

Interpreter Review Board Meeting
November 21, 2008
1:00pm-3:00pm
4600 Valley Rd
Conference Room 4A

A. Call to Order:

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board was called to order at 1:05pm at the NCDHH office in Lincoln, NE. Board Members present: Ms. Tanya Wendel-TW, Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson-TN, Mr. David Montgomery-DM, Mr. Gary Thieler-GT, Mr. Bob Deaton-BD.

Interpreters: Ms. Sharon Sinkler and Ms. Lori Beard and Ms. Peggy Williams

Absent: Ms. Barb Woodhead-BW, Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff-KB, Ms. Vickie Steinhauer-Campbell-VS

Public attendees: Mr. Art Nelson

Staff: Ms. Traci Cooney

B. Approval of Agenda:

a. Additions to the agenda:

Ms. Tanya Wendel recommended adding under old business, “compliance review”.

Mr. David Montgomery recommended adding letter B under new business, “changes in bylaws”. Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson explained that if possible, maybe holding less than 4 meetings a year would work until topics arise to warrant more meetings.

Motion to approve agenda as amended.

[TW,BD,TN,DM,GT]

C. Approval of minutes:

a. September 5, 2008 Minutes

i. Motion to approve minutes. [DM/BD/TN/GT/TW]

D. Public Comments

a. None

E. Old Business

a. Licensing Legislation

i. Ms. Wendel provided an update on the licensing legislation. In the previous meeting it was discussed to introduce in current session

and make changes by broadening the scope. The legislative committee under NCDHH didn't want to make the changes. The received the feedback from this committee and some of those members were unhappy due to they wanted the wording to encompass "all public entities". The wording "healthcare providers and healthcare facilities" were their recommendations. Mr. David Montgomery stated that using those terms, they will need to be defined as they are not in the statute already.

Ms. Wendel stated that the Commission members would like someone from this board to take this bill forward. It was recommended that maybe Ms. Barb Woodhead would be interested. Ms. Wendel will follow up with Ms. Woodhead. Ms. Richardson-Nelson agreed to assist Ms. Woodhead with this. Mr. David Montgomery discussed that Nebraska has a Uniform Credentialing Act. This bill could use the specific providers and facilities as listed in that Act. He stated that if you don't want to state all of the providers and facilities listed, reasoning for why you would chose some and not others will need to be defended. Ms. Richardson-Nelson recommended using the wording from the Americans with Disabilities Act. Discussion ensued on which to go with.

- ii. Recommendation: This committee recommends that the legislative committee review the requirements of ADA for public entities and consider incorporating those into the existing sign language interpreter laws in order to assure that Nebraska is in compliance with the ADA.

[TW/GT/Passed/DM abstain]

Discussion ensued regarding date changes and such throughout the document, date would be dependant on when it was brought before the Legislature.

Ms. Wendel pointed out a few other changes that have been made to the document.

20-156.6 – discussion on any persons providing interpreting services without a license may be retained.

20-156.4 – added video remote interpreting company. Mr. Montgomery recommended that the Video Remote be in it's own category.

- iii. Motion that the Review Board made recommendations to the legislative committee.

[TN/TW/Passed/DM abstain]

- iv. Motion to go into closed Executive session at 1:59pm.
[DM/BD/Passed]
- v. Motion to return to open session at 2:10pm
[DM/BD/Passed]
- vi. At the return to Open session, Ms. Lori Beard left and Ms. Peggy Williams arrived.
- vii. Motion to move to authorize individuals to go investigate a potential violation. Individuals include Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson, Chairperson, and Ms. Beth Ellsworth, NCDHH Field Representative, to conduct the investigation.
[TW/GT/Passed]

F. New Business

- i. Replacement of NCDHH Director, Ms. Wendel, on this board.
 - 1. Ms. Wendel mentioned the hiring process for the Director position within NCDHH. The position will be posted on November 21st at 5pm and run through December 31st.
 - 2. Ms. Wendel asked who this board would like to see appointed to fill the seat on this board until a new Director is hired. Mr. Montgomery stated that statutorily, the Director has the authority to designate someone. Discussion ensued regarding appointing a staff member versus changing the bylaws and having a new Director hired before the next meeting. Mr. Montgomery stated that someone needs to be named during this meeting, even if they can't participate yet.
 - 3. Ms. Wendel recommended Norm Weverka, Field Representative with NCDHH. This was accepted by members.
- ii. Meeting time changes
 - 1. Ms. Richardson-Nelson asked that instead of 4 meetings per year, is it possible to drop to 2 or 3 per year since regulations are done and other such time consuming events. She recommended that if something arises, a meeting would be called. Mr. Deaton asked to table the idea until the next meeting due to needing to get a Director hired. Mr. Montgomery stated that he would like to stay at 3 or 4 per year as there is a certain "bonding" among members that needs to be done to effectively maintain this board. Mr. Deaton agreed that new members will probably benefit from meeting more often due to keeping up on the situations.

2. Ms. Richardson-Nelson asked to remind members of what the meeting schedule for next year, with 4 dates, will be.
 - a. February 6, 2009 1p-3p Lincoln
 - b. May 1, 2009 1p-3p Lincoln
 - c. August 7, 2009 1p-3p Lincoln
 - d. November 6th, 2009 1p-3p Lincoln
- iii. Mr. Deaton asked how NCBVI would stay within regulations if they need interpreters in Detroit for a state agency client and NCBVI would be the paying entity. Ms. Wendel and Mr. Montgomery agreed the need to check with the Attorney Generals office as it should be the state in which the assignment takes place would govern.

G. Announcements

- i. Ms. Richardson-Nelson thanked Ms. Wendel for her years of service. She stated that Ms. Wendel made this board successful and thanked her for her hard work. Ms. Wendel thanked the members and stated that she feels this board will carry forward with everything. She stated that she is pleased that there is a new licensed interpreter each month. Mr. Montgomery wished Ms. Wendel well with a standing ovation.

Meeting adjourned 2:40pm