

Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

Approved by board September 3rd, 2021

June 4th, 2021; 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Firefighter's Reception Hall, 241 Victory Lane, 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 Lincoln Firefighter's Reception Hall, 241 Victory Lane, 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)}. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available with the public folder for the duration of the meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Publication of official notice of the meeting appeared in the May 28, 2021, 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 Mr. Thomas Beyer, Ms. Vonda Apking, Ms. Peggy Williams, Ms. Nancy Flearl, Ms. Jessica Nickels, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson and Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director, were present. Mr. Richard McCowin was absent for roll call.

NCDHH staff present were Ms. Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator and Abby Giambattista, Advocacy Specialist.

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

Judy Janssen, NCDHH contracted investigator was present at the meeting.

D. Review of Agenda

Mr. Wyvill explained that the pink items were action items and then read the agenda.

E. Acceptance of Agenda

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

F. Acceptance of Minutes

Board Member, Ms. Nancy Flearl made a motion to adopt the February 26th, 2021, minutes and Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Williams, Ms. Flearl, and Ms. Apking all voting aye. Mr. McCowin was absent.

G. Chairperson of the Board's Report

Chairperson Ms. Peggy Williams announced that this is her last meeting and will be retiring from interpreting. With both Mr. Beyer and her leaving the board, there will be two openings on the board for licensed interpreters.

H. Public Comments

None.

I. Executive Closed Session – Informal Complaint #2524

Mr. Wyvill explained that he and Ms. Sinkler will be recusing themselves from participating and deliberating on the complaint and that he would not be voting. Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson made a motion to go into closed session and Board Member, Ms. Jessica Nickels seconded it. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill, and Ms. Flearl all voting aye. Mr. McCowin was absent. The IRB went into closed session at 1:08 p.m.

The board came back to open session at 2:33 p.m. Board Member, Thomas Beyer read the first motion regarding Informal Complaint #2524 stating that the IRB recommends NCDHH will hire a CDI and licensed legal interpreter to review and provide an interpretation of the interrogation without review of the complaint. This motion was made by Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson. Board Member, Ms. Nancy Flearl seconded it. With no further discussion the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, and Ms. Flearl all voting aye. Mr. Wyvill abstained. Mr. McCowin was absent.

Board Member, Thomas Beyer read a second motion to request that the three current outgoing members on the IRB remain until Informal Complaint #2524 reaches a final decision. This motion was made by Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson. Board Member, Ms. Jessica Nickels seconded it. With discussion of the three members staying for a special meeting to be held after the CDI and the other interpreter review, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Ms. Flearl all voting aye. Mr. Wyvill and Mr. Beyer abstained. Mr. McCowin was absent.

J. Executive Director Report – presented by Mr. John Wyvill

a. Agency updates

- Mr. Wyvill shared that the Rules and Regulations document has been approved by the Attorney General's office and is now sitting in the Governor's office waiting for review. If it is approved, it will then go to the Secretary of State's office.

- Mr. Wyvill shared that the agency budget has been approved and signed into law. The budget includes provisions to keep carryover money which enabled NCDHH to provide sponsorship opportunities for the neRID conference happening this week.
- Mr. Wyvill shared that NCDHH has received two enrichment grants and will be providing CDI training this fall and another wellness program that will have mental health, physical health and dietary health content. The Commission is excited to have Angie Asche, a nationally recognized, certified dietician for college and high school athletes who will be presenting in Omaha.
- Mr. Wyvill shared that other events include a Salt Dogs game in Lincoln on August 3rd and the Omaha Zoo event will be held on October 3rd. Scottsbluff has a baseball game in two weeks and also will be hosting deaf comedian Keith Wann in October. Scottsbluff also had a nationally certified interpreter move into the area, which is exciting.
- Mr. Wyvill shared that Jeremy Daffern is a new Advocacy Specialist in Omaha. He is a graduate of Gallaudet University and spent time in Guatemala providing services to deaf individuals there.
- Mr. Wyvill also shared that NCDHH will be sponsoring the NeAD conference at the end of August and then the OAD 75th Anniversary in October. Also, there is an agenda item next week for the full board to appoint two individuals to the IRB. Margie Propp has already been appointed to replace Thomas Beyer and is scheduled to take over July 1st.

K. Public Comment

No public comments.

L. Old Business

No old business to discuss.

M. New Business

- Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson asked if an interpreter has their license suspended, what legal rights or duties are available to us here in Nebraska ensuring that the other states or nationally that people are aware that the person has had their license revoked. Mr. Wyvill shared that the advice of the Attorney General's office is that we post the announcement of the suspension or any licensure action on our website and also distribute it to our listserv for interpreter licensure for notification. In terms of other jurisdictions, we would have to get guidance from the interpreter issues committee of our full board and further guidance from the Attorney General's office. Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson made a motion to develop an SOP for

disseminating information to other states, agencies and Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf regarding an interpreter who has received discipline from NCDHH. Board Member, Ms. Vonda Apking seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion carried with Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Williams, Ms. Flearl, and Ms. Apking all voting aye. Mr. McCowin was absent.

- **Set September 3rd meeting date and location.** The meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 3rd but a Doodle poll will be sent out to finalize the meeting date.

N. Announcements

There were no announcements.

O. Adjourn

Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:57 pm. Board Member, Ms. Jessica Nickels seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Williams, Ms. Flearl, and Ms. Apking all voting aye. Mr. McCowin was absent.