

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting  
2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Date:** May 13, 2014

**Location:** 4600 Valley Rd. Rm 4A  
Lincoln, NE

**Interpreters:** Connie Herndon and Crystal Pierce

**Members Present**

Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell  
Jackie Prater  
Lisa Vogel  
Mandy Leamon

**Technical Advisors Present**

Barbara Woodhead

**Staff Present**

Peggy Williams  
John Wyvill  
Kim Davis

Traci Cooney: Minutes

**Gather, Welcome & Introductions**

Ms. Williams introduced the new Lincoln Interpreter Technical Advisor, Ms. Barbara Woodhead. Ms. Woodhead is replacing Ms. Bethany Merchant. All other attendees introduced themselves.

**Approval of February 11, 2014 Minutes**

Ms. Williams asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes.

**Motion to accept the minutes as written**

[Ms. Jackie Prater/Mr. John Wyvill] Motion passed

**Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Williams asked to add Bylaws under New Business.

**Motion to accept agenda as amended**

[Ms. Lisa Vogel/Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell] Motion passed

**New Business**

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Wyvill stated that NCDHH will have a deaf awareness event July 8 at a Saltdogs Baseball game. He mentioned that the President of the Saltdogs is Charlie Meyer who is a child of deaf adults. NCDHH will be working with NeAD on this event. There will be a silent inning, public awareness activities and a chance for deaf children to interact with the team.

Mr. Wyvill explained that Ms. Williams has produced a program through NET, Parents Guide to Hearing Loss which will be aired on NET2 on May 15. The program can be accessed on NET.org if any of the programs aired in the month of May are missed. Mr. Wyvill thanked Ms. Williams for her work on developing this program.

Mr. Wyvill updated members about LR 517 and explained this resolution addresses the interpreter shortage in Nebraska and the challenges and opportunities that impacts both people who are deaf and hard of hearing in the educational settings and in the community. This study directs NCDHH to provide reports and recommendations to the Legislature in the fall. Mr. Wyvill anticipates having town hall meetings in Hastings, North Platte, Kearney, Lincoln and Omaha to discuss LR 517. He also anticipates that NCDHH will send surveys to the deaf community as well as the interpreter community.

Mr. Wyvill announced the next NCDHH Full Commission Board meeting will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Scottsbluff.

Mr. Wyvill reported that he is working with Howard Rosenbaum, National Association of the Deaf and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on access for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing at the UNL football stadium. Mr. Rosenbaum will provide Christy Horn, ADA/504 Compliance Officer for the University information on upgrades/accommodation's needed for people who Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Mr. Rosenbaum will also share lessons they have learned from similar experiences they have had with other stadiums.

#### Member Resignation

Ms. Williams explained that Ms. Sakura Yodogawa-Campbell has resigned her position due to other employment commitments.

#### Lincoln Interpreter Technical Advisor Resignation

Ms. Williams reported that Ms. Bethany Bubar has also resigned due to other employment commitments.

Members discussed that the state statute says the member must have experience working with the deaf community, but how do they get experience. Suggestions included creating an event such as Deaf-Deaf World/Effective Care and provide training and education to providers. Current open positions on the committee are a counselor position and an agency provider position. It was also recommended to invite school counselors, DD services and counselors from the Dept. of Corrections to serve on the MHAC.

#### Lincoln Interpreter Technical Advisor Appointment

Barbara Woodhead, RID Certified Interpreter has been appointed to the MHAC. Ms. Woodhead is the Deputy Director of Services for Students with Disabilities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She replaces Bethany Bubar.

#### Helen Keller National Center Training

Ms. Williams explained that Dr Scot Adams, Director for the Division of Behavioral Health/HHS contacted her in regards to participating on a conference call to identify the training

needs of mental health professionals in Nebraska who provide, or may provide, services to persons who use sign language, including those who have both hearing and vision loss (deaf-blind). Questions for this mental health interview were provided. Ms. Williams provided copies of the questions to the members of the MHAC. Ms. Williams explained that this project was a joint effort of the National Research & Training Center on Blindness & Low vision at Mississippi State University and the Helen Keller National Center. Ms. Williams and Mr. Adams will meet prior to the phone interview to discuss the questions. The phone interview will be held on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Bylaws

Ms. Williams discussed that the bylaws state that there needs to be a quorum at the meetings. Because it is getting so hard to get positions filled, she recommended removing the quorum language from the bylaws.

#### **Motion to remove quorum language from the bylaws**

[Ms. Mandy Leamon/Ms. Jackie Prater] Motion passed

Ms. Williams will present the recommended bylaws change to the Commission Board on June 13<sup>th</sup> for approval.

#### **Old Business**

##### Provider DVD

Ms. Williams reported that the 1-hour DVD presented by Dr. Jim Haley on “Providing Mental Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People” has been completed and the Lied Learning and Technology Center will send NCDHH the completed 125 DVDs in the next few weeks. Ms. Williams will mail providers a copy of the DVD along with a letter and evaluation asking them to return the evaluation upon watching the DVD. She will also provide members of this committee with a copy.

##### “Parents’ Guide to Hearing Loss”

Ms. Williams informed the members that the program has been completed and will air for the first time on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM on NET 2. Discussion took place on the footage received and details of taping.

#### **Agency Updates**

##### Jackie Prater

Ms. Prater reported that the State of Nebraska is going through some changes right now that effect funding for mental health services within probation, child welfare, investigation, abuse/neglect and high risk. She indicated the State is moving kids who are under HHS to probation. She reported that Medicaid/Medicare are now denying some sessions at Child Guidance. Magellan is denying a lot of mental health treatment for kids due to cost containment issues. Ms. Prater feels there needs to be extra advocacy.

##### Lisa Vogel

Discussion on how Magellan and Medicaid dictate what is covered and that this is impacting

individual therapy sessions. Discussion on interpreter no shows scheduled through Magellan. Discussion was held regarding Magellan vs. Medicaid and that Magellan is now contracting with Global to coordinate interpreters. Global is a company out of California.

Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell

Ms. Campbell reported that Vocational Rehabilitation is working to improve relationships with people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Kim Davis

Ms. Davis is currently partnering with Vocational Rehabilitation on setting up empowerment training that will include employment barriers for the Deaf. She reported that people who are Deaf are having problems finding jobs. This training will assist people who are Deaf to learn tools necessary to advocate for themselves.

She reported that the Commission has made a decision to de-certify the Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program effective July 1. The FCC is opening the program up for bids which are due by May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mandy Leamon

Fremont Area Medical Center will have a new logo and their name will change to Fremont Health which will include individual clinics. Ms. Leamon stated this will create uniformity across Behavioral Health programs/centers. Ms. Williams will contact Peg Kennedy with Fremont Health to discuss setting up training at Fremont Health.

John Wyvill

Mr. Wyvill reported a memo of work expectations and unprofessional conduct was recently sent to interpreters on the NCDHH referral list.

Barbara Woodhead

Ms. Woodhead shared that all interpreters in Nebraska should be licensed and hopes that NCDHH will take on the responsibility of getting this accomplished. Discussion was held about expanding the pool of interpreters and the standards of interpreting.

Next Meeting – Tuesday August 13, 2014 in Omaha 2p-4p, 1313 Farnam on the Mall on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, room 222.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM