

**Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting**

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes – current 8/18/2016**

August 12, 2016, 1pm – 3pm

Conference Room 4A

4600 Valley Rd, Lincoln NE

**I. Introduction of new board members**

- A. Ms. Jessica Nickels – Counselor for deaf and hard of hearing for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) in Omaha, has been with VR for almost 2 years.
- B. Ms. Nancy Flearl – Works at Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI) in Omaha, has been with NCBVI for 34 years. A majority of her time has been working with deaf blind individuals.

All of the members introduced themselves, and Ms. Pierce gave a brief explanation of what the Interpreter Review Board (IRB) does.

**II. Roll Call**

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board (IRB) was called to order at 1:25pm by Ms. Vonda Apking, Chairperson in Conference Room 4A, Lincoln, NE

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Jerry Siders, Ms. Vonda Apking, Mr. John Wyvill, Ms. Nancy Flearl, Ms. Jessica Nickels, Ms. Bethany Koubsky

**Board Members Absent:** Mr. Heath Focken, Ms. Pam Duncan

**Interpreters:** Ms. Carla Engstrom & Ms. Victoria Deuel

**CART:** Margaret “Mydge” Heaney

**Staff:** Ms. Crystal Pierce and Ms. Traci Cooney

**Minutes:** Ms. Cindy Woldt

**Public:** none present

- III. Approval of Agenda** – Mr. Siders accepted the agenda as written and Ms. Koubsky seconded. All in favor - passed

- IV. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2016** – Mr. Siders accepted the minutes as written and Ms. Flearl seconded. All in favor - passed

- V. Public Comments** - No comments

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST) Fee Update – Ms. Pierce**

This was brought to the IRB earlier about raising the testing fee amount to cover the costs that are incurred to proctor the test. This has gone to the Full Commission Board, and they have voted to raise the cost to \$220.00. This will cover the costs of the evaluation and the room rental fees.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Rules and Regulations: Interpreter Agencies – Ms. Pam Duncan**

This is going to be tabled until Ms. Duncan is present.

**B. NCDHH Referral Program Calling Order / BEI - Ms. Pierce**

The BEI is an interpreter qualification exam that was started in Texas, and currently is proctored in four other states. Ms. Pierce explained that NCDHH currently has a call list with call groups for the interpreter referral program. Nationally certified interpreters are in group 1, QAST level 5/5 are in group 2 and QAST level 4/4 are in group 3. We are looking at where the BEI should be placed. Conversation that the BEI has levels, similar to that of the QAST. In the past, NCDHH had a task force that met, and decided not to start proctoring the BEI here. If people go to another state and take it, then they can still request approval for licensure here.

Mr. Wyvill suggested that the IRB consider inviting Dr. Pete Seiler and Mr. Ben Sparks to the next meeting to provide their perspectives on this since they were both involved in the task force.

Ms. Koubsky made the motion to table the discussion about BEI until the November meeting so that Dr. Seiler and Mr. Sparks can join the meeting. Ms. Flearl seconded the motion. All in favor - passed

**C. Interpreter Complaint Review**

Ms. Flearl made the motion to go into closed session to discuss interpreter complaints. Ms. Koubsky seconded the motion. All in favor – passed

Ms. Flearl made the motion to come out of closed session at 2:14 PM. Ms. Nickel seconded the motion. All in favor- passed.

**Case 2200** – Recommendation that the case be presented to the Full Commission Board.

Ms. Flearl made the motion that the IRB recommend to the Full Commission Board and to send a certified letter to the individual requesting he or she contact Ms. Pierce within 15 days. Ms. Koubsky seconded the motion. All in favor – passed!

**Case 2400** – Recommendation that the case be presented to the Full Commission Board.

Ms. Flearl made the motion that the IRB recommend to the Full Commission Board that NCDHH restrict the individual’s scope of practice so he or she is unable to interpret in

the medical or mental health settings. Also the IRB recommends that the individual completes 1.0 CEU's on Code of Professional Conduct, and that Ms. Pierce would coach the individual for one year. Seconded by Mr. Siders. All in favor – passed.

**D. Interpreter Appreciation – Ms. Pierce**

Something showing interpreter appreciation was suggested by a previous board member, Ms. Cheryl Poff. Ms. Poff expressed wanting to have something for appreciation to the interpreters. Conversation on how we would track this and the process involved.

No motion needed, was just a brainstorming session.

**VIII. Executive Director Report – Mr. John C. Wyvill**

- A. New employee – Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator, Ms. Weyers replaced Ms. Peggy Williams who retired in June. Ms. Weyers is a graduate of Gallaudet University. Ms. Weyers stated with the Commission on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Henry Doorly Zoo on September 25, 2016. Discussion on the tickets and what takes place that day.
- C. Discussion about certification in the State of Nebraska. Apparently there are some interpreters who hold a QAST license are holding themselves out as certified and the nationally certified interpreters don't think that they should be called "certified" interpreters. A work group has been developed to set up a meeting to discuss the credentials descriptions of the various interpreter licenses and qualifications. NCDHH will then put a statement on our website to communicate to stakeholders on the terminology.
- D. Reductions in state revenue has been communicated to all state agencies by Governor Ricketts. It is estimated that up to 8% of the budget may be reduced over the course of the next year. Mr. Wyvill shared with the group on some current changes in our Lincoln office, and changes that he would like to see in the future if NCDHH can receive the approval from the legislature. This would include an additional Advocacy Specialist position that would focus on education and also making two part time positions full time.

**IX. Public Comments – no public comments**

**X. Announcements**

Ms. Pierce shared with the group that with the recent NCDHH realignment of job duties that Traci Cooney will be taking over handling the IRB duties. Ms. Pierce shared that she would still be handling complaints.

**XI. 2016 Meeting Reminder**

- A. November 10<sup>th</sup> – Omaha – 1313 Farnam, Room 227

Mr. Siders motioned to adjourn the meeting 2:55pm and was seconded by Ms. Flearl. All in favor- passed.