of review in 2015, Mr. McCowin moved at the Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD) Conference that we as a state need to be pushing for more advocacy for captioning at the movies. Following up from that NeAD requested assistance, which resulted in some roadblocks from the legislature. After NCDHH consulted with Dr. Peter Seiler, we went to the

Mayor of Lincoln who then wrote a letter to Marcus Theaters. Out of the blue, Marcus Theaters then announced that it was going to have a pilot program relating to open captioning. Mr. Wyvill thanked Mr. McCowin for pushing for that advocacy. NCDHH needs to make sure to give our feedback and input to Marcus Theater and the Mayor of Lincoln saying that it is well liked and appreciated so that they continue to offer the open captioned movies.

- **Lincoln Salt Dogs Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Night**
This will be on July 18, 2018 at the Salt Dogs Stadium in Lincoln. This year's event will focused on the hearing aid bank, addressing the issue of hearing aid coverage for ages 0 to 21 for kids.
- **Omaha Zoo Event**
This will be on September 30, 2018 at the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo. Additional information to come.
- **Scottsbluff Zoo Event**
The Educational Service Unit (ESU) in Scottsbluff had approached NCDHH for doing an event with them at the Zoo in Scottsbluff. This is scheduled for September 8, 2018.
- **Education Task Force**
The NCDHH Board is having some discussion about Language Equality & Acquisition Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) which has been championed by Dr. Peter Seiler with NeAD. Dr. Seiler will be having a presentation at the Board Meeting on June 8, 2018 in Lincoln.
- **Interpreter Program Coordinator – Ms. Pamela Duncan**
Ms. Duncan is working with Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NeRID) on how NCDHH can support the NeRID conference this fall. In addition to working on a series of professional development seminars.

b. Vacancies in on the Interpreter Review Board (IRB)

Ms. Koubsky is up for reassignment and Mr. Siders is termed out. The vacancies will be decided by the Commission Board on June 8, 2018.

c. By-Laws

How would the board like to review the by-laws of the IRB? Do you want NCDHH to send out an email to the IRB members asking for input, or do you want a committee to be formed to review the by-laws?

Ms. Williams suggested that everybody needs to have input on the bylaws, so emailing to all the members asking for their feedback and encouraging their participation would be best.

Mr. Wyvill added that the NCDHH staff do not have a say in the bylaws, these belong to the IRB members. It is recommended that the IRB members contact Ms. Duncan or Mr. Wyvill.

Mr. Siders requested that even though his team is up that the Commission email him a copy of the bylaws for him to review.

d. Rules and Regulations Update

Mr. Wyvill shared that Ms. Duncan will be beginning the process of opening up our rule making process. Changes will need to be made due to the change in the Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST).

Ms. Williams asked Mr. Wyvill if Ms. Traci Cooney was going to be a part of the changes due to the Rules and Regulations. Mr. Wyvill responded that yes it would be a team effort. Ms. Williams added her praise that Ms. Cooney is very knowledgeable on this subject.

Ms. Duncan added that Ms. Cooney will be taking the lead and she will be learning from Ms. Cooney.

Mr. Wyvill added that consultation will also be made with the Interpreter Issues Committee of the Full Commission Board. Stakeholders will have their opportunity to have their input.

Mr. McCowin added his comments regarding working with a Deaf Interpreter.

Additional conversation regarding the need for Deaf Interpreters, and the need within Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS shared that there is an increased demand for Deaf Interpreters. Discussion on the cost to become a Deaf Interpreter to practice in Nebraska.

K. Review Interpreter Review Board By-Laws

Mr. Wyvill shared that Ms. Koubsky and Ms. Williams have a request for consideration, there are two proposals for you to consider adopting into our bylaws to reflect the change in policy about staff participation. Mr. Wyvill asked the members to vote on the two presented, the Full Commission Board will have to review.

Discussion on the two options that were presented to the members.

Page 3 of the packet was the proposal that the Commission developed

- Whenever a portion of the IRB meeting is being held in closed session, only members of the Board that is meeting, those providing communication access and support, special invitees and designated NCDHH employees as the IRB may determine to be necessary are allowed to remain.

Page 4 of the packet was the proposal submitted by Ms. Koubsky and Ms. Williams

- Only the staff member providing an investigative report and a non-staff interpreter (if on is on the team) remain in closed session.
- If the Board has no additional questions, the investigative staff member may be asked to leave the closed session while the Board members discuss the matter. The Board may also ask the investigator to return if needed.
- Staff may return when the IRB makes the motion to re-open the session, at which time the motion regarding disciplinary action is made and provides recommendations to the Full Commission.

Ms. Williams asked for clarification on if the members were to pick one to go into the bylaws. Ms. Koubsky added that the option that was written by herself and Ms. Williams clarifies the steps a bit more. The option submitted by NCDHH is more of a summary.

Mr. Siders made the motion to include the option written by Ms. Koubsky and Ms. Williams in the IRB bylaws. Mr. McCowin seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Koubsky, Ms. Williams, Mr. Siders, Ms. Flearl, Ms. Nickels, Mr. McCowin, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye.

L. Public Comment

No public comments

M. Announcements

Ms. Williams took this opportunity to thank Mr. Siders for all of his work and his commitment to the IRB, and so many things that he has been involved with at the Commission.

Ms. Duncan thanked the members for the card that was sent to her, it was deeply appreciated. Ms. Duncan shared that her father passed.

N. Adjourn

Board Member; Ms. Nickels made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:15pm. Member Ms. Flearl seconded the motion. With no further discussion the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Ms. Nickels, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Flearl, and Mr. Siders all voting aye. Ms. Apking and Ms. Koubsky both absent.

Next Meeting Date and Location – September 7, 2018, 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4B, Lincoln NE at 1pm