

Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

August 24, 2015, 1pm – 3pm.

Conference Room 227

1313 Farnam On The Mall, Omaha NE

I. Roll Call

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board (IRB) was called to order at 1pm by Chairperson Mr. Jerry Siders in Conference Room 227, Omaha NE.

Board Members Present: Ms. Vonda Apking, Mr. Pat Bracken, Ms. Cheryl Poff, Mr. Jerry Siders, Mr. John Wyvill, Ms. Bethany Koubsky,

Interpreters: Tina Work

Staff: Ms. Crystal Pierce

Members Absent: Ms. Pamela Duncan

Public:

II. Approval of Agenda

Approval of the agenda was approved as is by Ms. Poff and seconded by Ms. Koubsky.

III. Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2015

Ms. Pierce noted that Cheryl Poff had contacted her prior to the meeting and requested that one sentence be changed. On page 3, Cheryl had commented that it says there was not opportunities for Western Nebraska, she would like it to say that there was less opportunities, not none. Ms. Pierce added – fourth paragraph down, next to the last sentence. Ms. Poff commented the interpreters in Western Nebraska have lack of training, and lack of opportunities – change to less opportunities. Ms. Koubsky accepted the proposed changes and Mr. Bracken seconded.

IV. Old Business – Title 96, Rules and Regulations 2007 revision – update

Ms. Pierce noted on August 18, 2015 we had a public hearing for the old rules. There was only one person in attendance which was Dr. Peter Seiler. He did not make any comments, he only came to see what other comments were going to be made. Ms. Pierce state that this week she will prepare the paperwork to send to the Attorney General, Governor, and the Secretary of State. Mr. Siders asked if she was meaning the Rules and Regs of 287. Ms. Pierce responded yes.

V. Public Comments

VI. New Business – Post LB 287 – Recommendations / Title 96, Rules and Regulations

Ms. Pierce announced that she had sent each the updates for the new rules, part B, 287 comments. Ms. Pierce added that she is not going to go over the details, hoping that everyone had the opportunity to review the details. The board indicated a few places of inconsistency in the grammar, which Ms. Pierce made notes to update these grammar edits.

Ms. Koubsky brought up a concern of the term “hearing impairment” within the rules and regulations. Mr. Siders explained that the term “hearing loss” is culturally accepted term, but statutorily the term “hearing impairment” is used, that is what the rules and regulations is required to use.

Ms. Pierce added that one change she did make on page 11, in interpreting I took out American from American Sign Language since in the recent bill it was addendum. The addendum encompasses all sign language systems, instead of specifically only American Sign Language (ASL). There was a question of grammar specifics regarding the capitalization of “Sign Language”. The board agreed that “Sign Language” should remain capitalized.

Ms. Pierce explained that she and Ms. Olsen, Business Manager looked at the waiver of continuing education. Suggested removing the waiver from the rules and regulations. Then if any special circumstances arise and someone is seeking a waiver of continuing education it should be brought to the board for approval. The board agreed with this.

Ms. Koubsky asked the reason why the IRB Committee decided to remove the timeline of the renewal notices from the rules and regulations. Ms. Pierce explained sending renewal notices is under the internal business practice that NCDHH will still follow, but the specifics of the internal process doesn’t need to be outlined within the rules and regulations.

Ms. Pierce outlined the recommendations that she and Ms. Olsen recommend for the investigating complaints and disciplinary action section 003.07 (009 and 010). The board asked for a few clarifying questions, Ms. Pierce responded and the board accepted all recommendations as proposed.

Discussion regarding complaint file retention. Ms. Pierce explained that she retains all complaints, she has not removed any complaint files at this point.

Discussion on if the board needs to keep the information regarding civil penalty in the rules and regulations, which then led the discussion on how to organize the disciplinary action order within the rules.

Ms. Pierce informed the board of the Attorney General’s response to their question regarding a business being required to have a point of contact within Nebraska. The

Attorney General informed NCDHH that we are not permitted to require a point of contact of businesses.

Ms. Pierce informed the board that the full commission board has decided to keep QAST level 3 as a qualified level for licensure. **The Full Commission Board plans pursue the removal of QAST Level 3 in four years.** Ms. Pierce informed the board that she would notify the full commission board that the IRB Committee recommended having all QAST levels expire at the same time as licensure.

Ms. Pierce informed the board about the RID certification testing moratorium. Still waiting on updates.

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Future Meetings – November 6, 2015 in Omaha
Discussion of changing the future meeting.