

Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

February 12, 2016, 1pm – 3pm

Conference Room 4A

4600 Valley Rd, Lincoln NE

I. **Roll Call**

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board (IRB) was called to order at 1:04pm by Vonda Apking, Vice - Chairperson in Conference Room 4A, Lincoln, NE

Board Members Present: Ms. Vonda Apking, Mr. Pat Bracken, Ms. Cheryl Poff, Mr. John Wyvill, Ms. Bethany Koubsky, Mr. Heath Focken, Ms. Pam Duncan by video

Interpreters: Ms. Sharon Sinkler and Ms. Victoria Deuel

Staff: Ms. Crystal Pierce, Ms. Cindy Woldt (minutes)

Members Absent: Mr. Jerry Siders,

Guest: Ms. Kacy Schmidt-- intern student from UNO

Public: no one present

II. **Approval of Agenda** - Approval of the agenda for February 12, 2016: One change under New Business – remove item A. With this change Bracken made the motion to have the agenda approved. The motion was seconded by Koubsky. The Board voted and approved the agenda.

III. **Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2015** – Bracken made the motion to accept the October 29, 2015, meeting minutes and it was seconded by Koubsky. The Board voted and approved these minutes.

IV. **Public Comments** - No comments

V. **Old Business**

- **Title 96, Rules and Regulations 2007 revision – update:**

The proposed Rules and Regulations edits for Title 96: Chapter 1, which encompassed the new legislation from LB287, were approved of and signed by the governor. The new Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter licensure laws became effective on January 1, 2016. Pierce remarked several new licenses have been awarded and two Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) providers are currently licensed. Pierce shared about NCDHH's efforts to notify the state hospitals and other entities about the new mandates. It was asked and clarified that Title 96 was posted on the NCDHH's website. Bracken inquired about list of Limited Practice Licenses that expired at the end of 2015, yet those were still listed on

the Licensed Interpreters List. Pierce shared there has been a few technical difficulties that with the information on the NCDHH's website, but the issues are being address and are expected to be fixed soon.

- **Department of Education Interpreter Standards Rule 51 – update:**
Pierce shared the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Interpreter Standards updates. On December 4, 2015, the NDE Board reviewed and voted on the Interpreter Standards Rule 51 proposed regulations. The Board voted to approve the proposed regulations, so the proposal now is passed sent through the regulation process of approval with the Governor. Also, the second part of the Interpreter Standards updates is the committee that developed the proposed changes with Rule 51 will now meet to discuss the changes for the Technical Assistance Guide (TAG). The TAG was last updated in 2002. Pierce let the Board know that Margie Propp was part of that committee.
- **Interpreter Licensure Law Update:**
Pierce stated all information was shared previously under Old Business A.

VI. New Business

- **Reinstatement Application Approval – removed**
- **Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST) Fee Update**
Pierce informed the Board that previously around November 2015 the Contracted QAST Evaluation Team informed NCDHH of their plans to increase their fees for evaluations. NCDHH in turn took a more detailed look at the expenditures of proctoring the QAST. With the evaluation team's increase and also from the NCDHH research, it has been decided the NCDHH staff will take this information to the Full Commission Board for approval to increase the fee to take the QAST test. Koubsky asked for clarification in regards to the prior expiration date on proctoring the QAST. Pierce explained the process of receiving approval to continue proctoring the test. Pierce also clarified that NCDHH can continue proctoring the test using the same testing materials that NCDHH is currently using. Until the Board meets in March NCDHH is holding off on testing any new applicants. Bracken inquired if NCDHH had concerns with this increase. NCDHH has no that there were no applications that are on hold currently. Duncan inquired what the timeline would be after the Full Commission Board makes their decision. Wyvill replied testing would resume immediately.
- **Board Member Terms**
Pierce notified the Board that Siders and Koubsky's terms on the Board actually expired last year. To continue to service on the board they need to fill out an application for the Full Commission Board to approve reappointment. Siders has already indicated that he is interested in renewing his term. Koubsky agreed.

Pierce also explained that Koubsky actually would be starting her first official term since she was completing a previous Board member's term. Poff's term will be completed in June, 2016. Poff indicated she would not be seeking a reappointment. Bracken also announced he would be retiring in June, 2016, so he no longer would be able to serve on the Board either. Both Bracken and Poff filled the government position. Inquiry was made by Bracken if the government position person must work at the state level or is it open to local government also. Pierce stated either level was accepted and requested that if any Board members had someone in mind that would be a good fit to direct them to NCDHH to apply. Poff suggested Nancy Coffman. Duncan's term expiration date was clarified to expiring in 2017.

- **Bylaws Review**

Pierce advised the Board the IRB Bylaws need to be reviewed and updated. The IRB will review the bylaws they received then email all recommended edits to Pierce at the beginning of April. Pierce will assemble all recommendations for review at the next meeting. It was queried by Bracken if there were any preconceived areas of concerns. Pierce acknowledged the bylaws were due to be reviewed last year, which was her current concern.

VII. Executive Director Report – John C. Wyvill

Kacy Schmidt subbed into interpret

Legislation Update:

Governor appointed Dr. Peter Seiler and reappointed Margie Propp to the Full Commission Board. Wyvill provided the Board with some Legislative updates. NCDHH is interested in legislation including three on the Federal level and three on the State level. For the Federal level NCDHH has sent letters of support for the need of hearing aids for seniors; support of Deaf Education Act that is pending in Congress; and information showing NCDHH's opposed opinion in regards to the VA Hearing Aid Assistant position which eliminates the use of audiologists. For the State level NCDHH supported Disability Rights of Nebraska's efforts to re-establish a statewide ADA coordinator which will be addressed next year; starting an interim study in regards to requiring all movies captioning in theaters similar to Hawaii; and also an interim study on pediatric hearing aid coverage.

Next, Wyvill provided a synopsis about LB688 English Only for Drivers Tests. Wyvill went on to explain the well-known problems that would arise without a multilingual test being provided. Wyvill provided examples of this issues related to people from Hispanic origins. Wyvill expressed his expectation that the Senator will amend the bill, but he would have more information the following week.

Finally, Wyvill notified the Board recently the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) filed a lawsuit in Arizona about the lack of access when it came to Text to 911. Wyvill

expressed he will be working with NAD's president, Jonathan Scherling, to set up a meeting with the PSC. Focken asked for clarification on the interim study for movie theaters. Wyvill provided examples to other interim studies that NCDHH has done previously. Focken commented on the technology issues that has risen in the past and what needs to be done for the future.

Service Announcements:

Wyvill provided tidbits in regards to the NCDHH's advocacy webinars, other future webinars and vlogs in the works. NCDHH is striving to provide all modes of communication access as possible through the webinars and vlogs.

VIII. Public Comments

IX. Announcements

Koubsky made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:44PM. The motion was seconded by Poff. The Board voted and approved to adjourn.

X. 2016 Meeting Reminder

- May 13th – Omaha – 1313 Farnam, Room 227 on the 2nd floor
- August 12th – Lincoln – 4600 Valley Rd Room 4A on the 4th floor
- November 10th – Omaha – 1313 Farnam, Room TBA