

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

**Date:** May 17, 2011

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

**Interpreters:** Arthur Trexler and Ben Sparks

Minutes: Traci Cooney

**Members Present**

Mandy Leamon

**Technical Advisors Present**

Lorelei Waldron

Ann Thompson

Jill Bird

**Staff Present**

Peggy Williams

Dr. Pete Seiler

Norm Weverka

**Gather, Welcome & Introductions**

Ms. Williams called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Ms. Williams welcomed Ms. Lorelei Waldron who has been appointed as a technical advisor representing the Lincoln area interpreters. She is replacing Ms. Lori Beard.

**Approval of November 16, 2010 Minutes**

Ms. Williams asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes. Due to not having a quorum, the minutes will be reviewed and approved at the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Williams added “Quarterly Report” under new business. No additional agenda items were added.

**New Business**

**Executive Director’s Report**

LB 39 Interpreter Licensure Bill

Dr. Seiler provided updates regarding the new licensure bill that NCDHH has been working on. He explained that Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) requested language be added to define what an interpreter does. He stated that NCDHH does not agree with the recommended wording that NDE wants added to the bill. Dr. Seiler has met with the Nebraska Association of Health Care and the Nebraska Hospital Association about the bill. The Hospital Association also had suggestions for language they want added to the bill. He stated that the bill would not be passed this year; however, it would be reintroduced in the next 2 year cycle.

**QAST Update**

Dr. Seiler reported that Kansas will no longer offer QAST certification and testing as of 2015. They will be accepting only RID certification. NCDHH will look into other testing tools to use after 2015 such as the BEI which is system that is used in Texas. He feels that there still needs to

be a state assessment.

Discussion was held about EIPA. Dr. Seiler said that there was one interpreter in North Platte and one in Chadron with an EIPA. He was not aware of their rating. Ms Bird suggested that Dr. Seiler contact Rhonda Fletcher at NDE and she would provide him with their EIPA scores. Also discussed were concerns about getting interpreting services in smaller communities such as York.

Dr. Seiler mentioned that there is an oral interpreter in Iowa and stated that this person might come to Nebraska and provide a training workshop to Nebraska interpreters.

### **Treatment Facility Training**

Ms. Waldron recommended that when NCDHH receives request for interpreter services in mental health settings, those referrals could be given to Ms. Williams to be a part of the referral process and to also contact the facility/program about setting up cultural/language training for their staff or provide information on resources available. Concerns were addressed about needing to have release of information forms signed as well as Federal privacy laws that might prevent this from working. Ms. Williams will discuss this further with Dr. Seiler.

### **Training/Awareness**

Ms. Williams updated members on the 2011 presentations she has made. Ms. Williams stated she has been working with shelters in the Panhandle area to set up training for their programs. She explained that due to schedules and vacations the director would like to schedule the training by using Skype. Ms. Williams will keep members updated on the status of these trainings.

### **Old Business**

#### **Program Updates**

Hearing Loss in the Military – Ms. Williams reported that she was very happy with the results of the broadcast. She stated that there were approximately 40 people in the audience. The program is still on the NET website if anyone is interested in seeing the broadcast.

Delivery of Health Care Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Medical and Behavioral Health Setting – Ms. Williams explained that she received \$951 from the CLAS Coalition through Region V Services to have this workshop. Bryan LGH Hospital co-provided the workshop. 88 people registered to attend, however, 69 medical and behavioral health professionals actually attended. Dr. Pete Seiler, Dianne DeLair with Nebraska Advocacy Services and Barbara Woodhead. Ms. Williams received phone calls the next day from attendees requesting more information and additional training.

#### **WCA Web Access**

Ms. Williams stated that she was directed to use the remaining funds from the 2010 Enrichment Grant instead of returning it to the Omaha Foundation. This money was used to provide Women's Center for Advancement (WCA) in Omaha to interpret and open captioned the 10 programs on their website. Mary Hughes for Overland Park, KS was contracted with to provide the signing for the web. This project was made possible with assistance from Boys Town National Research Hospital LIED Center. She stated that this website should be running by the

end of June.

#### 2011 Enrichment Foundation Grant

Ms. Williams stated that she will begin working on the grant and the workshop will be held in September at the LIED Center in Omaha. She will provide an update at the next meeting.

#### Agency Updates

Ms. Waldron informed the committee that Nebraska RID did not have a conference this year; however, there are plans to have a web class on subjects such as medical, among other areas.

Ms Jill Bird provided several updates:

The Regional staff met in April for the Annual Planning Meeting. The regional programs discussed ways they can be of even more value to school districts for educational support. Ms. Bird attended a PepNet National Summit on school-to-work transition services. She provided discussion on how schools in California have an entire semester of soft skill training to help with job retention and growth. Lincoln Public Schools has a program for 18-21 year old students that is housed in the high schools, but many other states have their programs housed in community colleges so students feel they have moved on to the next chapter in their lives. PepNet's focus is on post-secondary outreach and support for deaf or hard of hearing students. They have many programs that begin in middle school to help students explore their strengths, interests and personalities.

Teammates has recruited their first deaf man and he has completed all of the training. He will be matched with a deaf student in the fall. They are planning to present to the CI Sertoma Club to promote interest in other adults with hearing loss that might be interested in becoming a teammate in Lincoln Public Schools. Melinda Brown and Maureen Mann will hold a workshop this fall in connection with a dance for students and the workshop focus will be the social skill awareness connected to today's technology and media.

A statewide educational interpreter workshop will be held June 27-28, in Lincoln. The focus will be on the interpretation of assessments and the presenter is Donald Gibbens from Boston, MA. Camp Anderson will be held for secondary students at Camp Kitaki in July. There are 68 students registered. SNRP will host a zoo day camp for elementary students from June 20-24th. There will be a storytelling festival for children in grades 3-6 in September. Matt Daigle, a well-known deaf cartoonist in the deaf community will fly in from California to promote this year's theme of literacy through cartooning. A parent and professional workshop will be held June 10-11th in Aurora. The presenters will focus on assessments and how to understand the process and results.

Mr. Weverka talked about the smoke alarm program in Lincoln and stated here are still more available to distribute. He stated that the NCDHH Field Reps will be doing a lot of booths and fairs this year. Mr. Sparks is providing a lot of public relations work and NCDHH has received many calls regarding the equipment program. NCDHH also plans to work with the Public Schools to ensure they are doing what is needed for deaf and hard of hearing children.

Ms. Thompson stated that Melinda Brown is no longer connected with the program. Ms. Deb Weyers is now president and Ms. Candice Arteaga is vice president of the Heartland Deaf Abuse Advocacy Services (HDAAS)

Dr. Seiler informed members that there will be a walk on June 4<sup>th</sup> across the Pedestrian Bridge in Omaha. He also informed the committee that NeAD is holding forums on employment issues pertaining to the deaf. May 14<sup>th</sup> the meeting will be held in Lincoln and May 21<sup>st</sup> it will be held in Omaha. He reported that he spoke to the Westside Public Schools on the use of interpreters and that the NeAD biennial reunion will be held on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2011 in Omaha. The meeting will be held at the State Office Building, 1313 Farnam on the Mall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in classroom E.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.