

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: December 2, 2015

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Location: 4600 Valley Rd Classroom 4A, Lincoln NE

Interpreters: Ben Sparks and Sid Ihrig

Minutes: Cindy Woldt

CART:

Present: Ms. Lisa Vogel, Ms. Peggy Williams, Ms. Barb Woodhead, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Kim Davis, Ms. Kathleen Valle, Ms. Jan Goracke, Ms. Jill Bird, Ms. Mandy Leamon, Ms. Ann Thompson

Absent: Mr. John Wyvill, Ms. Diane Meyer, Ms. Jackie Prater

Meeting called to order: at 2:04pm by Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Chairperson

Introductions were made by going around the room with all who were present

New Member, Ms. Kathleen Valle introduced herself – Director of Language Services at CHI/Alegent. Last year CHI had a request for 100 different languages Omaha Council Bluffs area.

The agenda for today’s meeting – Peg requested we add 2 items, rules and regulations and the MHAC by-laws – Ms. Lisa Vogel accepted and Ms. Kathleen Valle seconded – passed by all.

Approval of the August 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes – change the spelling of Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell’s name, change the name of Marty – MARTTI (My Accessible Real – Time Trusted Interpreter) – accepted by Ms. Lisa Vogel, seconded by Ms. Kathleen Valle.

Ms. Peggy Williams thanked the members for their involvement for 2015, and looks forward to working with them in 2016.

Ms. Peggy Williams brought copies of the Unheard Journey and passed out to those that wanted a copy.

New Business

- **NCDHH Executive Director, Mr. Wyvill**

Mr. Wyvill was not present during the meeting, Ms. Williams gave his report.

The Commission Board is taking a more assertive role in the education of deaf and hard of hearing students. Mr. John Wyvill has sent a letter to Dr. Steve Joel, Superintendent for Lincoln Public Schools on how to enhance education for these students. This letter can be found on the Commission’s Facebook page. NCDHH is cautiously optimistic on changes that will be made. NCDHH will review the results of the audit and will respond to Dr. Steve Joel.

EIPA - The Board of Education will be meeting on December 3 and 4, 2015. Mr. Wyvill is pleased that the stakeholders came together in agreement with suggested changes.

Jr. National Association of the Deaf (NAD) 2017 Conference will be held in Nebraska. NCDHH is working with Mr. Linsay Darnall Jr. on how to make this successful.

The Commission will be having our last Board Meeting for 2015 on December 11th in Omaha to finalize legislative agenda for 2016-17. Topics will include Hearing Aid Insurance and closed captioning in theaters and pending Federal legislation.

NCDHH will be opening our Kearney office in January, 2016. We will be housed with the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI). Also noting that in August, 2015 we opened our Scottsbluff office. NCDHH is currently interviewing for a part time Administrative Assistant position that will be housed in the Lincoln office. This position will handle the processing of all hearing aid applications and the Nebraska Specialized Telecommunications Program (NSTEP).

This past year, NCDHH worked in collaboration with various Deaf and Hard of Hearing agencies on hosting a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha. The event was a huge success, we will be doing this again in 2016.

Edits for Title 96, regulations and procedures for the practice of sign language interpreters in Nebraska have been approved by the Governor. At this point LB 287 language is still pending approval.

Mr. Wyvill is working with Department of Education, Mr. Gary Sherman and the Attorney General's office on situations involving Child Protective Services (CPS) when asked to go on a school campus and the use of community licensed interpreters. Mr. Wyvill has talked to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on this. There will be more information to follow in the next couple of months.

The Commission Board is wanting to focus on employment for deaf and hard of hearing citizens in Nebraska. NCDHH will be working with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) on this.

- **Advocacy Handbook, Mental Health Training, Ms. Williams**

Ms. Williams gave an explanation of the handbook and how it was developed, which includes various legalities that deaf and hard of hearing consumers face. The handbook is broke down by various components. Within the next seven months, NCDHH will be doing prerecorded webinars that will be posted on our Facebook and website. Ms. Thompson asked for clarification on what a Webinar is. Ms. Davis shared that this a signed, voiced and captioned video that will go into detail on each of the various components that are outlined in the handbook. This will then be posted on our webpage and Facebook page for consumers to view at their convenience. Ms. Williams shared that you can find a copy of the handbook on our website.

- **Meeting Dates for 2016, Ms. Peggy Williams**

Ms. Peggy Williams shared the below dates and locations for the 2016 meetings. She asked the members to please look at their calendars and get back with her on any conflicts. Clarification that the Omaha meetings are held at 1313 Farnam, Room 227 and the Lincoln meetings are held at 4600 Valley Rd, Classroom 4A.

- (Tuesday) February 9, 2016 – Omaha
- (Wednesday) May 11, 2016 – Lincoln
- (Tuesday) August 9, 2016 – Omaha
- (Wednesday) November 9, 2016 – Lincoln
- Omaha location and Lincoln location

- **Field Testing Opportunities, Ms. Peggy Williams**

Ms. Peggy Williams shared with the group regarding information she received from Mr. Pat Bracken with VR. This is a program that is asking for 300 non VR and 150 VR consumers who are deaf and fluent in ASL to take their survey. To sign up for the program you can go to - <http://www.sardiprogram.com/assessments/>. This program is through Substance Abuse Resources & Disability Issues (SARDI) which is a part of Wright University. A question was asked as to whether or not there is an age limit and how to get the word out. Information can be sent to anyone who is Deaf that would be interested in taking the survey. A \$25 gift certificate will be sent to anyone who takes the time to do this survey.

- **Title 96 Rules and Regulations, Ms. Peggy Williams**

Title 96 draft 1 has been approved. Draft 2 will now be sent to the Attorney General's office. This bill requires every sign language interpreter in Nebraska to be licensed, with the exception of education K – 12, and religion. Ms. Barbara Woodhead clarified the educational breakdown. An interpreter can be fined \$500 for every occurrence that they violate. Ms. Thompson asked how this was going to be monitored. Conversation within the group on how the process will work. Ms. Barbara Woodhead noted that it comes back on the sign language interpreter and the business. Ms. Williams also added that the deaf person has the right to ask if the interpreter is licensed. It was noted in the conversation that Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) Companies need to be licensed as well if they are providing remote interpreting in Nebraska. Ms. Bird asked if a deaf person can call NCDHH and ask if a person is licensed. Most definitely, anyone can call NCDHH and inquire about licensed interpreters. This is public information, also noted that this list is posted on our website.

- **By-Laws**

Ms. Williams wanted the group to review the by-laws and see if any changes needed to be made. The Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) consists of 5 members – Counselor Position (3), Human Services Position (2). There was discussion if the Committee could add that technical advisors could have voting rights. Ms. Goracke will do research on this and get back

with Ms. Williams. Ms. Williams asked the group to review the by-laws and bring comments to the next meeting.

The specific topics that were discussed:

- II. B. 3. - Discusses when a member's term has expired. They can continue to serve on the committee until the position has been filled
- III. C. Discusses a quorum, shall be a simple majority (3) of the five voting Advisory Committee Members.

Ms. Williams also gave a re-cap of where NCDHH is at with doing another NET Program. It was initially discussed that the next topic would be on the history of Interpreting. It was reported that due to funding that it would be 2017 before this next program is produced.

Old Business

- **2016 Enrichment Foundation Grant Workshop, Ms. Peggy Williams**

Ms. Williams shared with the group about a grant that was awarded to NCDHH for \$3,500. The money will be used to provide the deaf and hard of hearing community a workshop on understanding issues involving public safety. A definite date has not been set, however, she is looking at April or May of 2016. The name of the workshop will be "Public Safety, Access & Advocacy". Several agencies and presenters have agreed to participate in the training. The presenters include, Mary Hughes from Kansas, the Omaha Police Department, Sarpy County Victim Witness Unit and Kathleen Valle with CHI Health in Omaha. The workshop will be held at Lakeside Hospital in the Swanson Education & Conference Center in Omaha. CHI Health is co-sponsoring the workshop and offered the Conference Center where the location will be held.

Ms. Peggy Williams is working with Ms. Kim Davis on organizing this event. There was conversation on the importance of this type of workshop. Ms. Jill Bird inquired if the workshop would be open to students.

Agency Updates

- **Ms. Jill Bird, Southeast Nebraska Regional Program (SNRP)**

On Sept. 3rd, SNRP hosted an interpreter workshop on Ethical Practices presented by Barb Woodhead. There were 35 in attendance which included interpreters, administrators and teachers.

September 20th a family event was held at Roca Berry Farm with 250 in attendance. It was a collaborative event with the student speech and language group from UNL and the CI and University Sertoma Clubs. A photo and article was featured in the national Sertoman magazine.

A student transition focus activity was held at LSE and will continue on a quarterly basis. Vocational Rehabilitation is included in this activity.

A dinner and interpreted theater show at TADA in October included graduated students now attending college along with 17 high school students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

January 9th is the date set for Mark Keith, who is an outreach specialist at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. Mr. Keith will present to parents and staff in Gretna will present in Kearney on January 10th. He is the parent of a student who is deaf and has additional disabilities. The focus on this training will focus on a "father's perspective". His presentation will have two parts: "Man Laws for Moms" and "Letting Go--Time to Land the Helicopter."

June 1-2 will feature Karen Anderson doing a parent workshop as well as an educational professional workshop on "Social Interaction and Belonging in the Classroom" which will be held in Lincoln.

July 21-22 the statewide interpreter/professional workshop will feature Noah Buchholz.

Currently, we have a statewide team of high school students participating in the National Academic Bowl for Deaf/HH Students in Ohio and if they get to the finals, it will be held at Gallaudet in April!

- **Ms. Jan Goracke, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Behavioral Health**
Ms. Goracke reported that there are two new positions at the Department of Health and Human Services. Deputy Director position was filled by Tamara Gaven from Magellan and Dr. Todd Stull is with Medicaid, Behavioral Health Long Term Care.
- **Ms. Mandy Leamon, Fremont Area Medical Center – Outpatient Psychiatric Services**
The 10 bed inpatient unit at Fremont Medical center will be opening on December 8, 2015. This will include both mental health and substance abuse care.
- **Ms. Lisa Vogel, West Maple Counseling Association**
Ms. Vogel shared that there is a need for extended family home (EFH) workers and community support workers who are deaf or fluent in sign language. If you know anyone that is interested in doing this to please contact her.
- **Ms. Ann Thompson, Heartland Deaf Abuse Advocacy Services (HDAAS)**
Last month HDAAS hosted a chili feed. HDAAS is working on ideas on how to improve the group and expanding their membership. Ms. Thompson also noted that they are planning on having another chili feed in Omaha next year.

Next Meeting - February 9, 2016 in Omaha

Meeting closed at 4:07pm