

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting
2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Date: November 16, 2010

Location: 4600 Valley Rd, Lincoln NE, Conference Room 4A

Interpreters: Lorelei Waldron and Ben Sparks

Members Present

Jackie Prater

Vickie Steinhauer-Campbell

Technical Advisors Present

Jill Bird

Ann Thompson

Staff Present

Peggy Williams

Peter Seiler

Norman Weverka

Traci Cooney: Minutes

Gather, Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Williams called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and introductions were made. Committee members introduced themselves and their representation to the committee.

Approval of August 17, 2010 Minutes

Ms. Williams asked if there were any changes to be made to the August 17, 2010 minutes. No changes were recommended.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with one addition made by Ms. Williams under new business, 2. G. Statewide Community Summit and Appreciative Inquiry on Effectively Treating Acoustic Trauma in the Military.

New Business

A. 2011 MHAC meeting dates

Ms. Williams announced that the 2011 Meeting dates have been scheduled for the following dates: February 15 in Omaha (classroom E), May 17 in Lincoln (4-A), August 16 in Omaha (classroom E) and November 15 in Lincoln (4-A). All meetings will be from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Ms. Williams stated she will email the dates to members that were not present for today's meeting.

B. NCDHH Executive Director Report

Dr. Seiler provided updates regarding the new licensure bill that NCDHH has been working on. He stated he has met with the Department of Education, Neb. Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NeRID) and would meet with Neb. Association of the Deaf soon. He stated that NeRID are in support of the bill. Dr. Seiler explained that if passed the bill would require interpreters to be licensed by NCDHH in order to provide interpreting services in the state of Nebraska. There will also be language regarding the use of VRI interpreters and licensure for those interpreters. Currently, NCDHH is researching what VRI agencies are available and making contact with

them regarding Nebraska licensure. Ms. Thompson stated she does not feel based on experience that VRI should be recommended for medical situations.

Dr. Seiler provided information on the types of trainings that NCDHH staff has been providing on how to work and effectively communicate with persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

C. Lincoln Interpreter Technical Advisor

Ms. Williams stated that Ms. Lori Beard has agreed to step down from her position as a Technical Advisor and allow someone else the chance to serve because of her busy schedule and unable to attend all of the meetings. Her replacement will be Ms. Lorelei Waldron.

D. Heartland Deaf Abuse Advocacy Services (HDAAS) Technical Advisor

Ms. Williams introduced Ms. Ann Thompson as a new Technical Advisor representative HDAAS. Ms. Thompson stated that HDAAS is meeting every 2 months. They just completed applying for non-profit status so they can hold fundraisers.

E. 2011 Enrichment Grant

Ms. Williams asked the committee for training suggestions as she was going to begin writing a grant for 2011 funding through the Omaha Enrichment Foundation. There was discussion on having Dr. Ron Lybarger and Dr. Tom Haley provide training together on various aspects of deafness and hearing loss related to mental health services. Ms. Williams stated the deadline for submitting the grant is December 1st. Ms. Bird stated that she sees a lot of deaf young adults who transition from teen to young adult and lack resources for mental health services and recommended something be set up according to this need.

F. 2011 CLAS Grant

Ms. Williams explained the workshop for healthcare/behavioral health professionals will be held on Friday, April 22, 2011 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM at BryanLGH Medical Plaza in Lincoln. She stated that the speakers have been set up and will address topics on ADA, culturally appropriate services and use of sign language interpreters in the medical/behavioral setting.

G. Statewide Community Summit and Appreciative Inquiry on Effectively Treating Acoustic Trauma in the Military

Ms. Williams announced that NCDHH is working on an event to be held on Nebraska Educational Television focusing on veterans that have returned home from the Iraqi/Afghanistan war and now experience a hearing loss. This event would be shown on the NET network several times over a 6 month period. Mr. Weverka stated he was approached by a young local UNL police officer who went to Iraq and now is suffering with a hearing loss. He would like to be part of this event. Since this is in the beginning planning stages, Ms. Williams will report more definite plans for this program at the next meeting.

Old Business

A. 2010 Enrichment Grant

Ms. Williams stated that \$1,539.65 carryover funds from the 2010 Enrichment Grant that the Foundation would like for the Commission to spend. She asked if anyone had ideas on projects that the funds could be used for to please submit suggestions to her by Thanksgiving. Discussion was held regarding using the funding to provide advocacy training for HDAAS at the YWCA.

B. State Plan/Community Mental Health Block Grant

Ms. Williams and Dr. Seiler attended the August 12, 2010 State Advisory Committee on Mental Health services to offer public comment on the State Plan Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. A handout of Ms. Williams's public comment was provided to committee members. At this time Ms. Williams stated she is working with Jim Harvey with H&HS and will keep members informed about the State Plan.

Agency Updates

Ms. Jackie Prater informed the committee that her new job title with Child Guidance is Supervisor for the outpatient program and Clinical Supervisor for the day treatment program. Ms. Prater stated that she has been given approval to provide counseling services to Deaf adults.

Ms. Williams reported that Ms. Yodogawa-Campbell has been promoted to a new position at the YWCA as the Volunteer Coordinator.

Ms. Jill Bird presented the following information about the four Nebraska Regional Programs: The Regional Programs keep track of all program participants each year. Last year, Rhonda Fleischer, State Liaison, reported that there were a total of 2,076 participant entries for 2009-2010. In addition to statewide and local activities, there are a number of upcoming trainings for parents, students, and educational staff, including interpreters. Some of these include a December seminar with Donna Sorkin from Cochlear Americas, an assessment workshop presented by Robert Frantum-Allen planned for June 2011, EIPA workshops and skill shops, and a two-day educational interpreter workshop led by Gary Sanderson scheduled for June 27-28, 2011. The Regional Programs are planning a March trip to Washington D.C. for Close Up with 22 Nebraska high school students. This particular week of Close Up will host students who are deaf or hard of hearing from across the entire country.

Next Meetings

February 15, 2011 – Omaha – 1313 Farnam on the Mall, classroom E.

The meeting adjourned at 3:03PM