

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH)

**Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Approved May 7, 2019**

**Date:** January 8, 2019

**Time:** 2pm – 4pm

**Location:** 1313 Farnam, Room 227, Omaha, NE

**Interpreters:** Deb Seiler, Ronda Rankin

**Minutes:** Cindy Woldt

**CART:** Cheryl Rooney on behalf of Exclusive Reporting

**Members Present:** Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Tracey Minto, Ms. Kathleen Valle, Ms. Mandy Leamon, Ms. Lisa Vogel

**NCDHH Staff Present:** Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director; Mr. Cody McEvoy, Advocacy Specialist; Ms. Teresa Hevner, Lead Worker

**NCDHH Staff Absent:**

**Technical Advisors Present:** Ms. Sue Czaplewski,

**Members Absent:**

**Technical Advisors Absent:** Ms. Jan (Loretta) Goracke, Ms. Diane Meyer, Ms. Ann Thompson, Ms. Karen Potter – Maxwell,

**Guests:**

**Meeting called to order:** by Mr. Cody McEvoy at 2pm

Mr. Cody McEvoy, Advocacy Specialist filling in for Ms. Carly Weyers 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 **January 2, 2019** edition of the Omaha World Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation in this state, as required by the Open Meetings Act.

Introductions made with all in attendance.

**Approval of the January 8, 2019 Agenda** – Ms. Vicki Steinhauer made the motion to approve the January 8, 2019 agenda as written, John Wyvill seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Mandy Leamon, Ms. Tracey Minto, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Kathleen Valle, and Ms. Lisa Vogel all voting aye.

**Approval of the August 7, 2018 meeting minutes** – Ms. Vicki Steinhauer made the motion to approve the meeting minutes as written for the August 7, 2018 meeting, Kathleen Valle seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Mandy Leamon, Ms. Tracey Minto, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Kathleen Valle, and Ms. Lisa Vogel all voting aye.

**Approval of the May 8, 2018 meeting minutes** – Ms. Vicki Steinhauer made the motion to approve the meeting minutes as written for the August 7, 2018 meeting, Lisa Vogel seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Mandy Leamon, Ms. Tracey Minto, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Kathleen Valle, and Ms. Lisa Vogel all voting aye.

**Approval of the November 8, 2018 meeting minutes** – Ms. Vicki Steinhauer made the motion to approve the meeting minutes as written for the August 7, 2018 meeting, Mandy Leamon seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Mandy Leamon, Ms. Tracey Minto, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Kathleen Valle, and Ms. Lisa Vogel all voting aye.

## **New Business**

- **Enrichment Foundation Grant** – Mr. McEvoy reported that the grant received was for \$3,500. The intent is to provide an educational workshop on financial security in the Omaha area.
- **Mental Health Advisory Committee Member Vacancy** -- Mr. McEvoy shared with the group that there is one vacancy on the committee. Conversation on what it takes to be a member of the committee.
- **Brainstorm on how to improve the Mental Health Services in Nebraska for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals** -- Cody McEvoy asking if Nebraska has a deaf organization specifically for mental health services. Discussion within the group on the list of counselors who are able to communicate by sign language that Nebraska Commission for the Deaf has listed on their website. Having more information on the list would be helpful.

Kathleen Valle shared with the group, is there a way we can ensure deaf individuals to enter the mental health field? That would be optimal to have a deaf provider. Discussion about speaking to another in their own language, and the need for providing necessary services. Conversation regarding the use of video for mental health counseling and if it is compliant with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Cody McEvoy shared with the group Deaf Counseling, Inc., he believes that this group utilizes video for communication.

Conversation regarding the need for providing needed services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, including the school systems. Mr. McEvoy shared with the group that he just moved to Nebraska from Connecticut, he was working at the New England American School for the Deaf. Mr. McEvoy shared a few of the concerns that he has seen with the mental system.

- **NCDHH Executive Director Report** – Mr. Wyvill
  - Advocacy Specialist in Omaha – Mr. Cody McEvoy has started, and will be assisting in the interim with the duties of Ms. Carly Weyers in her temporary absence.
  - Education Advocate – Ms. Jessica Larrison was recently hired will be based in the Omaha office.
  - Interpreter Program Coordinator – Ms. Sharon Sinkler was recently hired as the Interpreter Program Coordinator who will be based in the Lincoln office.

## **Old Business**

- **Update By-laws** – Mr. McEvoy shared that the group needs to decide if they want to continue with four meetings a year, or to go to two meetings a year.

Lisa Vogle added that she is receptive to having two meetings a year, which would work better with her schedule. Wondering if there is a way to utilize Skype for members to be a part of the meetings. John Wyvill added that we could look into that, it is feasible.

Mandy Leamon added that she has not been able to attend many meetings in the past due to schedule, children, and illness. Asking what is the goal of the advisory committee, or the purpose of the committee. Wanting to know if she can assist more, how can she be more of a part of the committee?

Mr. Wyvill added that Mr. McEvoy could send out communication that cites statute, purpose, for the group to review regarding the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) that is a part of NCDHH. After reviewing this information, the committee can meet and discuss.

Kathleen Valle shared that she appreciates what she is hearing, that there is an increased level of commitment to be a part of the committee. Kathleen Valle added that she would like the committee to stay at meeting four times a year, including the

need to involve technology for those so they do not have to travel.

The group decided to stick with meeting four times a year. Listed below are the meeting dates.

- May 7, 2019 - Lincoln
- August 6, 2019 - Omaha
- November 5, 2019 – Lincoln

### **Agency Updates:**

- **Ms. Teresa Hevner** – NCDHH has had three new individuals recently start, which was talked about earlier in the meeting. Ms. Jessica Larrison is working on getting the Education Task Force up and running again. Ms. Larrison is also working on the Education Summit for 2020. Mr. Cody McEvoy is assisting with Ms. Carly Weyers role during her temporary leave of absence. Also added that Ms. Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist in Lincoln is doing another training with the law enforcement. All of the Advocacy Specialist will be working on getting out into the community for outreach purposes.
- **Ms. Kathleen Valle** – Shared about a group called Project Harmony that does training on how to work with an interpreter. Ms. Valle will share the information with the group by email when she receives information about the upcoming training.
- **Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell** – Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is applying for a grant for students transitioning from school to work.
- **Cody McEvoy** -- This is still up in the air, conversation has started with the Omaha Police Department on the possibility of a scrimmage with a deaf team. This would be a great deaf awareness event.

**Next Meeting** – May 7, 2019 at 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln, from 2p – 4p.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.