

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

Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: August 16, 2017

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Location: 1313 Farnam, Room 227, Omaha NE

Interpreters: Jenny Corum & Debra Seiler

Minutes: Cindy Woldt

CART: Margaret “Mydge” Heaney / Exclusive Reporting

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

NCDHH Staff Present: Ms. Carly Weyers, NCDHH Behavioral Health Coordinator; Ms. Beth Ellsworth, NCDHH Advocacy Specialist – Omaha; Mr. John Wyvill, NCDHH Executive Director

Technical Advisors Present: Ms. Diane Meyer,

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

Technical Advisors Absent: Ms. Rhonda Fleischer, Ms. Jan Goracke, Ms. Karen Potter – Maxwell, Ms. Ann Thompson,

Guests:

Meeting called to order: by Chairperson, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell at 2:00pm.

Approval of the August 16, 2017 Agenda – Agenda was approved by all present.

Approval of the November 9, 2016 meeting minutes – Ms. Vogel made the motion to approve, and Ms. Valle seconded the motion – approved by all.

Approval of the May 16, 2017 meeting minutes – Ms Meyer brought up the spelling of the Keya House. The spelling will need to be changed on the bottom of page 1, and the top of page 2. Ms. Vogel made the motion to accept the minutes with the noted changes, and Ms. Valle seconded the motion.

New Business

- **NeAD (Nebraska Association of the Deaf) Conference Updates** – Ms. Weyers gave an overview of Conference, including a variety of the different workshops that they had at this year’s event. The dates of the conference was June 1 – 4, 2017.
- **Trip to Western Nebraska** – The first week in August Ms. Weyers and Ms. Jenny Corum traveled to western Nebraska. Ms. Weyers discussed the need for services in that area of the state. Also discussed the shortage of sign language interpreters in the western

part of the state.

- **Vlog** – Ms Weyers gave a recap of the 13 Reason Why that she recently completed. She is looking for more ideas to further her Vlog series. Ms. Weyers welcomed any suggestions from the members of the committee.
- **Executive Director Report from Mr. John Wyvill**
 - NCDHH has a new Advocacy Specialist in Omaha – Ms. Teresa Hevner. Ms. Hevner comes from Northern Colorado University with a degree in audiology.
 - NCDHH has converted our Kearney position to full time. Mr. Aaron Rothenberger is currently in his second week of training.
 - Another new hire is Ms. Pamela Duncan who will be our Interpreter Program Coordinator. Currently Ms. Duncan is part time, will convert to full time in the future. Discussion on what Ms. Duncan’s job duties will be.
 - Ms. Jenny Corum, Educational Advocate is planning for an Educational Summit on October 21, 2017. NCDHH is going to have a speaker by the name of John Levy who is currently working for National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester.
 - Sunday, September 17, 2017 is the annual event at the Omaha Zoo. Stay tuned for announcement on how to get free tickets to attend. Discussion on the events for the day.
 - Ms. Jenny Corum, Educational Advocate is working with the Department of Education to get the word out on the SPOT analysis. This is a series of public hearings to provide feedback to education officials about what is good and what is bad.
 - Ms Weyers is also working with Ms. Kim Davis, Advocacy Specialist in Lincoln on our Law Enforcement Task Force. Mr Wyvill shared the purpose of the Task Force.
 - Captioning at the Nebraska Football Stadium, discussion on the process for making the stadium more accessible to deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Mr. Wyvill and Dr. Peter Seiler, NCDHH Board Member has also met with TD Ameritrade Ballpark and CenturyLink officials with MECA regarding accessibility issues in these two forums. Discussion within the group on the other places that

are also in need of captioning services to make the events more accessible. Discussion was also held on how the captioning would be displayed by a hand held device.

Old Business

- **2017 Enrichment Foundation Grant** – Ms. Weyers shared that she still has some funds left over from the grant, so is looking at hosting a self-defense class. Discussion on finding a gym that would be large enough and have the appropriate accommodations.
- **WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan)** – Ms Weyers gave an update to the group that she has had trouble connecting with the lady at the Keya House. The next meeting date is now set up for August 18, 2017. Ms. Weyers will have more answers for the group after this meeting.

- Agency Updates:

- Ms. Vicki Steinhauer - Campbell, Vocational Rehab – Shared that her new job title is now statewide coordinator, which is a consultant to the VR Counselors. Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell shared what reporting factors that they use to measure hearing loss, etc.

She has gone to the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA) Conference. Shared with the group the type of people who attend this conference and what was discussed.

- Ms. Lisa Vogel – noting to report
- Ms. Kathleen Valle – Ms. Valle shared about the Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act that expands on non-discrimination. Healthcare institutions have to post a nondiscrimination notice and have it translated and then interpreted into 15 different languages to post on their website.

Shared that a few weeks ago some of the leadership at Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), had the opportunity to listen to the experience of a deaf patient and family members. This was very impactful, and out of that CHI is coming up with an educational plan for the organization.

- Ms. Beth Ellsworth, NCDHH Advocacy Specialist / Omaha – Ms. Ellsworth shared that she is working with Ms. Valle and Ms. Weyers on providing training for the hospital staff so that they can provide proper accommodations for deaf and hard

of hearing individuals.

- Ms. Diane Meyer – Hands and Voices with Guide by Your Side they are doing a grandparent and extended family workshop on Saturday. Discussion on what the workshop will consist of.

A day activity that Mike Brummer is planning. They are taking a group of kindergarten through 6th grade to Kearney, NE for a day trip. Ms. Meyer gave a review of what the activities will consist of.

The Northeast Regional Program is working on hosting a dance that will be in Omaha. Ms. Meyer gave the specifics that this event.

Cosmosphere is a space camp in Kansas that the kids go to in October for a week, for grades 7 – 9.

Ms Meyer shared that the calendars that they normally share will be out in the near future.

Discussion within the group on rescheduling the February meeting that was cancelled.

The meeting ended at 2:55pm

Next Meeting – October 11, 2017 at 1313 Farnam, Room 227, Omaha NE, from 2p – 4p.