

Interpreter Review Board Meeting  
February 1, 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 1:03pm at the NCDHH office in Lincoln, NE. Board Members present: Ms. Tanya Wendel-TW, Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson-TN, Mr. David Montgomery-DM, Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff-KB, Mr. Bob Deaton-BD, Ms. Barb Woodhead-BW.

**Interpreters:** Ms. Frances Beurivage and Mr. Hugh Prickett

**Absent:** None

**Public attendees:** Mr. Art Nelson, Ms. Kayla - Student

**Guest:** Ms. Dala McNew

Staff Assistant: Ms. Traci Cooney

Everyone introduced themselves.

**B. Approval of Agenda:**

Ms. Tanya Wendel requested to add the approval of November 2, 2007 minutes to the list of minutes to approve under item 3 on the agenda.

Motion to approve agenda as amended.

[TW/BW/Motion Passed]

**C. Approval of minutes:**

a. March 23, 2007

i. Motion to approve minutes. [BW/TW/Motion Passed/BW abstain]

b. September 21, 2007

i. Motion to approve minutes. [BW/DM/Motion Passed/BW and BD abstain]

c. November 2, 2007

i. Motion to approve minutes. [KB/BW/Motion Passed/DM and BD abstain]

**D. Public Comments**

a. None

**E. Old Business**

a. Compliance Review Letter Response

- i. Ms Tanya Wendel discussed previous discussions regarding the use of Licensed Interpreters. After speaking with Mr. Charles Lowe, the first item was to define what “state entity” is. An email was sent to members stating what this definition is. Second item was about during medical situations. It was determined that if police/law enforcement are called into a medical situation, it is the officers responsibility to make sure the interpreter being used for their purposes is licensed. Even if they need to call another interpreter in to finish the assignment. Ms. Wendel also discussed with Mr. Lowe the cease and desist letters. Mr. Lowe stated that NCDHH does have the ability to send such letters to persons.
- ii. Mr. Bob Deaton expressed his concern regarding the use of licensed interpreters in rural areas of the state. There are not many interpreters in the central to western parts of the state. He feels that this legislation is making it more difficult for deaf in these communities to obtain an interpreter. Mr. David Montgomery replied that there are several entities that are in place to help advocate for those deaf persons. The role of this board is to ensure minimum quality service.
- iii. Ms. Dala **McNew**

b. Regulations Update

i. Intermediary Interpreters

1. Ms. Wendel discussed the need for deaf interpreters in the community.

c. Election of Officers

- i. This item is on hold due to not having a quorum.
- ii. Mention was made that Ms Larsen is no longer a member due to her being a Commissioner on the Full Board. Ms Woodhead is a new member to this board. With Ms Larsen gone, there is not a current Vice President.

d. Meeting schedule

- i. A meeting schedule was discussed for future Review Board Meetings. The meetings will be held the first Friday of February, May, August, and November. The meetings will be 1p-3p and alternate between Omaha and Lincoln.

**F. New Business**

a. Monitoring

- i. Discussion ensued surrounding the issue of NCDHH being able to monitor state agencies to see that they are using licensed interpreters.
  1. Ms Wendel recommended starting a Task Force made up of members from this board. This task force would work on the issue of agencies not using licensed interpreters. Ms Wendel mentioned that many agencies say “what happens

if we don't use a licensed interpreter?" Discussion ensued that a memo may be passed on without being read by agencies. Maybe sending a check list or something. Mr Montgomery volunteered to be part of this task force. Ms Wendel stated that she will discuss with Ms Woodhead if she could participate.

b. Mentoring

- i. Ms Kaika discussed ideas to help new interpreters to build better skills. She also discussed about getting more deaf interpreters involved with interpreting.
  1. Ms Kaika proposed to accept QAST 1 for licensing. Then they would have to do a certain number of hours to gain CEUs each year and those must be documented and proven. The goal of this is to help QAST 1 and 2 holders gain more practice interpreting. They would also join the mentoring program to seek improvement. Ms Wendel stated that this board recommends to the Full Board to open the regulations. After discussion it was decided that this board will deter the idea to discuss with the Full Board and probably not open the regulations for another year, if changes are needed. In the mean time, Ms Kaika recommends that NCDHH require QAST 1 is to go through the mentoring program. This will keep them training. They are also able to accept other community jobs without a license. Ms Wendel recommended to let the Full Board look at this requirement.
    - a. Ms Wendel made this a recommendation and Mr Montgomery seconds that recommendation.
  2. Ms Kaika discussed the need to get deaf Interpreters licensed. She discussed that deaf interpreters are being used in the community at the current time and they haven't begun the certification process. We need a way to get deaf interpreters to sign up for the certification process. Money and payment for the process was discussed as an issue for not getting licensed. Ms Brakenhoff recommended that this require grant funding. Ms Wendel made a proposal that once deaf interpreters become certified, they go to the Full Board and recommend that only Licensed interpreters be referred to jobs.

**G. Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be held in the Lincoln office on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1p-3p.

Meeting adjourned 2:36pm

