

Interpreter Review Board Meeting
February 10, 2012
1:00pm-3:00pm
4600 Valley Rd
Conference Room 4A

A. Call to Order:

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board was called to order by Chairperson Woodhead at 1:12pm in the Conference Room 4A in Lincoln, NE.

Board Members present: Ms. Barb Woodhead (Chair), Mr. Gary Theiler (Vice-Chair), Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson, Dr. Peter Seiler, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell, Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff, Mr. David Montgomery

Interpreters: Ms. Debie Seiler and Ms. Margie Propp

Public attendees: None

Staff: Ms. Traci Cooney and Mr. Ben Sparks

Members Absent: Mr. Bob Deaton

B. Approval of Agenda:

- a. Add Future Meeting Dates under Announcements
- b. Change meeting date at top of agenda

Motion to accept agenda as amended.

[Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff/Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell/Motion passed]

C. Approval of minutes from November 5, 2011:

Motion to approve minutes as written.

[Mr. Peter Seiler/Mr. Gary Theiler/Motion Passed]

D. Public Comments – None

E. Old Business

- a. Update on LB 39
Dr. Seiler updated that the bill did not make it this legislative session. There is now a concern in language from Lincoln Public Schools. He provided a copy of the language they would like entered/changed. This suggestion may be too broad for the bill. There was discussion on whether the Interpreter Review Board felt comfortable accepting the recommended language or not.
Members discussed strategies for next session to get the bill passed. Ms. Woodhead stated that strong communication from the deaf community is going to be needed. She also recommended educating Nebraska

Department of Education on ADA. Dr. Seiler agreed that the community sending letters would have a good impact. He thought maybe he and Mr. Steve Manning could set up a table at Omaha Association for the Deaf one afternoon and have letter ready to add person's information into it and print for them. He also recommended that friends and family of the deaf community need to also send letters of support. Ms. Richardson-Nelson recommended creating something using Facebook, maybe a petition. She feels that Facebook reaches more of the deaf community and their friends and family at a higher rate.

- b. Update from task force/committee to review/revise rules and regulations
Dr. Seiler apologized to the members that no action had been taken yet. He asked Mr. Montgomery and Ms. Brakenhoff to serve on this committee. They have agreed.
- c. Licensing Summary
Dr. Seiler stated that the number of licensed interpreters in Nebraska is holding steady. Dr. Seiler also stated that Deaf Services of Iowa and OneInterpreting are now using Nebraska licensed interpreters for their VRI service.
- d. Certification/Assessment Task Force Update
Mr. Sparks updated that this task force is comprised of Susan Peterson and Steve Manning from the NCDHH Board, Connie Herndon and Bethany Koubsky from NeRID, Marian Reyburn from HLAA and Jerry Sidors from NeAD. NCDHH is still waiting on a 2nd member from HLAA. A letter was sent to NCBVI asking if anyone would be interested. Mr. Sparks stated that in his research on other options to replace QAST, he found some other states that use their own QAST testing tool. He also stated that Texas BEI is still being looked at. He also stated that Utah has a testing system that he is still looking into. Dr. Seiler stated that another option is to find someone outside NCDHH to create a testing tool just for NCDHH. Ms. Woodhead mentioned that it is important to find out when Kansas plans to begin loaning their testing supplies as practice guides. This will compromise the NCDHH testing.

F. New Business

- a. Clarification regarding contradictions in language on the Criteria Matrix and the Initial Application for license for number of years since conviction for either felony or misdemeanor
 - i. The board moved to change the language for one time offense in certain categories to allow NCDHH to make the assessment (see bold). Who made the motion and seconded escapes my memory. The board by consensus agreed to leave the determination of sanctions to the panel to allow room for case by case assessment of the convictions.

Motion to change the language in the Criteria Matrix to state that all applications for licensure and renewals except the initial licensure will be for two years. The

initial licensure application will require felony or misdemeanor information without restrictions to number of years since occurrence.

[Approved by consensus of the board members]

- b. Clarification for Disciplinary actions for felony or misdemeanor
It was determined that this was covered in the previous section of the agenda.
- c. Clarification what “sanction” means
Members discussed that NCDHH staff and director will use their own discretion if an application needs taken beyond to the Interpreter Review Panel. NCDHH staff and director will be trusted by the Interpreter Review Board to rely on their own common sense to determine if their decision is enough or if the application should be moved on for further review.

G. Motion to approve the Criteria Matrix as amended.

[Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson/Mr. David Montgomery/Motion Passed]

H. Public Comments – NONE

I. Announcements

- a. Terms ending in June
 - i. Tami Richardson-Nelson and Kelly Brakenhoff
- b. Vote for New Chairperson and Vice Chairperson at next meeting
- c. Future Meeting Dates
Ms. Woodhead asked if members would rather have the meetings on a different day than the first Friday of the month. Members agreed first Fridays will be fine.

Meeting adjourned 3:21pm