

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Full Commission Board Meeting – June 10, 2011 – Amendments approved 9/9/2011
Panhandle Office Complex - 4500 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, NE
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (MT)

Chairperson Mr. Dillard Delts called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

B. Roll Call

Members present were Mr. Dillard Delts, Ms. Amy Kasch, Dr. Carol Lomicky, Mr. Steven Manning, Dr. Jan Moore, Ms. Susan Petersen. Absent were Mr. Cliff Carlson, Ms. Diane Muelleman and Dr. Ray Meester. Staff attending was Dr. Peter Seiler, Executive Director and Ms. Lori Burrage, Business Manager. Interpreters were Ms. Margie Propp and Ms. Lorelei Waldron.

C. Acceptance of Agenda

Mr. Delts asked for acceptance of the agenda. Dr. Seiler asked to add F.10., Acceptance of Review Board members. Mr. Delts asked to remove G.3., Commission Staff Performances. Ms. Petersen asked to add a Hands and Voices report under J. New Business. **Ms. Petersen made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Dr. Lomicky seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

D. Acceptance of Minutes

1. Full Commission Meeting – 3/11/2011

Mr. Delts asked for acceptance of the minutes. **Mr. Manning made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Petersen seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

F. Executive Director's Report

1. Approval for Re-appointment to Telecommunication Relay Services Advisory Committee (TRS), all terms ended January 31, 2011

Dr. Seiler recommended separate motions, one for approving the NCDHH Representative and one for approving the remaining members. Mr. Delts stated he is willing to continue serving on the committee but encouraged other members to serve if interested. Ms. Kasch agreed to serve on the committee. **Mr. Manning made a motion to appoint Ms. Kasch to represent NCDHH. Ms. Petersen seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Dr. Lomicky made a motion to accept the reappointment of Mr. Arthur Nelson, Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson and Mr. Albert Sparks. Mr. Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr.**

Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. Report on Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD) Employment Quorums

Dr. Seiler reported he served as an advisor for developing the quorums addressing employment issues that impact the Deaf community. Mr. Manning distributed a report with a breakdown of the issues identified by the attendees. Dr. Seiler stated Mr. Mark Schultz from Vocational Rehabilitation attended the meetings and he plans to meet with Mr. Schultz to follow up on these issues.

3. Deaf Blind Grant

Dr. Seiler reported the FCC is offering a grant that every state can apply for to help deaf blind people obtain access to the internet and advanced communication services. It is a two year period, offering a minimum \$50,000. The Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired requested that Dr. Seiler apply for the grant. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is interested but doesn't want to complete the paperwork. According to the Helen Keller Institute, there are five to seven new deaf blind people identified annually, however, only about three would qualify as low income. Dr. Seiler asked for direction from the board to either continue researching the grant or drop it. Dr. Moore asked who currently works with deaf blind people. Dr. Seiler responded NCBVI and assumes this project would be a collaborative effort with them. **Mr. Manning made a motion to continue researching the grant. Ms. Petersen seconded the motion.** Dr. Moore asked for clarification if the motion meant to research the implications of receiving the grant or actually filling out the application. Mr. Manning stated it would be all inclusive. Dr. Seiler stated he feels it would be just researching the grant not filling out the application. Dr. Seiler will get final approval from the board before proceeding with filling out the application. **Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

Dr. Seiler requested the minutes show that Mr. Jerry Wilson from Scottsbluff is a visitor.

4. Budget Update and Approved Spending Plan

Dr. Seiler stated the proposed spending plan includes funding for continued mass mailings and increased staff travel. The TV advertising was not successful; the ad was too short and went by too quickly. The mass mailings have been successful based on the phone calls received and the number of people attending the town hall meeting last night. Dr. Seiler suggested having a town hall and board meeting in North Platte in the future. Ms. Beth Ellsworth and Dr. Donita Mains have increased their travel statewide and started three new hearing loss support groups in Hastings, Grand Island and Kearney. The number of county fair booths has been increased which will increase travel expenses. The proposal does not include carryover funds from this fiscal year, a separate proposal will be emailed for approval after June 30th. **Dr. Lomicky made a motion to accept the proposed spending plan for FY 11 – 12. Mr. Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

5. LB 39 Update and Action

Dr. Seiler informed the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) that the board rejected their proposed language changes. NDE has requested a definition of an interpreter. Dr. Seiler and Ms. Barbara Woodhead developed a definition that needs the board's approval. The Interpreter Review Board (IRB) has recommended proceeding with the bill without NDE's support which needs Board approval. **Dr. Moore made a motion that no further negotiations need to take place and to move forward with LB 39 and to proceed with meeting with senators in order to prepare for the next legislative session. Mr. Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, abstain. Motion passed with five votes in favor and one abstention.**

7. Report on FCC Internet Access Meeting

Dr. Seiler reported he forwarded an email from the state communications director commenting on the meeting. Internet services in Western Nebraska is the biggest concern.

8. Report on new Hearing Loss Support Groups

Dr. Seiler reported Ms. Beth Ellsworth and Dr. Donita Mains have established three new support groups in Grand Island, Hastings and Kearney. Dr. Seiler thanked Dr. Lomicky for helping set up the support group meeting in Kearney. Dr. Lomicky stated she feels there has been confusion since meeting with Dr. Moore and Ms. Ellsworth in May. Dr. Lomicky saw an ad in the newspaper about a support group meeting so she contacted Dr. Mains. Dr. Mains stated it had been on her to do list so she decided to just go ahead with it. Dr. Lomicky attended the meeting that was held at an assistive living facility, only three people attended and one left in the middle of the meeting. Dr. Lomicky was disappointed that the support group seems to be for just the elderly population. She feels there needs to be support for the working population and parents since there is little support in central Nebraska currently. Dr. Moore stated after they met with Ms. Ellsworth, they felt they had a plan for meetings to start in the fall at the University of Nebraska, Kearney (UNK) to involve working people. They have professors at UNK that are interested in attending. Both agreed that retirement and assistive living facilities need assistance but they had a different target audience in mind when meeting with Ms. Ellsworth. Dr. Seiler apologized for the miscommunication and will follow up with Ms. Ellsworth and Dr. Mains. He was not aware that UNK had been offered and suggested having additional meetings in the evening at a neutral location. Ms. Kasch stated she is interested in getting something started in Omaha as well.

9. Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST) Discontinuation

Dr. Seiler reported the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has been providing the QAST testing materials but will discontinue that as of January 1, 2015. The Interpreter Review Board (IRB) suggested only accepting Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) certified interpreters for licensure but the state would lose some interpreters. The State of Texas has their own testing tool, BEI, and now the issue is if RID is as good as the BEI. IRB recommended establishing a task force to study the issue and suggested a set group of people to serve on the task force. Dr. Seiler feels a representative from the Hearing Loss of America Association (HLAA) should be added to the group. Ms. Petersen stated she would like to serve on the task force. Mr. Manning

stated the recommendation states at least two but feels that some of the groups only need one rep. Dr. Seiler responded this is only a recommendation from IRB; the board can change it however they see fit. **Ms. Petersen made a motion to establish a task force to determine how interpreters will be assessed and licensed. The task force will consist of at least two representatives from each of the following: Interpreter Review Board, Interpreter Issues Committee, Nebraska RID, Nebraska Association of the Deaf, Deaf/Blind Community, Oral/Deaf Community and HLAA. Mr. Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

10. Interpreter Review Board members

Dr. Seiler requested reappointment of Ms. Barbara Woodhead and Ms. Vickie Steinauer-Campbell whose terms end in June. Both are eligible to serve one more term. **Ms. Kasch made a motion to reappoint Ms. Woodhead and Ms. Steinauer-Campbell for an additional three year term. Dr. Lomicky seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

G. Chairperson's Report

1. Executive Director's Evaluation

Ms. Petersen made a motion to close the meeting at 11:21 a.m. to discuss the Executive Director's performance evaluation. Mr. Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Ms. Petersen made a motion to open the meeting at 12:22 p.m. Ms. Kasch seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Dr. Lomicky made a motion based on the annual review of Dr. Pete Seiler, the board approves to increase Dr. Seiler's salary 1.5% effective July 1, 2011 as a show of support for his hard work at the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the past two years under difficult budgetary constraints. Mr. Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. Board Member Handbook Update

Mr. Delts provided an update for the board member handbook and goals for 2011 – 2012, he developed.

H. Subcommittee Discussion

Mr. Delts asked for updates. The subcommittees have not been meeting since changing the full commission board meetings from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and having no chairperson chosen to head the subcommittees. Dr. Moore stated it is difficult to make additional trips to Lincoln or Omaha for subcommittee meetings and

asked for alternative methods to meet. Ms. Petersen agreed it is difficult meeting during the day due to her work schedule. **Ms. Petersen made a motion to table subcommittee discussions until the board decides how to deal with meetings outside of the full board meetings. Mr. Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Carlson, absent; Ms. Kasch, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Meester, absent; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Petersen, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

H. New Business

1. Hand and Voices Report

Ms. Petersen asked to defer the report.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:18 p.m. (MT)