

Interpreter Review Board Meeting
November 2, 2007
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 1:06pm at the NCDHH office in Lincoln, NE. Meeting was paused to wait for a member to arrive.

Meeting resumed at 1:14p.

Board Members present: Ms. Tanya Wendel-TW, Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson-TN, Ms. Barb Woodhead, Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff-KB.

Interpreters: Ms. Jamy Elker and Mr. Hugh Prickett

Absent: Mr. Thomas Zimmer-TZ, Mr. James Bonesteel-JB, Mr. Bob Deaton-BD, Mr. David Montgomery-DM

Public attendees: Mr. Art Nelson

Guest: Ms. Dala McNew

Staff Assistant: Ms. Traci Cooney

Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Approval of Agenda:

Unable to approve the Agenda and previous Minutes due to not enough members attending this meeting. Ms. Tanya Wendel recommended that the current meeting be treated as a work session. Members agreed.

C. Public Comments

- a. There were no public comments.

D. Old Business:

- a. Meeting schedule and members
 - i. Discussion ensued concerning future meetings and current board members. It was decided to ask the Full Commission Board to send letters to Mr. Thomas Zimmer and Mr. James Bonesteel asking if they are able to commit to the meeting schedule and if not, asking them to resign. This recommendation was made by Ms. Tami Nelson and all other members in attendance agreed. It was also discussed that when new members come on the board, they will be explained in great importance what the expectations for being a member would be.

E. New Business

- a. Tracking proper use of Licensed interpreters.
 - i. Ms. Dala McNew present several letters that were developed to send to interpreters and agencies. Discussion ensued on what types of language to use in the letters and what process to send letters. It was discussed whether to send the letters to all agencies or a separate letter to agencies that are said to not be using Licensed interpreters when they are suppose to. It was discussed to send a letter to the interpreter performing that specific assignment reminding them that there is a licensing process and would they be interested in obtaining a license. Ms. Tami Nelson stated that it should be the agencies responsibility to make sure they use Licensed interpreters and not the interpreters responsibility. Ms. Kelly Brakenhoff and Ms. Tanya Wendel agree that interpreters share some responsibility in these situations.
 - ii. Ms Barb Woodhead recommended making quarterly reviews of agencies that are to be in compliance with the licensing rules and regulations.
Recommendation: to inquire with colleges who are state institutions and a second inquiry to the Attorney Generals office to determine if private Universities are required to use licensed interpreters if they receive state appropriations. (Made by TW/Second by TN)
It was decided that all state agencies will get a letter asking them to reply with which interpreters are on their list to see if they are in compliance. If they are not, a letter will be sent back to let them know who isn't licensed. The second letter will also direct them to the NCDHH website where they can periodically check to see if they are up to date with the list of license interpreters. It was decided that the inquiry letters can be sent out by November 9. Responses will be needed back by December 10. These dates were chosen in order to get done by Christmas break for the Universities.
 - iii. A recommendation was made for the committee to determine a letter to be sent to seek informal letter sent from Attorney Generals office in regards to hospital settings when it changes to legal.

F. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held in the Lincoln office on February 1st from 1p-3p.

Meeting adjourned 2:47pm

