

Interpreter Review Board Meeting
September 21, 2007
1:00pm-3:00pm
4600 Valley Rd
Conference Room 401

A. Call to Order:

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board was called to order at 1:11pm 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.

Interpreters: Ms. Lorelei Waldron and Mr. Hugh Prickett

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

Public attendees: Mr. Art Nelson

Guest: Ms. Rayni Kaika

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. Discussion ensued concerning future meetings. It was decided that the scheduling of meetings will be the staff assistant sending email to members regarding their attendance. Members reply to this email with they will or will not be able to attend, allow a two-week reply period. Two weeks prior to the meeting, the staff assistant will email a reminder to members.

C. Public Comments

- a. There were no public comments.

D. Old Business:

- a. Licensing Roster
 - i. Ms. Wendel handed out a roster of Licensed interpreters to the attending members.
- 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.

E. 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.

F. Next Meeting

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

Meeting adjourned 2:36pm