

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Full Commission Board Meeting
4600 Valley RD, Conference Room 4A Lincoln, NE 68522**

September 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

K. OPENING

Chairman Dr. Frank Turk called to order the September 11, 2015 meeting of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing full commission board meeting at 8:33 a.m. at 4600 Valley Rd, Conference Room 4A.

L. NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

Chairman Dr. Frank Turk 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. Publication of official notice of the meeting appeared in the September 4, 2015 edition of the Omaha World Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation in this state, as required by the Open Meetings Act. The agenda was kept current in the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's office and on the Board's website. Materials generally used by the Board for this meeting were available in the public folder for inspection by the public, and in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for the duration of the meeting.

Chairman Dr. Frank Turk asked for a moment of silence to remember those that lost their lives on September 11, 2003.

M. ROLL CALL

For the record, Board Members Margie Propp, Norm Weverka, Carol Lomicky, Stacie Ray, John Hogue and Frank Turk were present. Board Member Regina Frerichs was absent and excused and Jeremy Fitzpatrick arrived at 9:56 a.m. Also present were Director, John Wyvill and Business Manager, Natasha Olsen. Interpreters present were Sharon Sinkler and Lorelei Waldron. Mydge Heaney was present for CART Services.

N. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Executive Director Wyvill reviewed the agenda with the Board Members.

O. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Chairman Turk reminded those present for the meeting that the agenda cannot be altered 24 hours prior to the meeting except for emergency items according to the Open Meetings Act. Board Member Brummer moved to adopt the agenda as printed. Board Member Weverka seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Propp, Lomicky, Hogue, Ray and Turk voting aye.

P. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Board Member Lomicky asked for any additions or corrections to the March 6, 2015 Board Meeting minutes. Board Member Weverka moved to accept the March 6, 2015 board meeting minutes as presented. Board Member Hogue seconded the motion. The motion carried with Brummer, Propp, Lomicky, Ray and Turk voting aye.

Board Member Lomicky asked for any additions or corrections to the June 12, 2015 Board Meeting minutes. Board Member Propp requested that comments from the Board regarding Director Wyvill's performance evaluation be added to the meeting minutes. Board Member Lomicky had grammatical edits and change Turked to Turk. Board Member Propp made a motion to accept the June 12, 2015 board meeting minutes as amended. Board Member Weverka seconded the motion. The motion carried with Brummer, Lomicky, Hogue, Ray and Turk voting aye.

Q. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S REPORT

1. Chairman Turk started his report with informing the Board about some time he spent at the NCDHH Lincoln and Omaha offices and getting acquainted with the staff. The two days he spent with the staff prompted him to envision the duties of the organization not only statewide but nationally. In his opinion, NCDHH is the best organization of its kind. Also, the addition of Dr. Ray and Jeremy Fitzpatrick with their leadership and Norm Weverka's 25 years of experience will help NCDHH achieve the mission of the agency.
2. Dr. Turk introduced Gene Hand from the Public Service Commission ("PSC"). Mr. Hand joined the board meeting to talk more about NCDHH's partnership with PSC. Mr. Hand started by talking about his experience with PSC and that he has been with the Commission for 40 years. He is the Director of the Telecommunications Department and they are the department that implements the relay legislation. Steve Stovall also came today and is the administrator of the program and handles all of the day to day administration of the program. Mr. Hand proceeded to give the history of the NSTEP program and that he helped passed the legislation in 1990 with the program beginning in 1991. Hamilton Telecommunications was the first relay provider and now Sprint has the contract. Mr. Hand expressed how important the relationship between NCDHH and PSC is and that the PSC relies on their advisory board members. NCDHH

Board appoints members to the advisory board and there is a vacant slot that will be addressed later today. Mr. Hand discussed working with Ms. Olsen on postage reimbursement that has been overlooked in the past so that NCDHH can be reimbursed for all postage involving the NSTEP program then introduced Steve Stovall.

Mr. Stovall asked if anyone has questions about the partnership between the two agencies. Board Member Weverka expressed concern about the lack of access to the internet in rural areas. Board Member Weverka explained that he would like to have internet access through a telephone line but that would require him to pay for a landline that would not benefit him. Board Member Weverka stated it is to his understanding that the federal government is researching this and asked if they had any additional information. Mr. Hand said they just completed a five-year map on mapping broadband in Nebraska. Windstream just got a significant amount of money from the federal government to build out rural broadband. Wireless faces different challenges with high speed broadband. PSC has data from AT&T, Viero, Verizon, and U.S. Cellular. Sprint chose not to provide data because other carriers provided the devices that an app was put on to track the data. The report was just submitted Tuesday of this week to the FCC regarding rural broadband wireless information.

Mr. Stovall proceeded to talk about his 21 years with PSC. He expressed his appreciation of the collaborations that PSC has with the NCDHH Field Representatives. They assist with processing the applications for the NSTEP program. He also informed the Board that there are three wireless providers that participate in the NSTEP program, which is great, because being able to offer smartphones allows more texting. Mr. Stovall talked about the transition from TTY's and the use of them drastically declining. He made note that Sprint, PSC's relay provider, would have a booth at Husker Harvest Days if anyone was going. Also, on the website www.nebraskarelay.com, Sprint has uploaded some new videos to assist people in learning how to use the devices.

3. Chairman Turk asked if there was a member of the Board that was interested in sitting on the PSC Advisory Board. Board Member Weverka stated he would serve on the Board. Board Member Brummer made a motion to appoint Board Member Weverka to sit on the PSC Telecommunications Board Committee. Board Member Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried with Propp, Lomicky, Hogue, Weverka and Turk voting aye.
4. 2016 Full Commission Board Meeting dates were reviewed as presented. The dates presented were March 11 in Lincoln, June 10 in O'Neill, September 9 in Lincoln and December 9 in Omaha. The dates chosen were based on the meetings historically being

on the second Friday of the meeting month. Board Member Hogue requested that the June 10 meeting be moved to June 17th as he has a prior commitment on June 10th already. Plans have not been made for the June 10th board meeting so it would not be an issue moving the date. Board Member Weverka made a motion to accept the dates as stated for the 2016 board meetings including the locations. Board Member Hogue seconded the motion with Brummer, Propp, Lomicky, Ray and Turk voting aye.

5. A. Director Wyvill explained that there is funds in the agency budget to have Board Members participate in professional development to better serve each of them in their role on the Board. There are several conferences in 2016 like the National Association for the Deaf and Hearing Loss Association of America conferences. There is no action needed today but if there is a conference that interests you, you need to make your requests known.

B. Director Wyvill requested approval from the Board to travel to the State Administrators and Vocational Rehabilitation conference in November in Seattle, WA. Director Wyvill expressed there has been an emphasis by the Board to help more importantly the efforts of deaf and hard of hearing for employment. That is a premiere employment conference so I think it would be beneficial for me to go to that conference to assist and support those individuals, and that's why that request is in there. Board Member Weverka made a motion to approve Director Wyvill to travel to Seattle, WA for the State Administrators and Vocational Rehabilitation conference in November. Board Member Hogue seconded the motion with Brummer, Propp, Lomicky, Ray and Turk voting aye.

R. FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Natasha Olsen, the Business Manager for the agency, discussed the NCDHH budget with the Board. Ms. Olsen discussed the 2014-15 budget and July 1st started a new fiscal year for the agency. The agency was about \$10,000 under budget when the previous fiscal year ended. On the 2014-15 general ledger, Ms. Olsen noted, you would see contractual services increased due to ordering a significant amount of marketing items like pens. Moving on, Ms. Olsen explained that the Legislature approved the agency to have \$100,000 in carry over funding. She also explained that carryover funding cannot be used for salaries or recurring expenditures. Carryover funding is for one-time expenses like travel or computers. To wrap up the agency's financial report, Ms. Olsen explained with the new fiscal year just starting there is not a lot of expenditures that the agency has undertaken so the general ledger is pretty straight forward. Director Wyvill added that Ms. Olsen discovered that NCDHH and

The Public Service Commission “PSC” have an agreement that dated back to 1996 for PSC to reimburse NCDHH on all postage related to the NSTEP program. It was found that the staff was tracking postage for all related NSTEP items, however; the previous business manager was not requesting reimbursement from the PSC. Ms. Olsen is working with Gene Hand and Steve Stovall with PSC on an updated agreement so that the agency can be reimbursed for expenses incurred regarding NSTEP.

S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. Director Wyvill explained every two weeks he sends Dr. Turk and overview of his activities. Director Wyvill reviewed a few things that the agency has been working on. NCDHH and Building Services are in the process of finding office space in Kearney. After much discussion the agency needs to have a physical presence in the area. At this time the location has not been determined. The agency is also in the process of reviewing the space of our Lincoln office to see if we can make the space meet our needs better. Director Wyvill asked if anyone had any questions. Board Member Lomicky asked what the Director’s feelings were in terms of getting state mandated coverage for hearing aids.

Director Wyvill explained that he and Board Member Fitzpatrick had a meeting and the situation is complicated. The State of Nebraska has to submit a plan to the federal government and it does not include hearing aid coverage. Then the federal government accepts that. And then any alteration of that plan, for example, if we go to the legislature and say, hearing aids for pediatrics need to be covered, we the state has to pay for that out of our pocket. So that means if we go to the legislature and ask for that coverage there will be a fiscal impact, and they have to pay additional funds out of that. The second thing is that we have 30 days, to the end of September to publicly comment to the federal government, HHS, to say the health insurance plan is not adequate and requests that they include hearing aid coverage. Not sure how effective that would be but at least we make the record and make that record to make those changes. Then the third thing is we would work with our legislators and our congressional delegation to see how we can get the administration to change it on their own, because it depends on how you classify it. If they classify it as a necessary medical benefit, they'll pay for it automatically. In summary, we have to figure out how to win one battle at a time going through that, because that's a nationwide problem.

Break: 10:00 - 10:08 a.m.

2. At the request of Chairman Turk, Director Wyvill gave an overview of the agency’s mission, goals and objectives. Our agency’s mission is to promote and advocate for Nebraskans who are deaf, deaf/blind or hard of hearing to achieve the opportunity in

social, educational, vocation and legal aspects impacting their daily lives and enhance and monitor effective communication and technology. Director Wyvill proceeded to explain at the last field rep meeting, the staff collaborated on what they felt, were the five most important areas for their roles as field reps. The first is to provide and promote services and training to create awareness to drive programs designed to empower deaf, deaf/blind, and hard of hearing Nebraskans.

Then collaborating with consumer groups and other stakeholders. The third is to initiate, broaden, and maintain the collection and dissemination of information regarding strategies for living with the prevention of and the impact of living with deafness, and hearing loss. The fourth is to ensure and monitor full access to mental health services and the fifth is ensuring and implementing effective advocacy. Director Wyvill proceeded to discuss the number of residents in the State of Nebraska that we reach out to on a monthly basis and how the field reps track these numbers. As of today, for the month of August, including the month of August, we reached out to a total of over 20,000 people. Board Member Ray asked how the field reps track their numbers. Director Wyvill explained it's a constant conversation among myself and the staff on the most accurate way to track numbers. I want you to focus on the word choice we use to talk about assistance and support. It's interaction. Clients may just come into the office. They may come and talk, stop at a booth, they visit a booth. So we have, for example, in Scottsbluff when we did the night out there were 500 people that stopped by our booth by our estimation. We are not saying those 500 people assisted. We are saying that we reached out to them. So that's us saying we have reached out and made them aware of our services which is different than actually helping.

When field reps set up meetings with clients, we can accurately track those numbers. Field Reps fill out a monthly report with the expectation they have, on average, 10 face to face appointments per week. When we say average, we're not saying if you don't get 10 appointments per week you're going to be on an improvement plan. It's just our goal is 10 appointments per week. So we want them to say 2 appointments a day. And try to consistently meet with 10 people a week for a field representative. Try to go to participate in one booth and do four presentations. The booth will be tracked on 250 people stopped by our booth. That's how we track that, and then we track the presentations.

3. Since the last time the board met, Director Wyvill informed the Board for the first time ever, the College World Series agreed to provide interpreters to their opening ceremonies of the College World Series, and that was a major victory for advocacy. That was driven by NeAD, OAD, interpreters and a little bit on NCDHH's part. So it was a wonderful collaborative effort of people advocating.

4. Lincoln Salt Dogs was a tremendously successful event. Vice chairman Margie Propp successfully threw out the first pitch and Jonathan Scherling signed the National Anthem and Dr. Ray's husband participated in one of the fun races afterwards, the human bowling ball. So it was a good time had by all. The most important thing is they invited us back next year, and we're looking forward to an even better event.
5. Director Wyvill opened the conversation for the 2016 Legislative agenda and that there will be a number of items that NCDHH will be proposing. One of them is the need for a statewide ADA coordinator for the date. That position has been lacking for ten years. Conversations have been had with disability rights advocates and the Department of Administrative Services. It is being reported to us that the Governor and DAS are receptive to having a statewide ADA coordinator, however; they want the disabilities rights group to put that in through the legislative process. They've assured us that they would be supportive of the request assuming funds are available for a statewide coordinator to be housed either in the Governor's office or DAS.
6. Director Wyvill explained that he will be asking the Board in December for a formal vote to send a letter of support for the need of a statewide ADA Coordinator. The next item that we'll be discussing in December will be the possibility of in the next budget cycle beginning to make groundwork to see if we need any additional staff for northeast Nebraska or within our office support. Director Wyvill also discussed that some reorganization within the agency will be done. After careful deliberation and review there was simply not enough work for the part time administrative assistant in Omaha so that position was let go. Ms. Olsen is working with Administrative Services on reclassifying that position in the next couple of months, and we'll be asking for a part time interpreter to assist and support us either to be housed either here in Omaha or Lincoln.
7. All Board Members received a copy of the Advocacy Handbook. Disability Rights Nebraska assisted NCDHH with creating the handbook. There are a limited number of copies of the handbook, however; it is available online. It is the agency's intent over the next few months NCDHH will host workshops will be provide training on the handbook specifically for the deaf community. The goal is to also have a webcast within the next month that introduces the handbook as an overview to the deaf community in ASL.

J. INTERPRETER PROGRAM REPORT

1. With the passing of LB287, the IRB has met and they have developed their recommendations for what edits should be done or what edits need to be done to satisfy the new bill being passed. While incorporating the changes for LB287, the committee

also worked on cleaning up the language of Title 96 and making some of the processes more precise. The next step is any changes that the Full Board would like made and then the public hearing which is set for October 20, 2015. The Public Meeting Notice has been set to publish in the newspaper next week to satisfy the requirement of the 30 day public hearing notice requirement. If there are any comments at the public hearing, those will come back to the Full Board at an emergency meeting to address those comments. Ms. Pierce asked if any of the Board Members had changes or recommendations.

Board Member Propp question if it's possible for a complaint to be filed against a hearing entity and/or the deaf individual? Ms. Pierce stated that Title 96 says appointing authority. An appointing authority is considered a state government and is defined in the definitions. A hiring business cannot be gone after according to the bill. An appointing authority is state government. Ms. Pierce explained if the appointing authority, such as NCDHH or a state government funded authority hires an unlicensed interpreter both the appointing authority and unlicensed interpreter can be investigated. That has not changed, the current statutes read that way. Title 96 states the appointing authorities which are state agencies and entities. Businesses are not appointing authorities. According to the statutes, businesses, hospitals, etc. cannot be investigated unless they are a Nebraska State Entity. Ms. Propp proceeded to ask if a complaint can be filed against a deaf person by an interpreter. Ms. Olsen assisted with answering this question and explained that we are a state agency with statutory authority over an interpreter's license not the deaf clients they interpret for so we do not monitor complaints against deaf people. Board Member Propp clarified by asking if it is up to the interpreter to decide if they will not work with that deaf person. It was confirmed that the interpreter would decline the job.

Board Member Propp also asked for clarification on the whole section with the VRI. Is that just VRI or is that VRI and VRS? Ms. Pierce stated it is only VRI. The bill states VRI companies are to be licensed. VRS companies are under the FCC regulations and we have no regulatory power over them. This is only for VRI companies. Board Member Propp asked if any VRI provider that is within the state that works within the state must then make sure that all of their interpreters are state license. Ms. Pierce directed the Board Members to review the application process. When the VRI Provider submits an application, they've also signed an agreement saying that they've employed or contracted interpreters who meet the criteria, which means the interpreters hold an RID national certification or national certification. That interpreting business holds the license to encompass those employees. So if there's a complaint against the VRI employee the complaint is then brought against the VRI Provider because they are the license holder. The IRB has found that that part of the bill contradicts itself with another part of the bill so we reached out to the attorney general's office for clarification. One part of the bill states if the interpreter is earning

compensation in Nebraska that they must have a license. Another section states if they're working for a VRI company, they're an exception and that person does not have to have a license.

The question to the attorney general's office was what if a person in Lincoln works solely for a VRI company? Do they have to have a license or not? When referring to one section it states if you're earning compensation in Nebraska, you have to have a license. For example, if Margie has a complaint against her when she's working for VRI, she not only has her own license because she works in Nebraska but the VRI company has to have a license if they're providing services of VRI interpreting in Nebraska. To clarify, if the interpreter lives in Council Bluffs and is working for a VRI company providing services in Nebraska, that Council Bluffs interpreter doesn't need to have a license but the company needs to have a license. If a Nebraska licensed interpreter works for a VRI company, which is providing services in Nebraska then both would be required to hold a license.

Director Wyvill stated the next step that for the Board is a vote for the approval to move forward with Title 96 as presented if there are no comments. Board Member Propp made a motion to approve Title 96 as presented and move it forward in the rule making process. Board Member Brummer seconded the motion. The motion passed with Lomicky, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Ray, Weverka and Turk voting aye.

- a. Reviewing the timeline of the rule making process, a public hearing is set for October 20th. If there are no public comments the next step is the Attorney General and the Secretary of State then the Governor's office. If there are comments made at the public hearing then there will be an emergency Full Board meeting and the recommended date is Friday, October 30th. Board Member Brummer asked if the rules will proceed if the comments from the public are positive. Ms. Pierce explained the comments must be regarding significant changes to the rules. If it's a good job on the rules or a grammar change that is not a significant change. The public also has the option to write comments and send them in. Board Member Brummer made a motion to accept the timeline regarding Title 96 as presented. Board Member Propp seconded the motion. The motion carried with Lomicky, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Ray, Weverka and Turk voting aye.
2. Ms. Pierce presented an application for the IRB Board vacancy. Heath Focken has applied and this position has been open for over a year. Board Member Weverka made a motion to approve Heath Focken's application for the IRB Board. Board Member Propp seconded the motion. The motion has been moved and seconded to appoint Heath Focken to the IRB Board with Brummer, Lomicky, Hogue, Fitzpatrick, Ray and Turk voting aye.

3. Ms. Pierce gave an overview of the RID Conference that she attended in August. The RID Board announced they were doing a moratorium on their testing. There was not a lot of information that was given with that information announcement. An announcement that October 1 was the cutoff time for people to apply and be able to finish and complete their performance exam by or before January 1 of next year. It is unknown how long that moratorium will last. The risk assessment is to be provided to their board by November 1 and then they will examine the risk assessment and determine what they're looking for and how that will affect the testing after that point. They did state part of this is due to financial reasons and the cost of proctoring the test is more than the actual testing fee.

4. Ms. Pierce updated the Board on having the EIPA raised from 3.5 to 4.0. Board Member Propp was the NCDHH representative. The Department of Education has agreed to create a committee to review raising the score. Ms. Pierce continued to say that Board Member Propp is the most qualified representative because she is an interpreter and has been an educator for 25 years. An outline has been developed and has been opened for public comment. They outlined raising the score and it everybody appeared to be in agreement that for all new hires the score would raise from 3.5 to 4.0. The first outline had all current interpreters grandfathered in and would not have to retest. Several people had some concerns regarding that because it would not require interpreters to improve their skills.
The other area addressed was also raising the number of continuing education units interpreters would need and if an interpreter was hired with a score less than 4.0, how long they would have get that up. These concerns will be going back to the Board of Education either this month or at next month's board meeting and Board Member Propp will update Ms. Pierce regarding any comments.
Board Member Propp provided additional information stating that there was a meeting with the stakeholders to look at some of the additional language. The grandfather language states that if they an EIPA score of 3.5 to 3.9 and have been working in that school for two years, then the interpreter can maintain that and don't have to retest. Board Member Propp has questioned this, however; has not gotten a response back from them.
The other concern is if a school district cannot find an interpreter that is has a 4.0 they can hire an interpreter at with a 3.0 and that interpreter has two years to get 40 clock hours of training. It doesn't say they have to retest to raise their score.
Board Member Propp has communicated this with all of the members on the committee and almost everyone has agreed.

Lunch served to Board Members and staff at 11:30. Jonathan Scherling spoke to the Board during lunch as part of Public Comments. Mr. Scherling is the Nebraska Association of the

Deaf president. Mr. Scherling discuss the meeting at the Nebraska Department of Education in regards to interpreting and stated that progress is being made and getting qualified interpreters for children also for the adult deaf and hard of hearing. Mr. Scherling thanked NCDHH for the wonderful support to NeAD's convention in the summer. During the summer convention there was over 200 people that had attended. Mr. Scherling also thanked Peggy Williams in regards to the Unheard Journey of Deaf Nebraskans. It was the first movie made regarding deaf people. A lot of people enjoyed it and NeAd received a lot of positive comments. Mr. Scherling expressed that it was great to work in cooperation with NCDHH and NeAD is looking forward to partnering with NCDHH for the upcoming zoo event.

K. MARKETING REPORT

1. Ms. Cruz gave an update on NCDHH's website and our social media by providing the Board with statistics from the agency webpage. Ms. Cruz pointed out the the agency website has a few hits in the Netherlands and thought it was interesting that someone was viewing our website from there. An addition to the website is a tab on our home page that is titled Keep in Touch. This was added in an effort to update our mailing registry. Access to our Facebook page was also added on our website for those who do not have a personal Facebook account. The agency has recently also created a Twitter page. Ms. Cruz noted she was surprised at the number of state agencies in Nebraska that have a Twitter page. The Twitter page is another outlet to create a newsworthy buzz in a different kind of post than what is posted Facebook. The majority of Facebook is photos. Ms. Cruz also mention that the picture for the interpreters tab on the website homepage has been updated to the picture of Board Member Propp interpreting at the ADA celebration. Ms. Cruz discussed the Strictly Business magazine that had been given to the Board Members. This is a new publication for the agency to be a part of. Ms. Olsen and I have been researching new ways to reach out to professionals in the state and how to get a better return on our investment. There are two sections that NCDHH is under in this issue.
2. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness day at The Henry Doorly Zoo is coming up on Sunday, September 27th. Ms. Cruz has had a lot of requests for tickets and those will be distributed through NeAD and Hands and Voices. Any remaining will come back to NCDHH to hand out. Director Wyvill added that the agency has received many donations for door prizes.
3. Ms. Williams started by giving the Board an update of the number of people who have viewed the Unheard Journey of Deaf Nebraskans from the Nebraska Television Educational Network and there has been a total of 543 visits.

Of 43, 391 of the 543 there were 289 that were seeing this from Facebook, and that was a combination of the Commission's Facebook, NET's Facebook, and 165 were direct visits at NET. A fabulous job was done in promoting The Unheard Journey and the beauty of this tape is it can go on and on and on. Ms. Williams stated we wanted to make it in a way that it could be used to talk about the history of the State of Nebraska in educating the deaf community. Ms. Williams discussed some of the comments about the movie and one that touched her was from a deaf woman who was in the program. The woman said she showed it to her family, they're all hearing, they never understood deafness and after the show they said, now we understand. And now I think that's probably what a lot of people were saying I understand. And that was what we wanted to hear by coproducing this program. Ms. Williams concluded by thanking the Board for giving her the opportunity to produce another movie and giving me the money every year. The costs increases a little bit each year but this investment is going to pay off for years to come.

L. SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Chairman Turk asked if there are any reports from the Committees. Board Member Lomicky was not aware of anything issues that needed to be discussed for the Executive Committee.

Board Member Fitzpatrick stated there is nothing for the Legislative Committee that hadn't been discussed earlier. Board Member Ray asked if there were any practitioners working with the Legislative Committee and how important it is to have a practitioners involvement because they will have the knowledge of insurance codes and coverage.

Dr. Turk asked if the Education Committee had any updates and Board Member Ray stated they have not met.

M. NEW BUSINESS

1. The Awards Committee has not met either, however; it was pointed out that at the previous board meeting the Board voted to approve plaques for Dr. Jan Moore, Mr. Manning and Dianne Muelleman. Ms. Olsen noted they have not received the plaques yet but Director Wyvill wanted the Board to review the wording for the plaque that was previously approved by the Board. Board Member Lomicky noted there were minor grammatical errors that need changed. Board Member Lomicky said the wording should read for example Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing presents the distinguished service award to Dr. Peter Seiler in appreciation of his leadership as the Executive Director of NCDHH from 2009 to 2011. So one sentence instead of two.

And instead of your, it will be his or hers, so the others will read the same way. Director Wyvill informed the Board that the intent is to present the past Board Members their plaques at the board meeting in Omaha in December.

Ms. Pierce requested that before the Board adjourn, she have their attention for a few more minutes as she forgot to discuss additional information regarding QAST. Regarding previous rules and regulations clean up updates, those are with the AG and the Board agreed and voted on keeping QAST 3 as an acceptable level. The Board has voted to remove QAST 3 as a qualification in four years. With the QAST expiration dates and CEU requirements for renewal, Ms. Piece recommends to make all three levels of QAST expire and CEU requirements equivalent to licensure. Ms. Pierce explained the differences between each level of QAST in comparison to expiration dates and CEU requirements. The IRB is recommending sending at QAST interpreters a letter informing them of the upcoming changes with QAST.

Ms. Pierce made note that Board Member Propp is currently the only Board Member on the Interpreter Issues Committee and asked if another member should be added. Board Member Fitzpatrick asked what is required and Ms. Pierce explained that our policies have recently changed regarding the NCDHH Referral Program Policies and Procedures. If the interpreter violates the agreement three times within a 12 month period, it is brought to the Interpreters Issues Committee who will decide if there's any disciplinary action taken. Board Member Hogue requested to be added to the Legislative Committee. Board Member Fitzpatrick agreed to join the committee if needed. Board Member Propp made a motion to have Board Member Fitzpatrick on the Interpreter Issues Committee and Board Member Hogue on the Legislative Issues Committee. Board Member Weverka seconded the motion and the motion passed with Brummer, Lomicky, Ray, Hogue and Turk voting aye.

N. Board Member Brummer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:51 p.m. Board Member Weverka seconded the motion. The motion carried Propp, Lomicky, Hogue, Fitzpatrick and Turk voting aye.

These minutes were available for public inspection on September 22, 2015, in compliance with Nebraska Statute §84-1413 (5).