

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

Approved January 8, 2019

Date: August 7, 2018

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Location: 1313 Farnam on the Mall, Room 227, Omaha NE

Interpreters: Pamela Duncan, Carrie Dalen

Minutes: Cindy Woldt

CART: Margaret “Mydge” Heaney / Exclusive Reporting

Members Present: Ms. Kathleen Valle, Ms. Lisa Vogel,

NCDHH Staff Present: Ms. Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator; Ms. Teresa Hevner, Advocacy Specialist

NCDHH Staff Absent: Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director

Technical Advisors Present:

Members Absent: Ms. Mandy Leamon, Ms. Tracey Minto, Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell,

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

Guests:

Meeting called to order: by Ms. Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator at 2pm.

Ms. Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator 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 July 31, 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 August 7, 2018 Agenda – could not vote due to not having a quorum

Approval of the May 8, 2018 meeting minutes –could not approve due to not having a quorum

New Business

- **National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference** – Ms. Weyers shared that she and Ms. Hevner attended the Conference for a week. She gave a recap of the various workshops that she attended. Specific topics that were shared 1) deaf sex offenders; 2) LGBTQ community members; 3) mental health in the capacity of visual communicators; 4) interpreting. Ms. Valle offered her assistance in collaborating with CHI (Catholic Health Initiatives) Mental Health Providers in getting the surveys out to them.
- **Update Bylaws** – Ms. Weyers added that the last time that the bylaws were updated was 2014. Noting that her job title needs changed to Behavioral Health Specialist. Also added that she wants to change the meeting dates from four to two times a year. Discussion regarding the benefits to changing the number of dates that the committee meets during the calendar year. If the changes were made this would go into effect January 2019.
- **Grants** – Ms. Weyers shared about the Enrichment Foundation Grant, which was the self-defense workshop. There is still some money left from that grant, they will be hosting a wellness event in Lincoln. A person trainer from New York will be presenting at the event.
- **Behavioral Health Website** – Ms. Weyers is working with Ms. Kelsey Cruz, Public Information Officer with the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The two of them are completing some updates on the behavioral health page. Conversation about adding to the list of counselors, psychologists that are able to communicate using sign language. Ms Weyers added that she would request a meeting with who wants to be added to the list, so that she can assure that they can communicate by sign language. Discussion on the four levels of signing skills. Here is the location to the webpage - <https://ncdhh.nebraska.gov/services/behavioral-health>
- **NCDHH Executive Director Report** – Mr. Wyvill was not in attendance. Activities that Ms. Weyers shared.
 - Deaf Awareness Event at the Salt Dogs Game in Lincoln
 - Wellness Event in Lincoln in October
 - Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Appreciation Day
 - Captioned Movies

Old Business

- **Trainings** – Ms. Weyers added that she is providing training reared toward law enforcement, Omaha Police Department, Lincoln Police Department, and Douglas County Corrections. In addition, also have been providing training at CHI Health, hoping to also find other hospitals to provide training to besides CHI facilities.
- **VLOGS** – Ms. Weyers noted that she is getting back to doing Vlogs on a regular basis. Asked is any suggestions, please let her know.

Agency Updates:

- **Ms. Pamela Duncan, Sign Language Interpreter** – Shared with the group that she recently came from the Region 4 RID (Registry of Interpreters) Conference. She had a one on one conversation with the new CEO of RID, currently there is a certified deaf interpreter test being developed. The beta testing will be the end of 2019, or early 2020. Conversation on when the test will be rolled out, and that NCDHH has one Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) on their roster, however he resides in MD.
- **Ms. Kathleen Valle** – July 1, CHI rolled out a department cell phone that is carried 24 hours a day that is solely for the dedicated use for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind population. This is the one number that they can communicate with on what their needs are.

Ms. Valle also mentioned that Ms. Weyers and Ms. Beth Ellsworth had recently completed some training at CHI where they also videotaped to be able to share with the employees who were unable to leave the floor during the training.

- **Ms. Lisa Vogel** - nothing to report

Next Meeting – November 6, 2018 at 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln NE, from 2p – 4p.

The meeting ended at 2:45pm.