

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

Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: November 21, 2017

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Location: 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln NE

Interpreters: Sharon Sinkler, Frances Beaurivage

Minutes: Cindy Woldt

CART: Margaret “Mydge” Heaney / Exclusive Reporting

Members Present: Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Kathleen Valle, Ms. Lisa Vogel

NCDHH Staff Present: Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director

NCDHH Staff Absent: Ms. Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator; Ms. Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist

Technical Advisors Present:

Members Absent: Ms. Mandy Leamon, Ms. Tracey Minto,

Technical Advisors Absent: Ms. Rhonda Fleischer, Ms. Jan Goracke, Ms. Diane Meyer, Ms. Ann Thompson, Ms. Tina Work

Guests:

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

Approval of the November 21, 2017 Agenda – could not be approved due to not having a quorum

Approval of the October 11, 2017 meeting minutes – could not be approved due to not having a quorum

New Business

These items were reported by Mr. John Wyvill in Ms. Carly Weyers absence

- **Jr – National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference** – There were 135 students and advisors from 26 different schools that attended the conference. This was the first conference that was held outside of a school for the deaf. Making it more of a main stream setting. The conference was held in Ashland, NE at Carol Joy Holling. Deaf Town was the theme of the conference, Linsey Darnall, Jonathan Scherling and Carly Weyers made the event successful. The attendees formed their own city called Union City. You can see additional information on the Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD) website

and their facebook page.

- **North Platte / Frontier House** – Ms. Weyers did a presentation at the Frontier House in North Platte, NE about NCDHH Services and deaf culture. The Frontier House has invited her back. Ms. Weyers is working with Ms. Jenny Corum, Educational Advocate and Ms. Brittney Isom, Advocacy Specialist to work with a collaborative venture with the Educational Service Unit to perhaps do a zoo day in Scottsbluff, NE.
- **Educational Summit** – The Educational Summit was held on October 21, 2017 with Mr. John Levy as the presenter. Mr. Levy is from National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID). A lot of good information was presented, that is going to be the springboard for a future conference. Attendees consisted of educators, administrators, and parents all talking about collaborating and how to work together for improved educational outcomes.
- **Nebraska AIDS Project** – Ms. Carly Weyers and Mr. Heath Focken, President of NeAD had a meeting with the Nebraska AIDS Project to see how it can be more accessible for the deaf and hard of hearing. The Nebraska AIDS Project has five offices across Nebraska, they will be providing training on how to work with deaf and hard of hearing clients. They would like to find several deaf actors to sign scripts that they are developing to add to their website. Ms. Weyers would like to develop a survey to see what gaps we need to fill in educating deaf and hard of hearing individuals about AIDS.
- **Executive Director Report from Mr. John Wyvill**
 - Education Task Force has had a number of town hall meetings, they have produced an 87 page report of everybody's comments. The Education Task Force will be meeting twice in December, at these meetings recommendations can be made on how to improve and enhance the education system. Conversation regarding the comments that have been made.
 - NCDHH has new staff members:
 - Mr. Aaron Rothenberger is an Advocacy Specialist in the Kearney office
 - Ms. Teresa Hevner is an Advocacy Specialist in the Omaha office
 - Ms. Pamela Duncan is an Interpreter Program Coordinator
 - Ms. Duncan is working with Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NeRID) in developing a peer review training that will be offered in December, 2017. Also, discussion on working with NeRID on rolling out additional continuing educational units (CEU) training.

- Mr. Wyvill shared that NCDHH is looking at a potential \$19,000 reduction in funds towards the end of this fiscal year, which will go into effect when the legislature meets. NCDHH has been planning for the budget cut, that's the reality of what NCDHH is doing.
- NCDHH is still planning on having outreach activities such as the Omaha Zoo event, Lincoln Salt Dogs Baseball Game. In addition to working with some of our outreach activities to better serve our constituents.
- NCDHH has been working with a number of consumers that have come forward with complaints about healthcare services in the state. Those complaints are apparently because Health and Human Services (HHS) has sent out a memo to providers basically saying that interpreter services is a value-added service. So there are some providers who have interpreters that to mean that you do not have to provide an interpreter in medical settings. NCDHH has been working with the providers in addressing this issue. Then it is a question of explaining to providers that Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) in some instances may not be the most appropriate communication access. NCDHH has had the discussion to encourage clients to file complaints with the risk management folks within the hospitals and also with licensure because the question that we're working on is that it's beyond complying with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). So what's happening is that medical professionals or the officer manager in a clinic or a facility will think if we comply with ADA we're okay. There is not a dispute with ADA and reasonable accommodations. It's about the delivery of appropriate medical care consistent with practice within the State Medical Act, and we're looking at this affecting informed consent, effective communication access, and business practices. Discussion on who pays for the interpreter.
- NCDHH has been working with NeAD, Omaha Association of the Deaf (OAD), and Lincoln Deaf Club in advocating for open captioning for the movie Wonderstruck. Conversation on where the movie Wonderstruck is playing at.

Old Business

- **Law Enforcement** – Ms. Carly Weyers and Ms. Kim Davis are working on developing a survey. The two of them also met with Dr. Brenda Peterson who provides mental health first aid. Dr. Peterson would like to have Ms. Weyers go to several classes with law enforcement to let her explain how deaf and hard of hearing culture works in the classes.

- **National Association of Social Workers (NASW) – NE Webinar** – Ms. Carly Weyers shared about the services that NCDHH offers, and communication needs for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in mental health settings.
- Agency Updates:
 - Ms. Kathleen Valle – Ms. Valle offered a Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) facility to host the spring conference that Mr. Wyvill discussed earlier.

Ms. Valle asked if the national interpreting test was still on hold. Discussion on this.

Ms. Valle shared that in section 50-57 of the Affordable Healthcare Act has said that all healthcare organizations need to be posting the notices of non-discrimination in the entrances and on their websites. CHI has also had a sign language interpreter signing the Notice of Nondiscrimination that is posted on an external website. Mr. Wyvill asked that she forward the link that that NCDHH can post this on their Facebook page.

Ms. Valle is also working with a team on updating the kits that are in each hospital for deaf and hard of hearing patients that are admitted. Ms. Valle has been working with Ms. Beth Ellsworth, Advocacy Specialist in Omaha on deciding if the phones are appropriate.

Shared that there has been a little bit of restructuring at CHI. We were part of the mission integration division, and now we're going to be actually moving over to the nursing division which is really exciting since nurses are like our biggest customer. A number of items are on hold until the new chief nursing office is hired and arrives in December.

Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell asked if CHI is the same as what's here in Lincoln, Omaha and Lincoln are they the same company or different. Ms. Valle explained that under CHI there lots of different hospitals. St. Elizabeth is under that umbrella. As well as in Omaha that would be locations like Creighton, Bergan, Immanuel, Lakeside, and Mercy Council Bluffs, Midlands in Papillion. Discussion on the sign language interpreters that are employed by CHI.

- Ms. Lisa Vogel – nothing to share

- Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell – Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) have had a public hearing. VR is trying to amend the federal law so that VR would have the ability to go through the Order of Selection (OOS). It is called OOS because federal funding is being cut. The new plan in place where you have to select how you provide services for disabled individuals. VR is waiting on approval from the federal government on that amendment. VR will have 3 groups of individuals, they will categorize on order of selection. Initially VR will focus on group 1, the remaining 2 groups will be put on a waiting lists that could be up to a year. VR is working to set in place some contracts to collaborate with different organizations that VR may be able to send individuals needing assistance. These organizations can provide more direct services. There is training involved on what VR's priority is in serving these clients. Most of the time deaf individuals are put in group 2, if they receive social security they are automatically in that group. The staff of VR will have to work with the clients in explaining to the process of being divided into groups.

The meeting ended at ____ pm

Next Meeting – February 20, 2017 at 1313 Farnam, Room 225, Omaha NE, from 2p – 4p.