

Interpreter Review Board Meeting
May 2, 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, Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff-KB, Mr. Bob Deaton-BD, Ms. Barb Woodhead-BW, Mr. Gary Thieler-GT, Ms. Vickie Steinhauer-Campbell-VS.

Interpreters: Ms. Sharon Sinkler and Ms. Lorelei Waldron

Absent: None

Public attendees: Mr. Art Nelson

Staff: Ms. Traci Cooney

B. Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Bob Deaton suggested moving the public comments section further into the meeting and add another towards the end of the meeting. He feels that public persons may want to comment after hearing discussion throughout the meeting instead of right after approval of agenda. Some members agreed that persons would probably have other comments later into the meeting. It was mentioned that open meeting law says a person is able to comment at any time and the board would recognize the option.

Motion to put Public Comments as item 7 on agenda.

[DM/TW/Motion Passed]

Motion to approve agenda.

[TN,VS,GT,KB,BW,DM,BD,TW]

C. Approval of minutes:

a. February 1, 2008 Minutes

i. Motion to approve minutes. [BD/KB/DM/TW/BW – GT/VS
abstain]

D. Public Comments

a. None

E. Old Business

a. Licensing Roster Updates

- i. Ms Tanya Wendel spoke in place of NCDHH staff that was unable to attend. Tanya Wendel handed out a new Licensed Interpreter Roster so that members of this board can stay updated on anyone who has been added to the roster. She also stated that there have been a few persons who have moved to the state and received licenses.
- ii. Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson asked for clarification on how the NCDHH policies work. She asked if NCDHH has 2 separate lists and Ms. Wendel replied yes. Ms. Richardson-Nelson asked if a person must register with NCDHH if they receive a license. Ms. Wendel explained that NCDHH must retain a license list. This is separate from being on the referral list. An interpreter cannot opt to not be on the license list but can opt with the referral list. Ms. Richardson-Nelson stated that there may be a lack of communication between Omaha interpreters and NCDHH. She stated that some Omaha interpreters have expressed concern that they can only work for state agencies if they are on the NCDHH referral list. Ms. Traci Cooney explained that this is not correct. As long as the person is licensed, they can accept state agency work without NCDHH referring it to them. Ms. Cooney works with agencies that have their own contracts. In this case, NCDHH does not know which interpreters have or haven't signed that contract so NCDHH isn't able to refer interpreters to them in the same way as any other agency.

F. New Business

- i. Ms. Tanya Wendel mentioned that reports and such will be sent to members at least a week in advance of meetings. Ms. Wendel explained the compliance review that had been sent to each member. Ms. Wendel calculated that 304 letters were sent and 174 responded equaling a 55% response. Ms. Barb Woodhead asked if this was response to the first sent or first and second sent. Ms. Wendel wasn't able to answer this question at the time. She thought it was the first and second combined. There was further discussion on whether mail was sent interoffice or regular mail. It was asked what to do about the 45% who didn't respond. Ms. Wendel shared examples of responses that NCDHH had been given. Some agencies asked "to be removed from NCDHH list". There were no others who responded that need cease and desist letters sent to them. Ms. Wendel handed copies of a few letters around to members to use as an example for what types of responses NCDHH is receiving. Mr. Bob Deaton asked what to do and who to refer to if an issue is brought to this board regarding someone out of compliance. Ms. Wendel stated that NCDHH will reply to those issues.

- ii. Discussion ensued regarding Video Remote Interpreters needing a Nebraska License. Ms. Wendel stated that she was told by the Attorney Generals Office that the regulations are clear that they must have a Nebraska license. Discussion also ensued regarding the need for interpreters in other parts of the state. NCDHH will ask the State Communications to look into adding sign language to their options for persons to call in and use the language line. NCDHH will look into surrounding states with licensing regulations and see how they go about using Video Remote Interpreting in other states.
- iii. Ms. Tanya Wendel asked if this board should deal with concerns brought to it or should there be a smaller group of individuals. It was decided to set up a smaller group of three persons from this board to investigate the complaints, bring back to the full board. This group will consist of Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff, Mr. David Montgomery, and Mr. Bob Deaton. Discussion ensued regarding when each persons term would be up on this sub-group. It was decided that the group would be re-nominated at the end of one year. The name of this group will be the Complaint Investigation Committee.

b. New Licensing Board Members

- 1. Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson welcomed the two new members, Ms. Vickie Steinhauer-Campbell and Mr. Gary Theiler, to the Interpreter Review Board. Explanation of when and where meetings are held was done.
 - a. Mr. David Montgomery summarized why there was a need for the regulations. Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson explained why it is hard for the deaf community to accept and deal with the change. She explained that in time it will be accepted by the deaf community.

G. Public Comment – None

Meeting adjourned 2:36pm

Mr. Bob Deaton excused early at 2:25p. Next meeting will be held in the Lincoln office on August 1st from 1p-3pm.