

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

Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting

Approved January 8, 2019

Date: May 8, 2018

Time: 2pm – 4pm

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

Interpreters: Pamela Duncan, Ben Sparks

Minutes: Cindy Woldt

CART: Margaret “Mydge” Heaney / Exclusive Reporting

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

NCDHH Staff Present: Ms. Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator; Ms. Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist; Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director

NCDHH Staff Absent:

Technical Advisors Present:

Members Absent: Ms. Mandy Leamon,

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 2:01 pm.

Chairperson Ms. Vicki Steinhauer - Campbell 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 May 3, 2018 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 May 8, 2018 Agenda – Ms. Minto made the motion to approve the agenda, Ms. Valle seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Vogel.

Approval of the February 20, 2018 meeting minutes –Ms. Valle made the motion to approve the minutes as written, Ms. Vogel seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Minto.

New Business

- **Trainings**
 - Ms. Weyers shared that she and Ms. Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist have been providing training to the Omaha Police Department. Discussion on the different training that have taken place, and the interest that the training has created.
 - Also doing training at Douglas County Corrections (DCC), that is being done with the recruiters.
 - Ms. Weyers has also been doing training at Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), with various departments under the CHI umbrella. To date there has been seven training completed that last between 30 minutes to an hour.
 - Another is with the Nebraska Coalition Against Violence, this training was with all of the Executive Directors of the shelters in Nebraska.
 - Last month Ms. Weyers was at Bryan School of Nursing speaking to a class.

Ms. Weyers shared with the group to let her know if she can assist with any other training to various facilities.

Ms. Valle added how beneficial that the training has been at CHI. Shared some of the comments that various participants shared with her after the trainings at CHI. The transformation that takes place during the trainings, making this all the more worthwhile. Moving away from us verses them mentality.

- **Full Access in Hospitals** – Ms. Weyers has a training set up for May 12, 2018 at 10am at the Omaha Association of the Deaf (OAD) Hall. This is an open dialogue training for the deaf and hard of hearing communities regarding full access. There is a lot of misunderstandings and misassumptions, regarding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and what your rights are when needing accommodations. Realizing that there has been many barriers, we want to resolve those by educating community, as well as the medical staff at the hospitals. Discussion on what Ms. Weyers will include in the PowerPoint presentation.
- **Wellness Recovery Action Program (WRAP)** – This is scheduled for May 18 – 19, 2018 from 8am – 4:30pm. Ms. Weyers asked the group to please share with any deaf or hard of hearing individuals that might be interested in participating. There is no cost to attend and there will be interpreters present. This is a grant-funded event.

- **NAD (National Association of the Deaf) Conference** -- Ms. Weyers will be attending the conference July 1 – 7, 2018. NAD has decided that their prime focus will be mental health, and expanding mental health services for those that are deaf and hard of hearing.

Ms. Weyers also added that on May 9, 2019 she will be doing training at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha.

- **NCDHH Executive Director Report** – by Mr. Wyvill
 - Budget status of Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH). Discussion on the \$200 million shortfall for the state. NCDHH did not receive any budget cuts.
 - Events coming up
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo is going to be on September 30, 2018. This will be bigger and better than ever. Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD) is looking at having a movie in the IMAX Theater.
 - Education Summit will be in October, the date is not confirmed at this point. Ms. Jenny Corum, NCDHH Educational Specialist is in charge of this event.
 - Ms. Weyers and Ms. Corum have reached out to a Deaf lady in Rochester who is a personal trainer. Would like to have her come to Nebraska in September 2018; hope to have more information out to the public by August 2018. Mr. Wyvill commented that the work with mental health is not just sound mind, sound body. NCDHH is working with the regional programs on having a training on wellness for deaf and hard of hearing middle and high school students.
 - Also putting on a similar program at the YMCA. NCDHH will be meeting with the Chief Operating Officer at the YMCA, on putting together a venture in Lincoln.

CART Provider lost connection to the meeting

Old Business

- **Law Enforcement Taskforce** – Working on developing a video of two officers who have expressed an interest in working with Ms. Weyers and Ms. Davis and Ms. Beth Ellsworth as the hard of hearing individual. The script has been developed for the video. Ms

Weyers and Ms. Davis are waiting to hear from the officers who will be involved in the filming of the video.

CART Provider lost connection to the meeting

Ms. Davis added that she and Ms. Weyers will be sharing the various Power Point presentations to the specific groups that request them for training purposes. Ms. Davis estimated that the Law Enforcement Taskforce is up to 23 participants, coming from all various forms of departments, deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing communities. Discussion on the various participants for the Taskforce.

- **Self-Defense Workshop** – Ms. Weyers added that this event was on April 20 – 21, 2018. With a great turnout in attendance. Ms Weyers gave a recap of what the workshop involved and the training offered. Mentioned that participants are reaching out to find out when the next training will be. Conversation on how to get high school kids involved in the training.

Mr. Wyvill added that NCDHH is looking at finding certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI). Discussion on the necessity of having CDI's in the mental health setting and the healthcare profession. Additional conversation on how to go about finding CDI's to work in Nebraska.

Ms. Valle shared with the group the necessity of using a CDI and the need that is there for advocacy and support to the Deaf individual. Also touched on how the demographics of Nebraska has changed the past two years.

Agency Updates:

- **Ms. Kathleen Valle** – Shared about the trainings that are taking place at CHI with Ms Weyers and Ms Ellsworth doing the training.
- **Ms. Kim Davis** – Shared about the need for educating the public in working with deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
- **Ms. Steinhauer-Campbell** – Reported on the funding, and the reduction towards Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). The new plan in place where you have to select how you provide services for disabled individuals. Added that the VR Director has closed group 1. Meaning that anyone can apply for services, they will be put on a waiting list for services. More information regarding on how long that waiting list will take. Working with various agencies to assist in providing services. This is an unfortunate situation, hoping that the process does not take long.

Ms. Weyers added that she has met with Heartland Deaf Advocacy Services (HDAC). Carrie Darling who came for the training and I with NCDHH is meeting with Nebraska Coalition Against

Violence. Discussion at the meeting about writing a grant to see if Nebraska Coalition could have a new position at their office for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

- **Ms. Tracey Minto** – nothing to report
- **Ms. Lisa Vogel** - nothing to report

Ms. Weyers shared with the group that at the next meeting she would be adding to the agenda to review the by-laws for the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC).

Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell added the Ms. Beth Ellsworth, Advocacy Specialist in the NCDHH Omaha office. The Retirement Party will be on June 5, 2018 from 2p – 4p at the Omaha State Office Building.

Next Meeting – August 7, 2018 at 1313 Farnam on the Mall, Room 227, Omaha NE, from 2p – 4p.

The meeting ended at 2:51 pm