

Interpreter Review Board Meeting
September 5, 2008
1:00pm-3:00pm
4600 Valley Rd
Conference Room 4B

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, Ms. Vickie Steinhauer-Campbell-VS.

Interpreters: Ms. Jamy Elker and Mr. Hugh Prickett

Absent: Mr. Bob Deaton-BD, Ms. Barb Woodhead-BW, Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff-KB,

Public attendees: Mr. Art Nelson

Staff: Ms. Traci Cooney

B. Approval of Agenda:

a. Additions to the agenda:

Ms. Tanya Wendel reminded everyone that Mr. Bob Deaton suggested adding a second Public Comments section towards the end of the meeting.

Ms Barb Woodhead arrived at 1:10pm.

Ms. Tanya Wendel suggested adding an Announcement section to the agenda also.

Motion to put Public Comments as item 7 on agenda and Announcements as item 8.
[BW/TW/Motion Passed]

Motion to approve agenda as amended.
[TN,VS,GT,BW,DM,TW]

C. Approval of minutes:

a. May 2, 2008 Minutes

i. Motion to approve minutes. [DM/TW/BW/GT/VS]

D. Public Comments

a. None

E. Old Business

F. New Business

- i. Ms. Tanya Wendel handed out a sheet that listed the requirements for awarding CEUs. NCDHH is a RID sponsor so they can approve CEUs. Ms. Wendel stated that issues had been brought up in a previous meeting with another committee. Ms. Wendel thought this committee would be the right group to discuss this issue and she can take comments or a decision back to the other committee. The issue is how many CEUs to award if someone leaves early. Currently, NCDHH is able to break up CEUs according to how long an interpreter attended.

Ms. Barb Woodhead mentioned that sometimes the workshop or lecture may only be half day that the interpreter would attend, sometimes it is the entire day. When it is half day, the morning and afternoon topics are usually different from each other. Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson asked Mr. David Montgomery if there is a similar procedure among the nursing community. Mr. Montgomery answered that in the healthcare field, the splitting up of CEUs is not done. If a person doesn't attend the entire event, they don't receive any CEUs. Ms. Richardson-Nelson agrees with this practice.

Ms. Wendel also discussed whether NCDHH should send out the hours in advance they can earn. This would be content specific. Ms. Woodhead gave the idea to send something stating that "to earn (amount of CEUs) you must attend (#) hours. If unable to attend, contact (charge person)."

Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff arrived at 1:45pm.

- ii. Ms. Wendel handed out green sheets that were copies of a Licensing legislative draft. Ms. Wendel explained that there is a Coalition of deaf organizations that want to add content to the bill. Deaf persons want to see medical settings and public entities. Ms. Wendel asked this board for input. Mr. David Montgomery commented that he foresees a huge resistance to this proposal. He advised to be ready for a lot of lobbying and opposition that this will create from healthcare organizations and such if the list is extended or too wordy. Ms. Richardson-Nelson recommended to make it narrower and get that passed and then work on broadening the scope.

Discussion ensued regarding the wording for this. Changes were made. Ms. Wendel will present this to the other groups.

- iii. Discussion ensued regarding licensed interpreters used on VRI/VIS in the State of Nebraska. Ms. Wendel stated that this would be some type of way for the state to control the use of competent interpreters within the state. This will only pertain to use in state mandated agencies. Members discussed charging a company licensing fee to the VRI providers to ensure properly

qualified interpreters are used that satisfy Nebraska's licensing requirements.

- iv. Ms. Bard Woodhead asked that Ms. Wendel send an email to members stating the language added to the bill and language including the VRI charges.

Motion to put language in the legislative bill to include companies that provide VRI services

[VS/BW/Passed]

Motion to include language to broaden entities to include healthcare facilities, healthcare providers, and social security agencies.

[TW/KBF/Passed/DM abstain]

Ms. Wendel asked if members wanted to include penalty language. Ms. Richardson-Nelson stated that if too much is added, it may not get passed. Discussion ensued regarding whether to add language or not. Mr. Montgomery stated that it is fairly important to add the penalty language now. He stated that the new penalty language needs to refer to agencies not interpreters. It was discussed on whether to have the penalty be a fine of not more than \$500, a misdemeanor, or civil penalty.

Motion to include penalty language that establishes a fine of not more than \$500 for state agencies and employing entities required to have licensed interpreters.

[BW/TW/Passed]

Motion to develop a Good Samaritan clause for emergency situations

[TW/KBF/Passed]

G. Public Comments

- a. None

H. Announcements

- a. Ms. Wendel handed out a flier that listed Deaf Awareness Week activities. She asked that they spread the word and hopefully attend.
Ms. Vickie Steinhauer-Campbell stated that she and Melinda Brown have discussed starting a group in Lincoln to be involved with community events. This won't be until next year.
Ms. Richardson-Nelson mentioned that there will be a Healthcare Fair at Creighton on September 24, 2008.

Meeting adjourned 3:16pm