

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

**Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Approved on November 5, 2019**

**Date:** August 6, 2019

**Time:** 2pm – 4pm

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

**Interpreters:** Ben Sparks, Victoria Deuel

**Minutes:** Cindy Woldt

**CART:** CART Services of ERI / Mydge Heaney

**Members Present:** Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Kathleen Valle, Mr. Ben Clancy, Ms. Lisa Vogel

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

**NCDHH Staff Absent:** Mr. Cody McEvoy, Advocacy Specialist

**Technical Advisors Present:**

**Members Absent:** Ms. Tracey Minto, Ms. Susan Adams,

**Technical Advisors Absent:** Ms. Diane Meyer, Ms. Karen Potter - Maxwell

**Guests:**

**Meeting called to order:** by Ms. Vicki Steinhauer - Campbell at 2:05pm

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 July 30, 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.

Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell shared with the group that we needed to go back to the January 8, 2019 meeting minutes to make changes on who seconded the agenda approval for the meeting due to Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director seconding the motion and he is a non-voting member. Ms. Kathleen Valle shared that we could change the minutes to reflect that she seconded the motion on January 8, 2019 for the approval of the agenda. It was decided that the group did not need to vote on this matter.

**Approval of the May 7, 2019 meeting minutes** – Ms. Lisa Vogel made the motion to accept the May 7, 2019 meeting minutes as written. Ms. Kathleen Valle seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Kathleen Valle, Mr. Ben Clancy and Ms. Lisa Vogel all voting aye.

## **New Business**

- **Introduce new members:**
  - **Mr. Benjamin Clancy** – Mr. Clancy shared that he is a full-time mental health therapist, mainly working with adolescents and young adults. Shared that he has a background working with the deaf population when he was a cottage coordinator at a residential facility in Wyoming.
  - **Ms. Susan Adams, representative from Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)** – Ms. Adams was not present for the meeting.
    - **Explain the purpose of the committee** – The Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) was established in 1995. MHAC has five committee members; three are counselor positions and two are human services positions. In addition the committee has a representative from DHHS, which is Ms. Susan Adams, and also Mr. John Wyvill who is the Executive Director from NCDHH. The Committee also has a few non-voting members that are Technical Advisors representing the sign language interpreting field, along with the educational programs. The MHAC group meets quarterly to discuss how we can improve mental health services for deaf and hard of hearing Nebraskan's. The Committee generally alternates the meeting locations between Lincoln and Omaha.
- **Update the new members on recent meeting topic of improving mental health services for the deaf and hard of hearing population** – This was discussed in detail at the previous MHAC meeting on accessible services for the deaf and hard of hearing community, and what counselors are available. Also added that NCDHH will be hosting a workshop for deaf and hard of hearing consumers. Also discussed updating the NCDHH website listing mental health providers that work with deaf and hard of hearing individuals?
- **NCDHH Executive Director Report** – Mr. John Wyvill
  - **Legislation**
    - **LB15 is the hearing aid insurance for kids** – This bill passed on the last day of the legislature. It will be implemented in 2020 providing insurance

for certain large corporations to provide mandated insurance coverage.

- **LB248 to change the language for “hearing impaired” in all state statutes** – This bill was pushed by Nebraska Association for the Deaf (NeAD). We are thrilled that this bill passed also.
- **Budget process** – Mr. Wyvill added that we did very well considering the environment, we were allowed to keep all of our money that was not spent. We were also fortunate that we did not have any funding cut.
- **Agency report**
  - Ms. Teresa Hevner, Lead Advocacy Specialist in the Omaha office is moving back to Colorado. She has been given the opportunity to go back to school to be an audiologist. NCDHH will start advertising for this position next week.
  - Ms. Carly Weyers, Behavioral Health Coordinator will be returning from her leave of absence on September 2 or 3.
  - Mr. Wyvill shared the agency working with various medical facilities to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing individuals are getting their needs met. The agency is encouraging deaf and hard of hearing consumers in how to advocate for themselves.
  - On September 22, 2019 we will be having our Omaha Zoo Day. We will have 300 free tickets to hand out.
  - Hands and Voice is working on an event with the University of Nebraska Football player, Honas. On September 15<sup>th</sup> they will be hosting an event where you can meeting the player at Memorial Stadium.
  - In September we are also doing a zoo event in Scottsbluff
  - In the fall we are hoping to do an event involving the movie Silent Natural, which is the story about the real life of Dummy Hoy.

Ms. Kathleen Valle asked about the comment that was made regarding getting individuals to advocate for themselves when they are in a medical facility. Ms. Valle asked if it was possible to have a card to give to these individuals to give to the medical providers to make this process easier. Ms. Teresa Hevner replied that we already have these cards, and that she would work with our Public Information Officer to tailoring these to the medical facility. Ms. Valle also

shared that Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) has cards to give to the patients that has a phone number that is specifically for them in case they have any issues. Adding that we could give these out in addition.

## **Old Business**

- **Purpose of the Committee** – This was discussed earlier in the meeting
- **Mental Health Advisory Committee vacancy** – Executive Director Wyvill shared that NCDHH is needing to fill the position for a Human Services Position to replace Ms. Steinhauer – Campbell who has been serving since 2009. Also that Ms. Vogel will be termed out in September, 2019.

## **Agency Updates:**

- **Ms. Kathleen Valle and Mr. Benjamin Clancy** – Recently had our one year anniversary of implementing the cell phone that was set up for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind clientele. In this time we have had about 100 different requests.

CHI has also implemented a baby cry signaler that has been used a couple of times. Ms. We will begin working on having a baby cry signaler in each of the facilities that have babies born at.

Deaf Awareness month or week is coming up in September. CHI for the first time are going to try a dual educational campaign around that. Items discussed will be the baby cry signaler and the cell phone set up for this use. In addition will also be sending out a video that is 2 – 3 minutes long that is from National Geographic on reading lips.

CHI will be presenting each facility with a kit that can be used for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Ms. Valle added that every month that her team goes out and educates all the other departments. We will be using deaf awareness month to be educating on section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act.

CHI hosted Ethics on the Big Screen that was put on by the ethics department. They showed the video about reading lips, and they watched the documentary 'Through Deaf Eyes'. Ending with a panel discussion that Kim Davis, NCDHH Advocacy Specialist from Lincoln participated in, along with several others. There was probably 150 to 200

people across the state and into Iowa that took part in this.

- **Ms. Vicki Steinhauer – Campbell** – Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) will be having a task force meeting this Thursday with NCDHH and NeAD, we typically meet four times a year. Shared that she recently met with the program team directors regarding removing the language ‘hearing impaired’ from their policies and procedures. VR still has a wait list, the order of selection. Not much has changed here since our last meeting. Our pre-employment transition counselors are working with the high school students giving them the opportunity to get into various colleges.
- **Ms. Teresa Hevner, Lead Advocacy Specialist** – Shared that she and Mr. Cody McEvoy have been working on the Enrichment Grant for this year. We are partnering with CHI, hosting the event on November 9, 2019 at the Lakeside facility focusing on financial health.

**Next Meeting** – November 5, 2019 at 4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A from 2p – 4p.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.