

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Full Commission Board Meeting – September 13, 2013 – Approved December 13,  
2013**

**Lincoln Medical Education Partnership, Classroom 4A  
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Chairperson Steven Manning called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.**

**B. Roll Call**

Members present were Mr. Michael Brummer, Mr. Dillard Delts, Ms. Amy Kasch, Dr. Carol Lomicky, Mr. Steven Manning, Dr. Jan Moore, Ms. Diane Muelleman and Ms. Margie Propp. Absent was Ms. Eileen Dakan. Staff members present were Ms. Peggy Williams, Interim Director and Ms. Lori Burrage, Business Manager. Interpreters were Ms. Lorelei Waldron and Ms. Anne McBride.

**C. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Mr. Manning asked for acceptance of the agenda. Ms. Williams asked to add two items under New Business; J.5., NSTEP Program and J.6., NCDHH Administrative Assistant position. **Mr. Dillard Delts made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Ms. Propp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**D. Acceptance of the Minutes**

**1. Full Commission Meeting – June 14, 2013**

Mr. Manning asked for acceptance of the June 14, 2013 minutes. Mr. Delts asked to amend F. 2., to read the Board discussed the Open Meeting Act and understood that email voting is a violation of the Act. **Dr. Lomicky made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. Muelleman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**E. Business Manager's Report**

**1. General Ledger and Carryover Funds**

Ms. Burrage distributed copies of the carryover fund plan. Dr. Moore asked why promotional items were purchased in June with an unapproved logo. Dr. Lomicky asked where the logo came from and who approved it. Both agreed the Board made it clear at the June meeting the staff was to use to use existing marketing items over the summer. New marketing would be purchased when the new logo was approved. Dr. Moore asked the record to show the totes, pens and sticky note pads were not approved by the Board. Discussion was held.

**Mr. Brummer made a motion to close the meeting at 9:07 a.m. for the Executive Director candidate meeting. Dr. Moore seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr.**

**Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Mr. Brummer made a motion to open the meeting at 10:31 a.m. Ms. Propp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, absent; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Carryover fund discussion continued. Ms. Burrage reported Ms. Williams contacted several agencies in the Kearney area regarding office space for filling the part-time Field Rep position. The agencies indicated they do not have space available. Ms. Burrage and Ms. Williams felt filling the part-time Field Rep position should be postponed until the new director is hired. Additional funding could be requested during the next budget cycle for opening a Kearney and Scottsbluff office. Ms. Burrage stated due to recent staff turnover, expanded staff travel would be difficult to accomplish. Those funds were shifted to expanding print and radio advertising statewide. Telephone demo equipment has been updated in all three offices and additional headsets for the loop systems have been purchased. **Ms. Propp made a motion to accept the carryover fund and budget proposals. Mr. Brummer seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

## **F. Executive Director's Report**

### **1. North Platte/Omaha Field Representative Position**

Ms. Williams reported both Field Rep positions have been filled. Ms. Heather Pucket was hired in North Platte. Ms. Pucket worked for Health and Human Services previously and started on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Williams is working with the community college in North Platte and Southeast Community College in Lincoln to get sign language classes set up through distance learning. Mr. Brummer and Dr. Moore suggested contacting the University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) as they offer two full time classes. Ms. Brenda Chappell has been hired for the Omaha position and will start on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Chappell has a master's degree in Deaf Education from Gallaudet.

### **2. Advertisements – KLIN**

Ms. Williams reported on the radio announcement being broadcast during Husker football games. Ms. Williams would like to have a booth at all the home games next year. Mr. Brummer suggested having an announcement on the big screens during the games.

### **4. Board member handbook**

Ms. Williams stated the handbook is outdated, she has started making changes to it. Mr. Delts and Ms. Williams will continue updating the handbook and present it to the Board for approval.

## **G. Chairperson's Report**

### **2. LB 39**

Mr. Manning recommended postponing this until the new director is hired. Mr.

Delts disagreed stating updates are needed now. Senator Haar needs be contacted to see if he will still support the bill. Mr. Delts asked the Board to approve for him and Ms. Williams to continue working on the bill. Ms. Williams provided information from Lincoln Public Schools on their opposition to the bill which is keeping the bill from moving forward. Ms. Williams and Mr. Delts recently met with Disability Rights Nebraska and received some good ideas. **Ms. Propp made a motion to continue work on LB 39. Dr. Lomicky seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

### **I. Old Business**

#### **1. Presentation of Appreciation Awards to Departing members of the Interpreter Review Board: Gary Theiler and Bob Deaton**

Mr. Manning presented an award to Mr. Bob Deaton for his service on the Interpreter Review Board from 2007 to 2013.

### **G. Chairperson's Report**

#### **3. NCDHH Logo**

Ms. Propp asked that photos of the new director and staff are used when brochures are updated. Ms. Burrage stated she and Ms. Williams discussed contracting with Boys Town to update the Commission website videos with the new director. Dr. Moore clarified the information provided at the June meeting regarding the new website developed by UNK was incorrect. Dr. Lomicky agreed, stating she contacted Dr. Nanette Hogg at UNK and Dr. Hogg agreed with a few changes it is workable. Ms. Williams reported that Nebraska.gov is willing to work with us on implementing the website but there would be a cost involved. Nebraska.gov staff was willing to come to the meeting today, however, Ms. Williams thought this was on hold until the new director started. **Dr. Moore made a motion to approve the new logo. Dr. Lomicky seconded the motion.** Ms. Propp requested multiple ideas to choose from. Ms. Propp started there are many great artists in the Deaf community and suggested having someone from the Deaf Community develop a logo. Mr. Manning suggested adding a thin white line to distinguish the faces and the wording should be in all caps. Dr. Lomicky stated this was not just a small class project it was an entire semester that would cost \$23,000 to \$25,000 if done by a private company. Dr. Moore agreed the students put a lot of thought and expertise into the project. Discussion was held. **Dr. Moore amended the motion to approve the new logo with modifications as needed, for example, capitalize the word access and adding a white line to separate the faces from the words. Dr. Lomicky seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, no; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, no; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, no. Motion passed with four votes in favor and three against the motion.**

### **I. Old Business**

#### **2. Approval of Proposed Rules and Regulations for Interpreter Licensure**

Ms. Williams reminded the Board that QAST will end on December 31, 2015. Dr. Moore asked why the date was changed from December 31, 2014. Ms. Williams stated Dr. Pete Seiler changed the date. Ms. Propp stated when she brought her high school diploma to the office she was told that higher education degrees or transcripts were also accepted. She asked the staff to notify interpreters of that change. Ms. Williams stated she sent out the letter asking for the high school diploma when she discovered it was lacking in the interpreter files. After receiving complaints, she contacted the Attorney General's office who determined a higher education degree or transcripts were acceptable.

Mr. Brummer asked to add Nebraska Regional Programs under acceptable training listed on pages 21 and 28. The Regional Programs have four to five annual trainings that focus on educational interpreting but free-lance interpreters also could benefit. Ms. Williams noted the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) is not recognized in the rules and regulations.

Mr. Delts asked to change the word impairment on page 10. Ms. Muelleman stated a person with a hearing loss is more appropriate. **Mr. Delts made a motion to change the wording on page 10 to a person with a hearing loss and add Nebraska Regional Programs on pages 21 and 28. Mr. Brummer seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Mr. Brummer made a motion to close the session at 12:56 p.m. for the Executive Director candidate meeting. Ms. Propp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Mr. Brummer made a motion to open the session at 2:49 p.m. Ms. Kasch seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Ms. Propp made a motion to offer the Executive Director position to Mr. John Wyvill with a salary of \$70,000 per year with a requirement to take sign language instruction within the first year of employment. Dr. Lomicky seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Dr. Lomicky left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.**

Approval of proposed rules and regulations for interpreter license discussion continued. Ms. Williams requested the Board review and approve the changes proposed by the Interpreter Review Board. **Ms. Propp made a motion to accept the revisions to the current rules and regulations for interpreter licensure pending checking on the correct date, December 31, 2014 or December 31, 2015.**

**Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

### **3. Board Terms Ending**

**Dillard Delts**

**Amy Kasch**

**Dr. Carol Lomicky**

Mr. Manning reported three members have terms ending on January 31, 2014. Mr. Delts has served six years and is not eligible for another term. Ms. Kasch will not seek a second term. Dr. Lomicky will seek a second term. Mr. Delts and Ms. Kasch agreed to serve until their replacements are found. Ms. Burrage will send out announcements to the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Interpreter organizations. The announcement will also be sent out through the E-Communicator and posted on the Commission website.

### **J. New Business**

#### **1. Approval of NCDHH Employee Termination Policy**

Mr. Delts reported he developed a termination policy after a recent termination. After a review by State Personnel and Employee Relations, a disciplinary policy was developed to replace the termination policy. Mr. Delts distributed that policy to the Board. Discussion was held. **Ms. Muelleman made a motion to table discussion on whether or not a termination or disciplinary policy separate from the NAPE and State Personnel Rules policies is needed. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

#### **2. Approval of the Nebraska VR Focus Groups, 2013**

Ms. Williams reported this report was the result of focus group meetings lead by Mr. Ben Sparks. Ms. Williams met with VR to discuss some of the issues including trust, communication and ADA. **Mr. Brummer made a motion to approve the report as submitted. Ms. Propp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

#### **3. MHAC appointment**

Ms. Williams stated Ms. Lisa Vogel applied to serve on the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) which would fill one of two vacancies. **Mr. Delts made a motion to accept Ms. Lisa Vogel to serve on the Mental Health Advisory Committee. Mr. Brummer seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

#### **4. Commissioners Service Award Nominations**

Mr. Delts nominated Dr. Pete Seiler, Dr. Donita Mains and Ms. Tanya Wendel for this award and presented a list of IRB members from 2002 through 2012 that have not been recognized for their service. Discussion was held. **Ms. Propp made a motion to table discussion on the service award nominations. Ms. Kasch seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch,**

yes; Dr. Lomicky, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes.  
**Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

## **I. Old Business**

### **5. NSTEP Program**

Ms. Williams reported there is concern within the Deaf community that NSTEP allows only one cell phone per household. The Deaf community would like the Board to support a change to the language that would allow two cell phones per household. Mr. Gene Hand stated the issue would be taken to the Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS) committee for review. Ms. Muelleman and Dr. Moore supported cell phones for two adults but not children or teenagers. Discussion was held. **Mr. Brummer made a motion to write of letter to the Public Service Commission in support of changing legislation for two qualified adults per household to receive cellular phones. Ms. Propp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, no; Dr. Lomicky, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, no; Ms. Propp, yes. Motion passed with four votes in favor and two votes against the motion.**

### **6. Administrative Assistant**

Ms. Williams recommended filling the Administrative Assistant position as permanent part-time. Ms. Williams stated the number of walk-ins in the Omaha office has increased significantly. **Ms. Kasch made a motion to change the Administrative Assistant from temporary part-time to permanent part-time. Dr. Moore seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Brummer, yes; Ms. Dakan, absent; Mr. Delts, yes; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, yes; Ms. Propp, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.