

# NCDHH

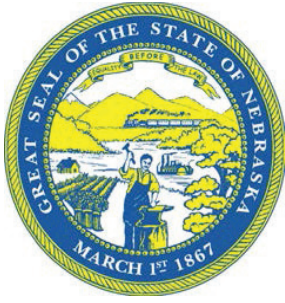
Nebraska Commission  
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Communication - Advocacy - Equal Access



## ANNUAL REPORT 2013



As a proactive and reactive state agency, the Commission strives to enhance collaboration by creating support, cooperation, and understanding to achieve fairness and equality in all aspects of the mainstream for all Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans.



# STATE OF NEBRASKA

## NEBRASKA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

March 19, 2014

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RE: 2013 Annual Activities Report

Enclosed is the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's annual activity report for 2013. Our mission is to bring a higher quality of life to the estimated 156,000 Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens of Nebraska. We primarily address communication barriers since effectively acquiring and communicating information are the greatest barriers faced by individuals with hearing loss.

The Commission's 2013 highlights include:

- Retirement of Executive Director, Dr. Peter Seiler
- Hiring of Mr. John C. Wyvill to serve as Executive Director
- Production of "Living with Hearing Loss", a televised program discussing hearing loss, coping strategies and today's technology
- Development of workshop for interpreters working with Deaf-Blind consumers
- Approval of new NCDHH logo
- Enhanced interpreter evaluation using the Quality Assurance Screening Test

This year, national attention was brought to Nebraska in the case of *Michael Argenyi vs. Creighton University*. 'After a four year legal battle, a federal judge ordered Creighton University to provide captioning and interpreters so that Michael Argenyi can, at long last, complete his medical education.' [www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org)

Our other roles include advocacy and the promotion of increased accessibility to services statewide. The Commission serves as a clearinghouse of information for hearing loss related matters. The number of requests for information, interpreter referrals and equipment programs continues to increase. Since we are a service-oriented agency, we also respond to questions from other agencies regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws that impact Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans and those who serve them. We make every effort to continue our public service commitment to the State of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Mr. Steven Manning  
Chairperson

Enclosure: (1) Annual Activities Report

*An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer*



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## Statutory Authority

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was created by LB 101 in 1979 by the Nebraska Unicameral. The duties and responsibilities of the Commission can be found in revised statutes sections 71-4728 - 71-4728.05 and sections 20-150, 20-151, and 20-156, 2004.

## Agency Vision

As a proactive and reactive state agency, the Commission strives to enhance collaboration by creating support, cooperation, and understanding to achieve fairness and equality in all aspects of the mainstream for all Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans.

## Agency Mission

The mission of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is to promote and advocate for Nebraskans who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Hard of Hearing; to achieve equality and opportunity in social, educational, vocational, and legal aspects impacting their daily lives; and to enhance and monitor access to effective communication and telecommunication technology.

## Agency Principles

The Commission's responsibilities include the following areas:

- Collect data and disseminate information on Nebraskans who have a hearing loss, and conduct research in the area of Deafness;
- Develop communication processes involving the training and licensing of sign language interpreters statewide, and promote an awareness of hearing loss to state and local community agencies;
- Inventory, monitor and assess services available to people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The Commission's overall purpose is to ensure that people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing have the opportunity to be productive citizens of the State of Nebraska.

## Strategic Planning Priorities

### Goal 1

Expand programs and services in Nebraska for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons.

#### Objectives for Goal 1

- 1.1 To contact agencies and consumers to conduct accessibility awareness and hearing loss education.
- 1.2 To increase promotion and visibility.
- 1.3 To conduct community awareness workshops annually for consumers, civic groups, service providers, etc for awareness & educational needs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

### Goal 2

Implement new programs through collaboration with consumer groups, the Governor, legislature, organizations, institutions and agencies.

#### Objectives for Goal 2

- 2.1 To create a political action network.
- 2.2 To develop a packet/poster of information for service providers.
- 2.3 To provide awareness training to hospitals and law enforcement. To create equal access in medical/legal settings.
- 2.4 To conduct a statewide awareness day on hearing loss and deafness.
- 2.5 To conduct a Technology Expo.
- 2.6 To conduct agency health fairs, booths, demonstrations.
- 2.7 To increase vendors throughout the state.



## Strategic Planning Priorities (Continued)

### Goal 3

Broaden the collection and dissemination of information on hearing loss and deafness.

#### Objectives for Goal 3

- To research, gather and expand the dissemination of information through electronic/visual mediums.
- To disseminate brochures and service information through a yearly phased approach to audiologists, hospitals, nursing homes/assisted living facilities and others.
- To disseminate information and education to persons with a hearing loss on emergency preparedness.
- To promote the media center.
- To create interim committees as needed to study particular issues.
- To increase interpreter referral numbers.



### Goal 4

Ensure full access to comprehensive mental health, alcoholism and substance abuse services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons by collaborating with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, regional programs and other providers.

#### Objectives for Goal 4

- To expand collaboration with mental health regional programs.
- To conduct routine training related to mental health topics to Deaf and Hard of Hearing organizations.
- To expand awareness and training on a statewide level to Nebraska Domestic Violence/Sexual-Assault Coalitions and community domestic violence shelters and programs.

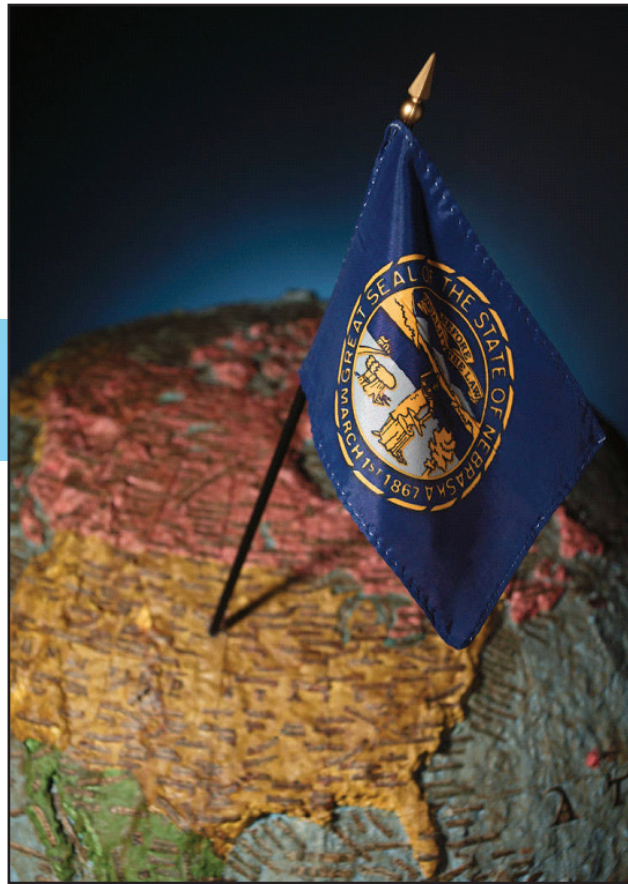
## Strategic Planning Priorities (Continued)

### Goal 5

To ensure and implement effective access of interpreting services by collaborating with consumer groups, organizations and agencies.

#### Objectives for Goal 5

- To inform consumer groups and agencies about how to use an interpreter and our referral system.
- To understand the relationship between interpreters and consumers.
- To train and recognize Nebraska's interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- To coordinate with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, RID, and its state chapter, the Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, NeRID, in improving and enhancing interpreter's academic environment.



## State Statutes

### State Statutes

The following is a partial listing of services mandated by state statutes:

1. Inventory services available for meeting the problems of persons with a hearing loss and assist such persons in locating and securing referral to such services. Services that the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing offers include hearing aid banks for individuals with financial needs; text telephones (TTYs) and assistive device loan programs, newsletters and making information available to the general public regarding hearing loss.
2. License interpreters under sections 20-150 to 20-159 and prepare and maintain a roster of licensed interpreters. The roster shall include the type of employment the interpreter generally engages in. The roster is made available to local, state and federal agencies and is used for referrals to private organizations and individuals seeking interpreters.
3. Promote the training of interpreters for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons. NCDHH conducts skill assessments of interpreters by using the Mid-America Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST). NCDHH sponsors workshops and other learning opportunities in cooperation with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), the national association of sign language interpreters.
4. Assist Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons in accessing comprehensive mental health, alcoholism, and drug abuse services. A Mental Health Specialist provides assistance, education, and training to mental health therapists regarding Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals' communication needs. A five-member advisory committee reviews the activities of programs quarterly.





## State Statutes (Continued)

5. Conduct a voluntary census of Deaf and hard of hearing persons in Nebraska and compile a current registry. NCDHH makes an effort to identify Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans throughout the state via online registration, mailings and interaction.

6. Promote awareness and understanding of the rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), passed by the federal government in 1990, protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability. To promote understanding and awareness regarding hearing loss, NCDHH provides presentations, distributes information through fairs and conventions, conducts sensitivity training, such as workshops, and develops informational brochures.

7. Promote expanded adult educational opportunities for Deaf or Hard of Hearing persons. NCDHH partners with agencies and service providers at major events to expand adult education opportunities including seminars on national issues, technology and various training opportunities.

8. Promote statewide communication services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons. NCDHH drafted legislation that established the statewide telecommunication relay system and the equipment distribution program. NCDHH works in tandem with the Public Service Commission to provide free specialized telephone equipment to deaf and hard of hearing Nebraskans. NCDHH also offers sign communication classes to state agencies.





## 2013 Highlights

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing continued to grow throughout 2013 with new staff and developing programs.

Dr. Peter Seiler retired as Executive Director on June 28th, 2013, after serving for three years. Ms. Peggy Williams was asked to serve as the Interim Executive Director, beginning July 1, 2013. A nationwide search took place resulting in many interviews. Mr. John C. Wyvill was selected to serve as the NCDHH Executive Director by the NCDHH Board, beginning duties on October 21, 2013.

Mr. Wyvill brings a wealth of legal and administrative experience to NCDHH. His relevant work experience includes serving as assistant legal counsel to Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and Director for the Arkansas Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. He has also served as President of the Council of State Administrators in Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR). President George Bush appointed Mr. Wyvill to the United States Access Board, serving as Vice Chair of the Board. Mr. Wyvill teaches law and ethics courses at Bryan College of Health and Sciences and worked for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Full Board of Commissioners welcomed two new members in 2013. Ms. Margie Propp resigned from the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board to serve on the Full Commissioner's Board. She is a Nebraska licensed sign language interpreter and worked at the New Mexico school for the Deaf as an educator. Mr. Mike Brummer currently works with the Nebraska Regional Programs for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Ms. Propp and Mr. Brummer serve as representatives with Interest and Knowledge in Deafness and Hearing Loss.

The Full Board of Commissioners approved a new logo for NCDHH. This logo was developed in collaboration with the University of Nebraska, Kearney, as part of a multi-media senior project. Additional materials and resources were developed and will be implemented in 2014. New resources include a redesigned website and brochures.



Ms. Heather Pucket was hired and began Field Representative duties in the North Platte office on September 9, 2013. Heather grew up in North Platte, graduating from the University of Nebraska-Kearney, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Social Work with a minor in psychology.

Ms. Brenda Chappell was hired and began Field Representative duties in the Omaha office on September 30, 2013. Brenda holds a Master's Degree in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University.

The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program entered its second year as a pilot program, funded by the Federal Communications Commission as part of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act. Thirty two Nebraskans applied to receive specialized equipment. Assessments for eligibility and equipment needs took place resulting in the distribution of equipment used by the Deaf-Blind community to enhance telecommunication and internet access.



## 2013 Highlights (Continued)

### Deaf-Blind Interpreter Workshop

NCDHH worked closely with the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Helen Keller National Center to establish a workshop for interpreters working with individuals who are Deaf-Blind. In April of 2013, over 60 people participated in this unique event ranging from sign language interpreters, students from interpreter training programs, direct service providers as well as members of the Deaf-Blind community.



### Living with Hearing Loss

Ms. Peggy Williams, working with Nebraska Educational Television (NET), Dr. Stacie Ray and Dr. Jim Haley, produced “Living with Hearing Loss”, a televised program which aired on April 25, 2013. “Living with Hearing Loss” discussed types of hearing loss, coping strategies and today’s technology designed to remove communication barriers. The program highlighted personal interviews with Dr. David Rutledge and Mrs. Diane Muellemann, two people that experience hearing loss, who shared their experiences with being hard of hearing and how hearing loss impacted their lives.



### Awareness workshop conference for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing received funding through the Omaha Enrichment Foundation to establish a workshop for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. This year the Commission was granted approval to offer this workshop on a statewide level. Funding was requested and approved to coordinate this series of workshops entitled “Advocating for Yourself”, “Consumer Fraud and How to Protect yourself” and “Improving Your Financial Awareness”. Workshop presenters included Mary Hughes, a Deaf advocate from Overland Park, KS, Connie Schmidt from the Neb. Department of Justice-Consumer Protection Division and Jennifer Davidson from the Neb. Council on Economic Education.

### QAST Updated

Following the recommendations of the Nebraska Interpreter Evaluation Taskforce, NCDHH updated testing materials used in the Nebraska Quality Assurance Screening Test. NCDHH is now able to evaluate interpreters with a single performance test, rating them on a scale from zero to five. Previously, two levels of difficulty were used to rate interpreters, a novice/intermediate stimulus and an advanced stimulus.



## 2013 Highlights (Continued)

### Accessible Fire and CO Alarm Program with the Omaha Fire Department

NCDHH is working closely with the Omaha Fire Department (OFD) in the development and promotion of their accessible fire alarm program. In 2013, OFD implemented an online needs survey to more accurately purchase equipment for distribution. OFD is the first fire department in Nebraska to offer carbon monoxide detectors for enhanced home safety.



### NCDHH media center

NCDHH continued to update and enhance our media center. One major improvement is the ability to order media center materials online. This streamlines the process, making it easier for our stakeholders to access information collected in our library. The NCDHH media center continues to be one of Nebraska’s largest resources for information related to hearing loss, Deafness, sign language and the interpretation process.

### Two events brought national attention to Nebraska.

On September 4, 2013, Michael Argenyi, a deaf medical student, represented by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), the law firm of Stein & Vargas and Disability Rights Nebraska, won a jury trial against Creighton University in the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska. Mr. Argenyi had been a student in the medical school at Creighton University beginning in 2009, and had requested that Creighton University provide him with real time captioning for classes and oral interpreters for clinics. Creighton refused to provide him with such services and also refused to allow Mr. Argenyi to bring interpreters even if he paid for the interpreters himself.

With NAD and the other lawyers representing Mr. Argenyi, a lawsuit was filed against Creighton in the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska. The District Court originally dismissed Mr. Argenyi’s case and ruled that Mr. Argenyi had not demonstrated that medical school was beyond his capacity without captioning or interpreting services. Upon appeal, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the District Court’s ruling, and remanded the case back to the District Court, holding that “Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title III of the ADA each require Creighton to provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services to afford Argenyi ‘meaningful access’ or an equal opportunity to gain the same benefit as his nondisabled peers.”



Mr. Argenyi, third from left, with his counsel

A trial began in Omaha with opening arguments on August 22nd and ended with closing arguments on August 30th, and the jury returned with a verdict that Creighton University violated Mr. Argenyi’s right to communication access under the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA. -NAD.org



## 2013 Highlights (Continued)

### NAD Leadership Training Conference

In October, 2013, the city of Omaha hosted the National Association of the Deaf Leadership Training Conference entitled Defy Expectations; Achieve Feats! The national workshop provided opportunities to:

- Gain skills in professional development and fully understanding all the tools and legal rights available to the deaf to achieve employment goals
- Acquire effective communication skills and big picture thinking to achieve personal and professional goals
- Learn all about the existing educational system and become savvy with the placement process to save the schools that teach deaf and hard of hearing children to achieve educational goals



OCT. 03-05, 2013  OMAHA, NEBRASKA

### Proclamations and Awards

#### Sign Language Interpreter Day, September 21, 2013

Sign Language Interpreter Day was established to provide an opportunity to recognize, honor and learn more about the contributions that Nebraska's sign language interpreters make towards accessible services statewide.

#### Deaf Awareness Week, September 22-28, 2013

There are an estimated 156,000 Nebraskans who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. This week was established to recognize and educate Nebraska about the positive impact and significant accomplishments of those who experience hearing loss.

#### Keeper of the Flame

Senior Field Representative, Beth Ellsworth, was recognized by the Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD) as a "Keeper of the Flame". This honor was bestowed on Ms. Ellsworth for her involvement in Connect, a program developed in conjunction with the Nebraska chapter of Hands and Voices. Hands and Voices is a non-profit organization providing families with resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for children.

#### Boss of the Month

Mr. John Wyvill established the Boss of the Month recognition program. This monthly recognition program was implemented in October and is designed to recognize stakeholders in our community that make a difference in the lives of Nebraskans. Those recognized in 2013 were Mr. Albert Sparks, Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson and Ms. Frances Beurivage.



## 2013 Highlights (Continued)

### Certificate of Appreciation

Ms. Peggy Williams, NCDHH Mental Health Specialist, was recognized by the NCDHH Board for her commitment, inspiration, dedication and leadership to NCDHH and the people of Nebraska for serving as interim executive director during the directorship intervals in 2009 and 2013.

### Notable Anniversary

Ms. Peggy Williams, NCDHH Mental Health Specialist, was recognized by Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman for her 35 years of service to the state of Nebraska and citizens who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing and blind.



## Staff Member Group Participation

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) staff actively participates in many committees. These efforts, on behalf of NCDHH, aid Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities in creating awareness for communication and service delivery issues.

Dr. Peter Seiler, Ms. Peggy Williams, Mr. John C. Wyvill  
Executive Director - Statewide



Dr. Peter Seiler

**Nebraska Specialized Telecommunications Advisory Committee:** The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was mandated in 1990, to appoint members to serve on the Telecommunication Relay Services Advisory Committee administered by the Nebraska Public Service Commission. This committee advises the Public Service Commission on matters related to the telecommunications relay system, the equipment distribution program and its operation. The relay system provides prompt and accurate relay of all messages 24/7 to deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Any person using the system is not charged for access to the system other than the charges billed for in-state and out-of-state long distance service. The relay provider for the state is Sprint Relay.



Ms. Peggy Williams

**Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership:** The Executive Director is a voting member of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), which meets on a quarterly basis. The Assistive Technology Partnerships dedicated to helping Nebraskans with disabilities, their families and professionals in obtaining assistive technology devices and services.



Mr. John C. Wyvill

**Sign Language Interpreter Review Board:** The Executive Director of the Commission is a voting member of the Interpreter Review Board that promulgates rules and regulations for sign language interpreters. This board is responsible for establishing and monitoring policies and procedures for the evaluation and licensure of sign language interpreters who work for the state, its courts and law enforcement.

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Committee of the Special Education Advisory Council (Nebraska Department of Education):** The Executive Director is a voting member of this standing committee which meets bi-annually. D/HH SEAC review issues, current events, and formulate opinions on potential future events and issues. D/HH SEAC Standing Committee is dedicated to helping school-aged deaf and hard of hearing children, their families and professionals in obtaining the best education possible.

**Advisor to the Nebraska Association of the Deaf:** The Nebraska Association of the Deaf is a state-wide organization promoting equal access for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in all phases of life. The Executive Director is an advisor to this organization mainly on legislative issues brought up in the Nebraska Unicameral.



## Staff Member Group Participation (Continued)

### Executive Director, continued

Mountain-Prairie Upgrade Partnership-Itinerant Project (MPUP-I) The Executive Director is a member of this vital committee. MDUP-1 committee provides advisement to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in developing itinerant teachers who work with Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in public schools. The program also prepare teachers for working with students with cochlear implants, and with Deaf and Hard of Hearing students who also have additional disabilities that impact the ease of language acquisition. The committee meets twice a year.

National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH): The Commission is a member of this association. The Executive Director represents the Commission in NASADHH during their biennial meetings.

### Beth Ellsworth, Field Representative II, Omaha office



Mayor’s Commission for Citizens with Disabilities: The purpose of the commission is “To promote quality of life, accessibility and equity in all aspects related to the City of Omaha on behalf of and in cooperation with the citizens of Omaha who experience disabilities.”

Hearing Loss Association of America –Omaha Chapter: HLAA provides information, education, advocacy and support to those who have a hearing loss and their family, friends, and the hearing public at large.

Hearing loss Support Group - Omaha: The purpose of this group is to provide information, education, advocacy and support to those who have a hearing loss, their families and friends through peer support and networking with agencies and service providers. This group meets monthly.

Hands and Voices: Dedicated to supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. Is a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration, and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children to reach their highest potential.



**Hearing Loss  
Association  
of America**

## Staff Member Group Participation (Continued)

Kim Davis, Field Representative II, Lincoln office



**Coordinated Funding Committee:** This committee is comprised of representatives from various state and local, primarily Lincoln, agencies. Its purpose is to provide an avenue of communication between agencies. It enables each agency to make better informed referrals and decisions regarding services needed between committee member's agencies. Health and Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Assistive Technology Program are examples of agencies that participate on this committee.

**National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program State Partners National Monthly Conference Calls:** This group is comprised of national lead agencies and of state partners from various states who coordinate the National DeafBlind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) in their respective states. Its purpose is to collaborate with all lead agencies and state partners on various updates and procedural activities; involving but not limiting to, Rolka Loube Saltzer Associates (RLSA) monthly and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) semi-annually reports, outreach and marketing projects, operations of NDBEDP equipment & software programs, and general field information from state partners.

**Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD) Conference Planning Committee:** This committee is comprised of a number of NeAD members responsible for planning the state association's biennial conference that will be host in the year of 2015. The conference provides empowerment workshops, entertainment, banquet, exhibits, general board meeting and social activities to interested attendees.

Heather Pucket, Field Representative II, North Platte office



**Hearing Loss Support Group—Kearney, Gothenburg, North Platte, Scottsbluff:** The purpose of this group is to provide information, education, advocacy and support to those who have a hearing loss, their families and friends through peer support and networking with agencies and service providers. These groups meet monthly.

Ben Sparks, Interpreter/Program Assistant, Statewide



**Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Nebraska Chapter, Historian:** The Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (neRID) is a state affiliate chapter of the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID, Inc.). Members of the RID and its affiliate chapters are obligated to a professional code of ethics for interpreters. neRID, reestablished in 1996, is a non-profit organization focusing on fostering the growth of Sign Language Interpreters and our profession.

## Staff Member Group Participation (Continued)



### Peggy Williams, Mental Health Specialist, Statewide

Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee (SVPAC) - Statewide: The goal of this program is to develop and implement a comprehensive primary prevention plan for the State of Nebraska.

BryanLGH Hospital Independence Center Advisory Committee - Lincoln: Serves as a liaison between the agency and the community to ensure that the program is responsive to the needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. This committee meets quarterly.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS): The purpose of this group is to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of consumers, especially through multi-agency collaborations and partnerships. This committee meets quarterly.

Lincoln Correctional Center (LCC) Community Involvement Committee: This committee exists to understand services and programs provided by LCC and provide input and recommendations on special services needed for special populations. This committee meets quarterly.

Southeast Nebraska Regional Program Advisory Committee: The purpose of this board is to provide advice and feedback for programming and services for students, families and staff associated with the Southeast Nebraska Regional Program. This board meets quarterly.

Heartland Deaf Abuse Advocacy Services: Serve as an advisory member to this committee by offering suggestions and recommendations, ensuring that access to receiving domestic violence and sexual assault programs and services



### Brenda Chappell, Field Representative II, Omaha office

Partnerships in Aging: The mission of Partnerships in Aging is to build partnerships and secure funding and resources to expand services for older adults and their families

League of Human Dignity: The mission of the League of Human Dignity is to actively promote the full integration of individuals with disabilities into society. To this end, we will advocate their needs and rights, and provide quality services to involve these persons in becoming and remaining independent citizens.

Heartland Deaf Abuse Advocacy Service (HDAAS): Committee on Fundraising.

Nebraska School for the Deaf Alumni Association (NSDAA): secretary, the purpose of the NSDAA is to keep all the alumni connected through our programs and to build bridges and to educate the public that Deaf can do anything!

Omaha Deaf Senior Citizens : represent NCDHH while visiting Deaf Senior Citizens, socialize and learn what they want to improve Deaf community with senior citizens.

## Commission Boards and Committees

### Full Commission Board

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was established by the State Legislature in 1979. The Commission consists of nine members who are appointed by the Governor subject to approval by the Legislature. Statute 71-4720 requires that a majority of the Commission members who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing shall be able to express themselves through sign language. The Commission members shall include three Deaf persons, three Hard of Hearing persons and three persons who have an interest in and knowledge of Deafness and hearing loss issues. The Commission was created to improve the quality and coordination of existing services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and development of new services when necessary. Meeting schedules and minutes can be found on the NCDHH website at [www.ncdhh.ne.gov/boards.html](http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/boards.html). The members are appointed to represent various domains as listed below:

Deaf Representatives: Dillard Delts, Steven Manning, Dr. Carol Lomicky

Hard of Hearing Representatives: Eileen Dakan, Amy Kasch, Diane Muelleman

Interest and Knowledge in Deafness and Hearing Loss Representatives: Dr. Raymond Meester, Susan Petersen, Dr. Jan Moore; beginning February 2013, Ms. Margaret Propp, Mr. Michael Brummer





## Commission Boards and Committees (Continued)

### Sign Language Interpreter Review Board

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was mandated in July 2002 to appoint members to the Interpreter Review Board to develop guidelines and promulgate regulations for assuring competencies for sign language interpreters. Regulations were crafted and approved to include assurances that sign language interpreters have and maintain minimum levels of competency to interpret for state entities, courts, police and probation officials. Meeting schedules and minutes can be found on the NCDHH website at [www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/boards.html](http://www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/boards.html). The Board has eight voting members, of whom the majority has knowledge of sign language.

The members are appointed to represent various domains as listed below:

Health and Human Services: David Montgomery, Administrator- HHS Regulations and Licensure

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Dr. Peter Seiler, Ms. Peggy Williams, Mr. John C. Wyvill, Executive Director for NCDHH

Deaf Representatives: Jerry Siders, retired educator; Gary Theiler, Sign Language Facilitator for EIPA Diagnostic Center at Boys Town National Research Hospital

Sign Language Interpreters: Margie Propp, Private Practice Interpreter; Barbara Woodhead, Private Practice Interpreter; beginning July 2013, Bethany Koubsky, Private Practice Interpreter

Local Government: Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell, Counselor with Vocational Rehabilitation; Bob Deaton, Deputy Director of Independent Living with NCBVI; beginning May 2013, Cheryl Poff. Orienteering Counselor with NCBVI.

The Sign Language Interpreter Review Board provided advice to the Full Commission Board regarding language that would amend sections 20-150, 20-151, 20-156, 20-159, and 71-4728 of current Nebraska Statutes. Language was developed to reflect the future discontinuation of the Nebraska Quality Assurance Screening Test, development of new certification types as well as provide powers to NCDHH to recognize equivalent certifications as proof of qualification for licensure.



## Commission Boards and Committees (Continued)

### Telecommunication Relay Advisory Committee

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was mandated in 1990 to appoint members to serve on the Relay Advisory Committee administered by the Nebraska Public Service Commission. The Committee advises the Public Service Commission on matters related to the telecommunications relay system, the Nebraska Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Program and its operations. Meeting schedules and minutes can be found on the NCDHH website at [www.ncdhh.ne.gov/boards.html](http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/boards.html). The Committee has seven members.

The members are appointed to represent various domains as listed below:

Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Amy Kasch; beginning March 2013, Dillard Delts

Deaf Representative: Tami Richardson-Nelson

Hard of Hearing Representative: Diana McIntosh

General Public: Albert Sparks

Public Service Commission: Tim Schram

Speech Impaired: Vacant

Telephone Industry: Kim Remington

The relay system provides prompt and accurate relay of all messages 24/7 to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. Any person using the system is not charged for access to the system. Charges are still billed for in-state and out-of-state long distance service. The relay provider for Nebraska is Sprint Relay. The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing reviews and authorizes applications for the equipment vouchers issued through the NSTEP program by PSC. Only one person per household can be a recipient of the telecommunications equipment and the residence listed must have phone service.





## Commission Boards and Committees (Continued)

### Mental Health Advisory Committee

In 1995, LB 25 was passed to extend duties of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) to ensure full access to comprehensive mental health, alcoholism, and drug abuse services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Nebraska. A special advisory committee was appointed by the Commission to serve for a three year term. The advisory committee meetings are held four times a year. Meeting schedules and minutes can be found on the NCDHH web page at [www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/boards.html](http://www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/boards.html).

The Commission has appointed technical members representing various domains, which are listed below:

Counselor Position: Vickie Frizzell-Pratt, Healthy Solutions Counseling

Counselor Position: Jackie Prater, Child Guidance Center

Counselor Position: Mandy Leamon, Fremont Area Medical Center, Outpatient Psychiatric Services

Counselor Position: Lisa Vogel, West Maple Counseling Association

Human Services Position: Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell, Vocational Rehabilitation

Human Services Position: Sakura Yodogawa-Campbell, YWCA-Omaha

NCDHH Representatives: Dr. Peter Seiler, NCDHH Executive Director; Mr. John Wyvill, NCDHH Executive Director; Peggy Williams, Mental Health Specialist

Technical Advisor: Ann Thompson, Heartland Deaf Abuse Advocacy Services

Technical Advisor: Diane Meyer, Metro Area Regional Program

Technical Advisor: Jill Bird, Southeast Nebraska Regional Program

Technical Advisor: Lorelei Waldron, Sign Language Interpreter - Lincoln

Technical Advisor: Bethany Merchant, Sign Language Interpreter - Lincoln

Technical Advisor: Karen Potter-Maxwell, Sign Language Interpreter - Omaha

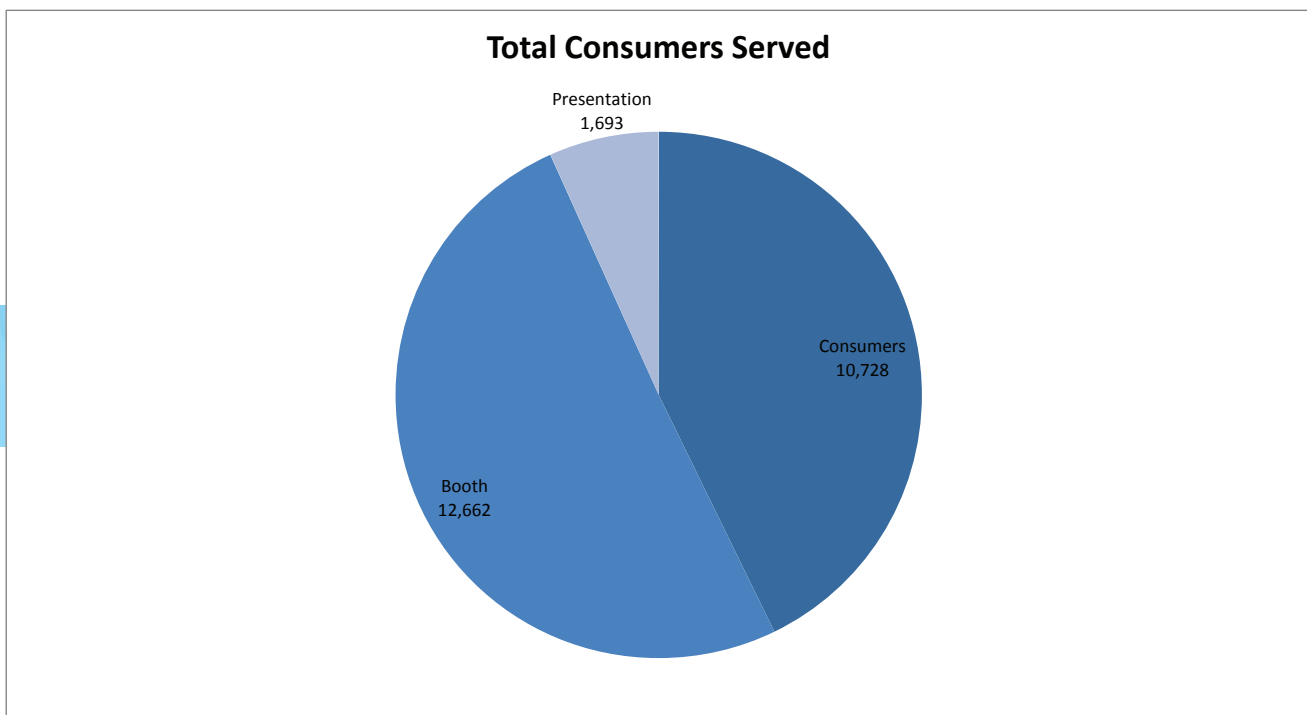
Technical Advisor: Jan (Loretta) Goracke, DHHS Division of Behavioral Health - Lincoln



## Information and Referral Contacts

When the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) was created, one of its enabling legislations mandated that the agency was to act as an information and referral service for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of Nebraska. NCDHH staff tabulate the number of consumers served annually.

# Total Consumers Served



Consumers Assisted: 10,728

Presentation Attendees: 1,693

Booth Attendees: 12,662

Total Number of Consumers Served: 25,083

## Information and Referral Contacts (Continued)

### Consumers Assisted by Category

NCDHH categorizes and records the areas in which assistance was provided.

Advocacy	762
At4All Equipment Loan	283
At4All Media Center Loan	130
Equipment Demonstration	431
Information and Referral	3,037
Lions Hearing Aid Bank	193
Interpreter Licensing	216
NDBEDP	333
NSTEP	2,317
QAST	192
RID Continuing Education	114
Sertoma Hearing Aid Bank	482

NCDHH booths provided information at Health Fairs, County Fairs, and Conventions 30 times, meeting **12,662** Consumers.



## Information and Referral Contacts (Continued)

### Presentation Topics

As Nebraska's Information and Referral Service on topics regarding hearing loss, NCDHH staff members presented to **1,822** total consumers in 81 instances. The table below shows the amount of consumers contacted by primary presentation topic.

Advocacy:	0
Aging:	59
Communication Tips:	72
Deaf Awareness & Culture:	37
Equipment Training	64
Hearing Loss:	118
Hospital Training:	32
Interpreting:	89
Law Enforcement Training:	60
Mental Health:	17
NCDHH Services:	327
Noise Awareness:	0
School Children	20
Sign Language Class:	918

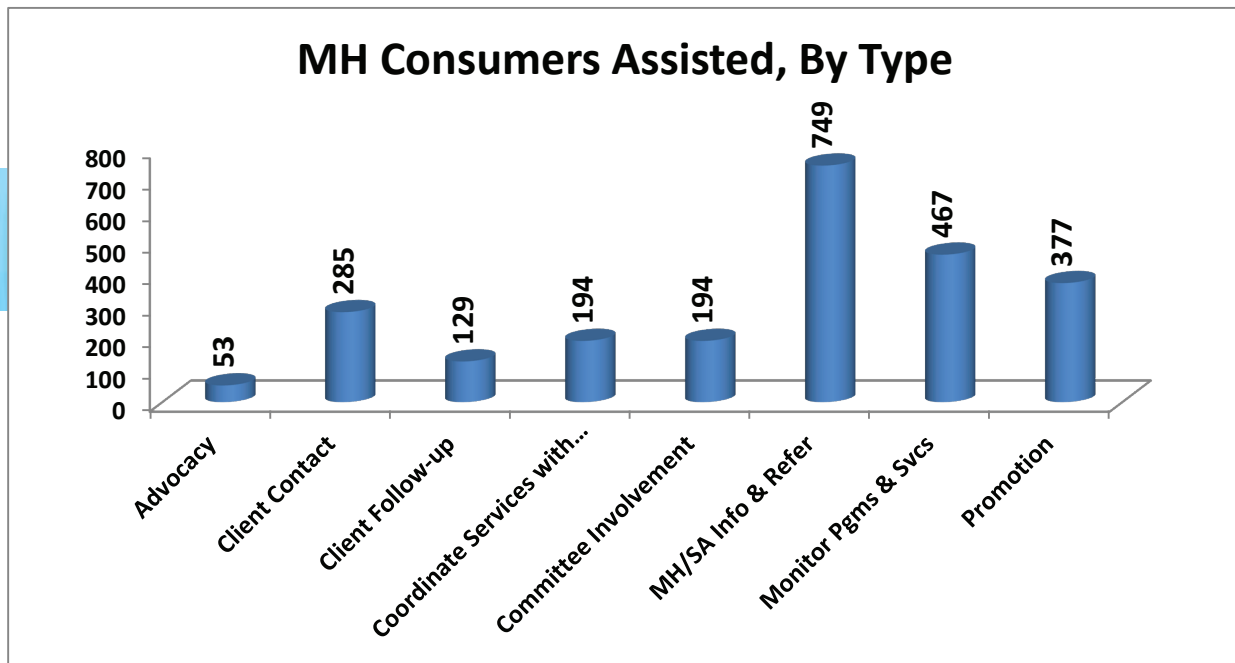
NCDHH staff members are trained and continually updated on events that impact the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. Staff members are able to present this information to a wide variety of audiences in correlation to the information type requested. The majority of the presentations made were related to NCDHH's services in general, explaining how we serve Nebraskans. Staff also actively initiate contact with audiences that can benefit from information we present. Some of these include nursing homes, law enforcement, private businesses, and consumer groups.



## Information and Referral Contacts (Continued)

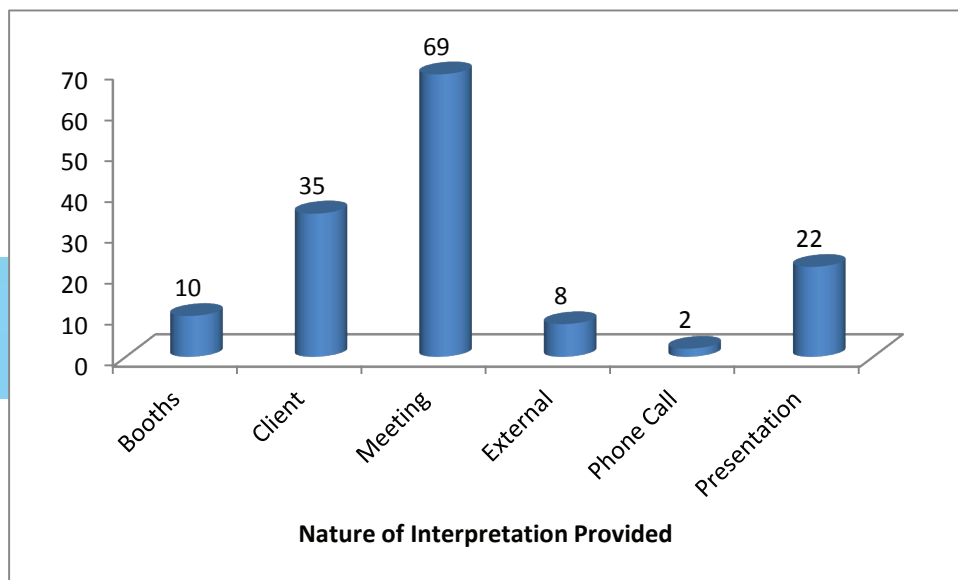
### Mental Health Summary

The graph below shows the number of consumers served by the Mental Health Specialist by type of activity.



### Staff Sign Language Interpreting

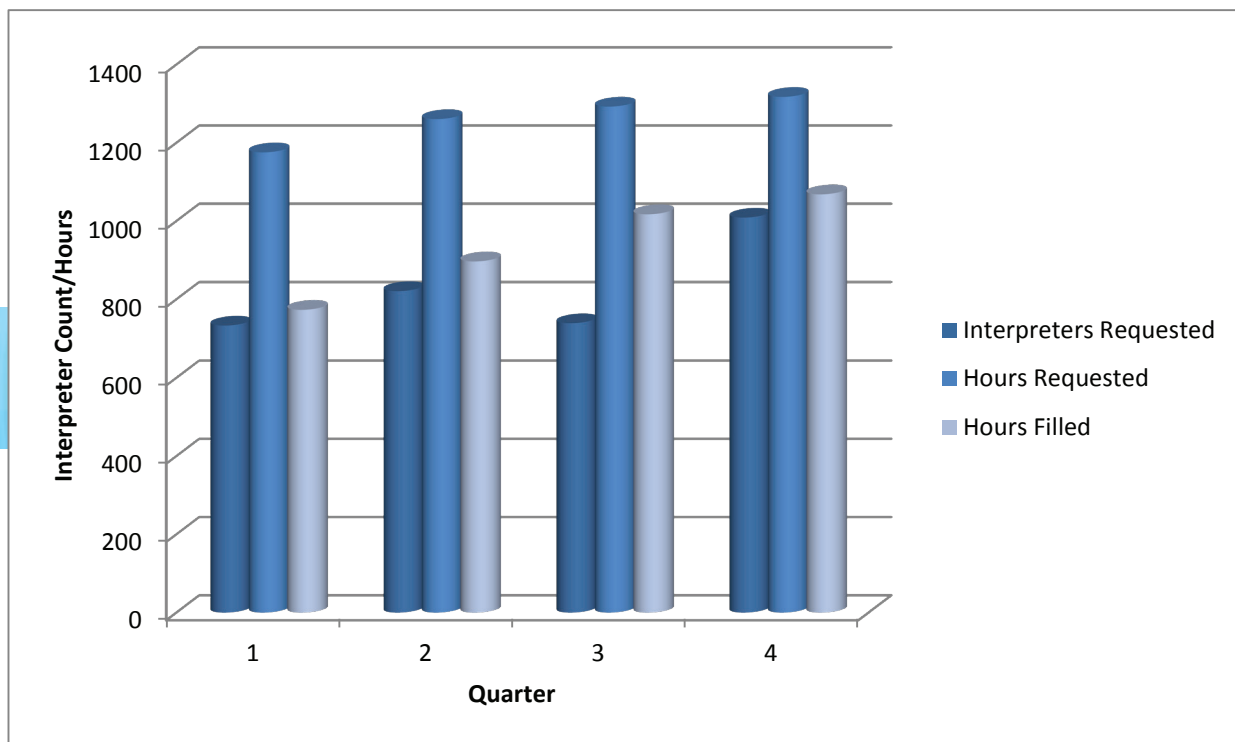
NCDHH records instances of staff interpreting provided by situation.



## Interpreter Referral Service

The Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Referral Service can be contacted by phone through our local Lincoln number (402) 471-3593 or through the toll free number, 1-800-545-6244. Requests to obtain an interpreter can also be made electronically through our web page located at [www.ncdhh.ne.gov](http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov). An after hours emergency interpreter list is available at [http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/after\\_hours/afterhours.html](http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/after_hours/afterhours.html). The process to contact an interpreter begins with the highest skilled interpreters being contacted first based on the geographical location of the assignment.

NCDHH experienced an increase of 500 Hours Filled and a 3% increase in the number of Requests Filled in 2013.

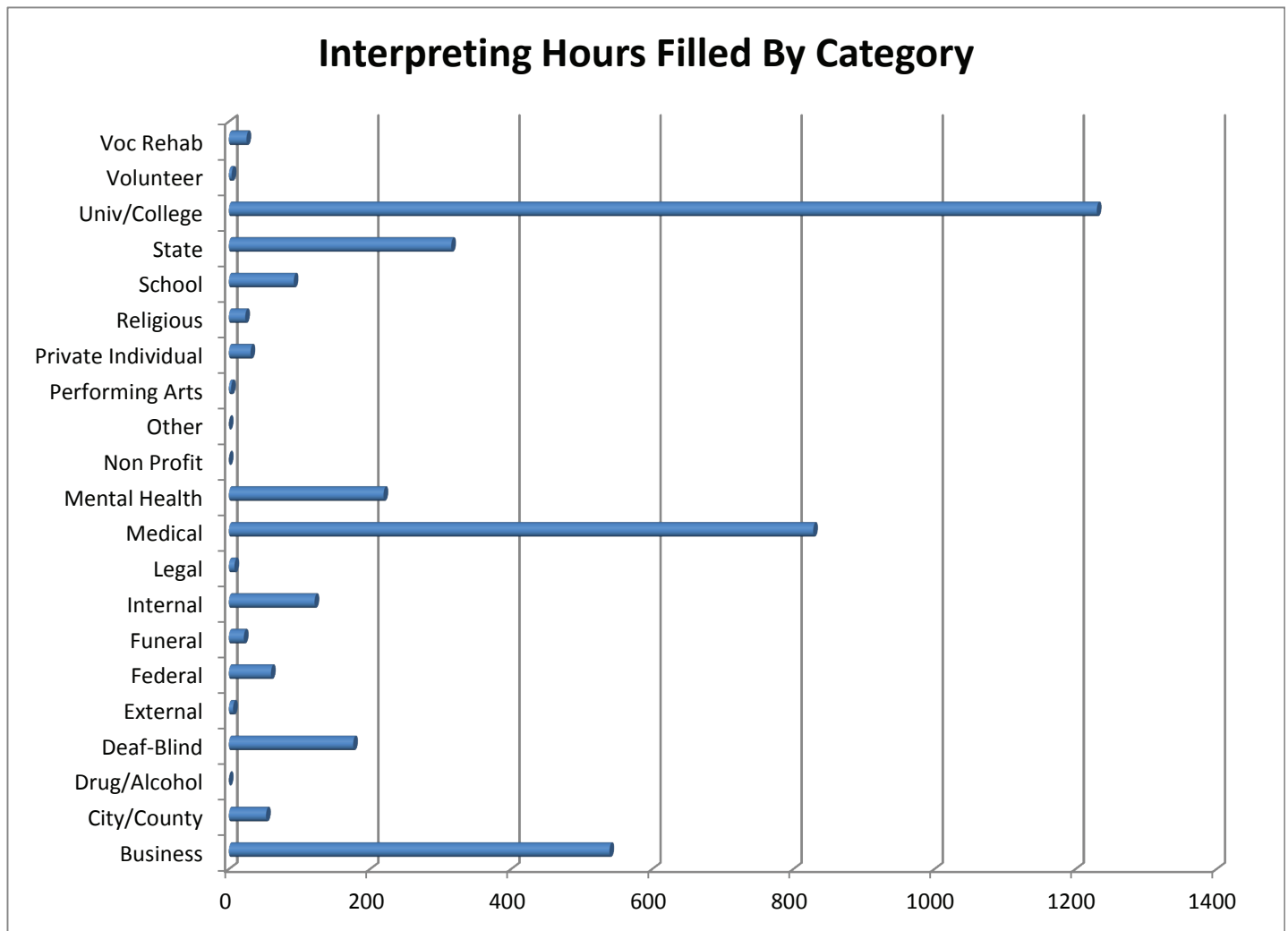


	1	2	3	4
Interpreters Requested	733	821	739	1009
Hours Requested	1175.75	1260.75	1292.75	1317.5
Hours Filled	773.25	897	1017.5	1068.5
Percentage Filled	66%	71%	79%	81%



## Interpreter Referral Service (Continued)

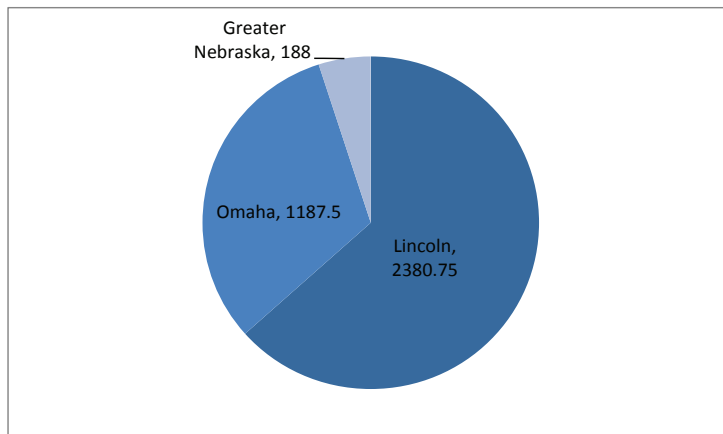
This chart references the number of hours of interpreting services filled by service categories in 2013. NCDHH continues to see an increase in demand in several categories, especially in the Medical category. The University/College category recorded an increase of over 800 hours over the previous two years. Other categories saw slight decreases as business relationships between sign language interpreters and service providers continue to become more commonplace. Public service providers have the ability to contact interpreters directly for services by using NCDHH's online listing.



## Interpreter Referral Service (Continued)

### Interpreter Request Hours Filled by Region

This chart gives reference to the number of hours that were filled through the NCDHH Referral Service. This data does not reflect the total number of hours interpreted in Nebraska as sign language interpreters are regarded as independent contractors. Sign language interpreters are able to market their services outside of NCDHH’s Referral Service.

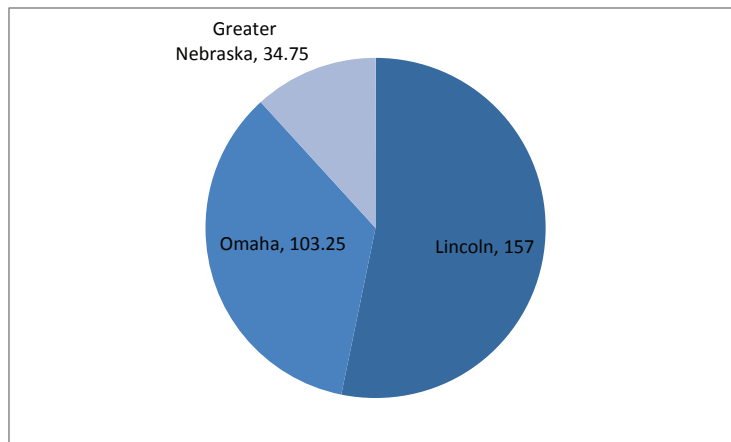


Lincoln: 2380.75  
 Omaha: 1187.50  
 Greater  
 Nebraska: 188

Total hours: **3,756.25**

### Unfilled Interpreter Hours by Region

This chart gives reference to the number of hours that went unfilled through the NCDHH Referral Service. In 2013, NCDHH experienced a decrease of 7% in unfilled requested hours compared to 2012.



Lincoln: 157  
 Omaha: 103.25  
 Greater  
 Nebraska: 34.75

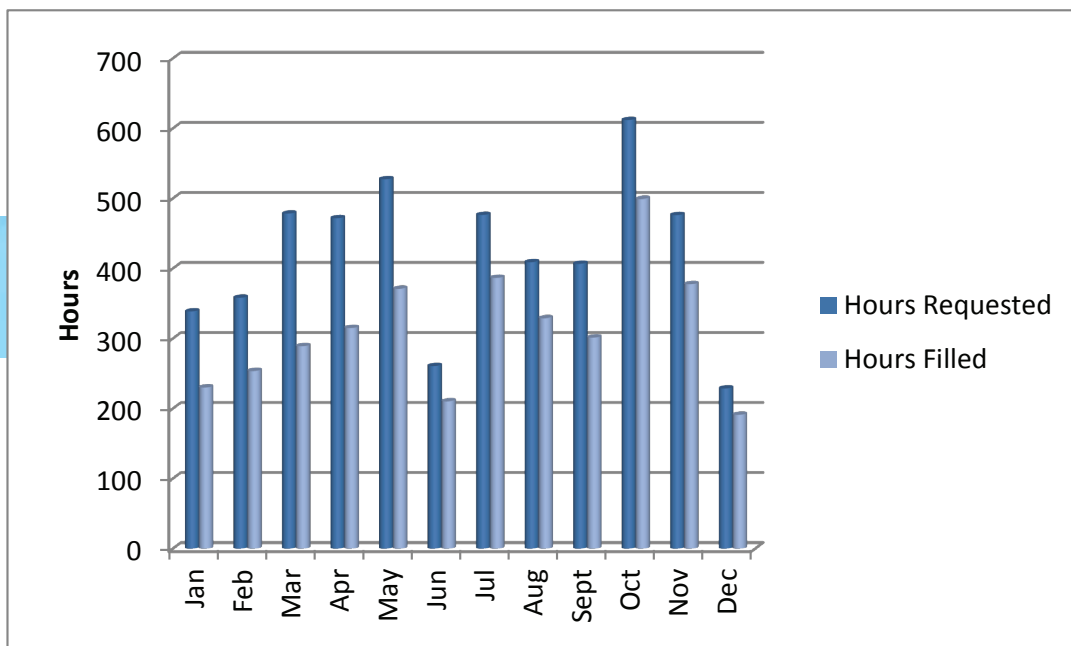
Total unfilled  
 hours: **295**

## Interpreter Referral Service (Continued)

### Interpreter Referral Hours Requested/Filled by Month

	Hours Requested	Hours Filled
January	338.75	230.25
February	358.50	253.75
March	478.50	289.25
April	472.00	315.25
May	527.75	371.25
June	261.00	210.50
July	476.75	386.75
August	409.25	329.25
September	406.75	301.50
October	612.25	499.50
November	476.50	377.75
December	228.75	191.25
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5046.75</b>	<b>3756.25</b>

Hours filled	3756.25
Hours unfilled	295.00
Hours cancelled prior to filling	<u>995.50</u>
Hours requested	5046.75



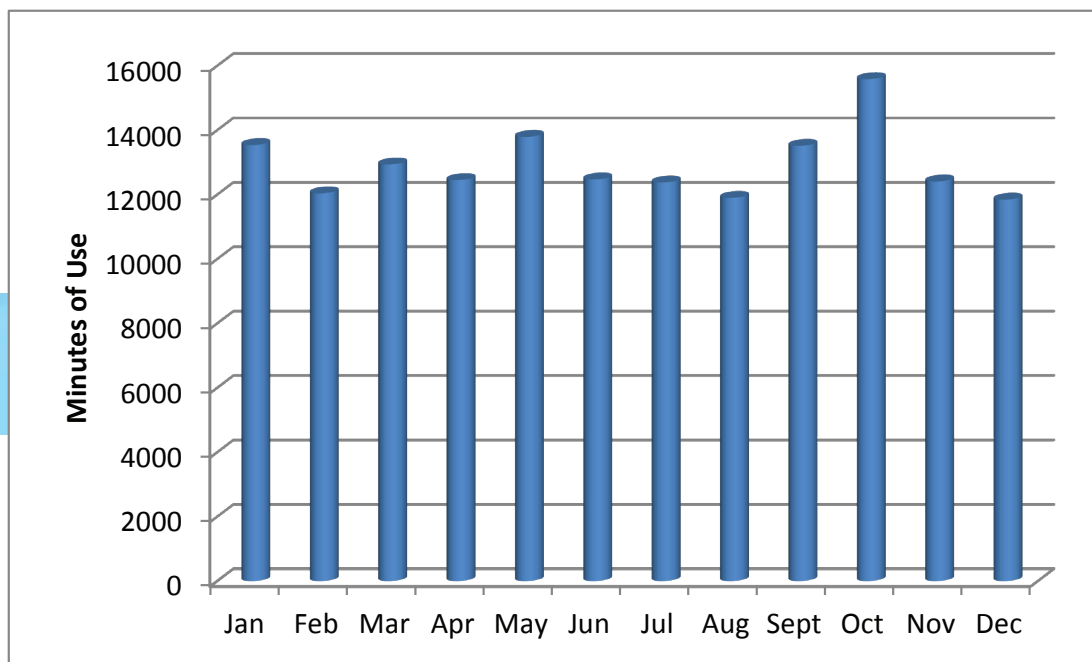
## Statewide Communication Services

### Nebraska Telecommunications Relay System, TRS

The Nebraska Telecommunications Relay System (TRS) provides full and simultaneous communication between a deaf or hard of hearing person and the public using specialized and conventional phone equipment. Sprint Relay provides this service to Nebraska. For more information about this service, please visit [www.sprintrelay.com](http://www.sprintrelay.com) or [www.nebraskarelay.com](http://www.nebraskarelay.com) or call (800) 676-3777 V/TTY.

The Public Service Commission administers the relay system with the advice of a seven-member committee appointed by the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The service is funded annually beginning July 1 of each year. For fiscal year July 2012-13, the surcharge was between \$.04 and \$.03. The surcharge is assessed on a per access line or functional equivalent line basis, including wireless and Voiceover Internet Protocols, VoIP, customers statewide.

The continued decrease in usage minutes reflects an expected increase in the use of videophone technology. Nebraskans used 23,159 less relay minutes compared to 2012.



The total number of minutes of Relay System use, 154,880, reflects the number of phone calls made through the system, **56,686.**

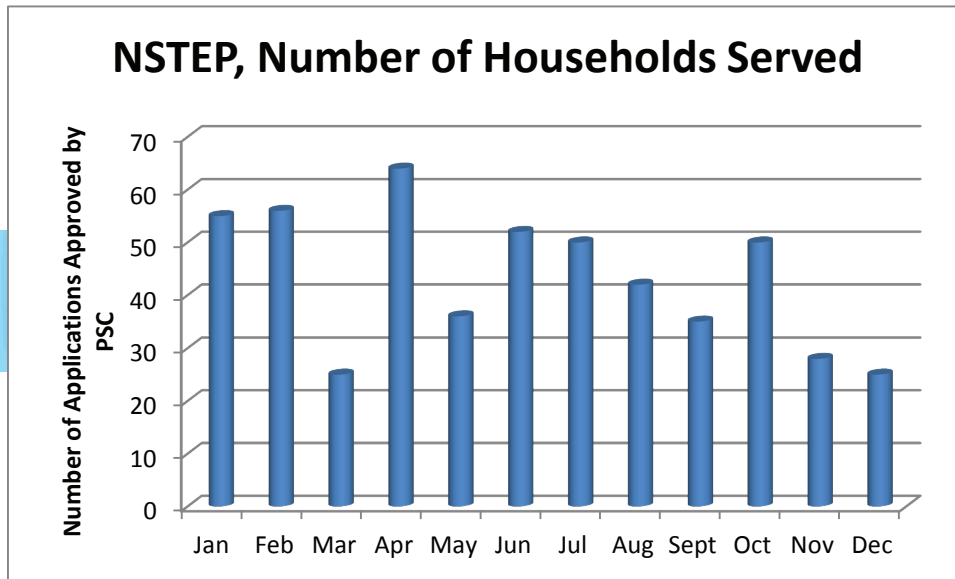




## Statewide Communication Services (Continued)

### Nebraska Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Program, NSTEP

The Public Service Commission administers a statewide voucher program for the provision of specialized telecommunications equipment for qualified Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind or Speech-Impaired persons. The value of the voucher is limited to \$1,000 per household. Vouchers are available to qualified residents of Nebraska over the age of three who demonstrate the ability to use the equipment and have telephone service. Applications are available through the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



Total number of NSTEP applications approved by the Public Service Commission in 2013:

**518**

This number reflects the number of households throughout Nebraska that now enjoy improved access to our telephone systems through specialized equipment.

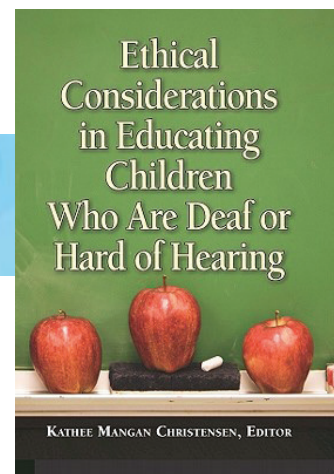
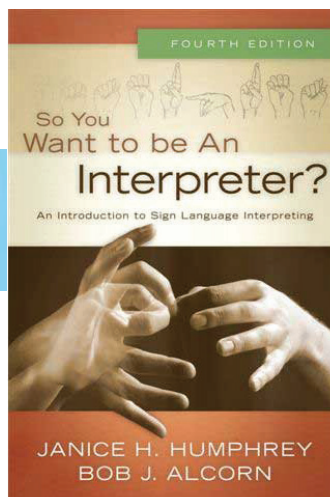
## Media Center

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing maintains a media center offering books and videotapes related to Deafness, interpreting and hearing loss. A listing of materials is available on the Commission's web site at [http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/media\\_center.html](http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/media_center.html). Materials can be borrowed for up to five weeks. Requested materials can be mailed to any Nebraska resident living outside of Lincoln, with the understanding that they are responsible for the return postage.

The NCDHH Media Center was utilized  
**121 times**  
in 2013.

The NCDHH Media Center is a unique resource used primarily by those wishing to learn more about sign language. We are Nebraska's resource for materials in regards to sign language and those who use it. Students learning sign language and their instructors represent the majority of users of the Media Center. There are many aspects of sign language that are covered in our Media Center. Topics include basic to advanced sign language skill building techniques, history of Deaf culture, interpreting, and entertainment in sign language.

NCDHH continues to make investments in our Media Center. Deaf culture, history, cochlear implants and interpreter resources were some of the areas that were focused on. NCDHH continues to be Nebraska's best resource for information related to Deafness, hearing losses and their impact on society and individuals.



## Equipment Loan Program

NCDHH loans or provides TTYs, Pocketalkers, and Amplified Phones to individuals, agencies, organizations and businesses that employ or serve Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

In 2012, NCDHH began the process of designing an online tracking tool for equipment available through the NCDHH Equipment Loan Program. NCDHH completed the design, transferring functionality and data in 2013. This new online tool enables staff to quickly respond to equipment requests and streamlines the inventory process.

NCDHH continues to refer clients to AT4ALL, a program under the Nebraska Department of Education, for more permanent solutions to equipment needs. AT4ALL can be accessed online at [www.at4all.com](http://www.at4all.com).

In 2013 NCDHH was able to loan:

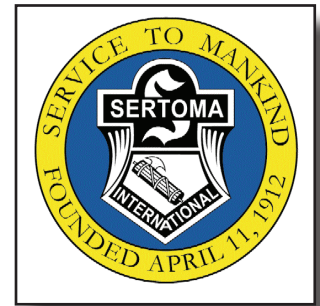
50 Assistive Listening Devices  
76 Amplified Phones  
2 Teletypewriters (TTYs)



## Hearing Aid Banks

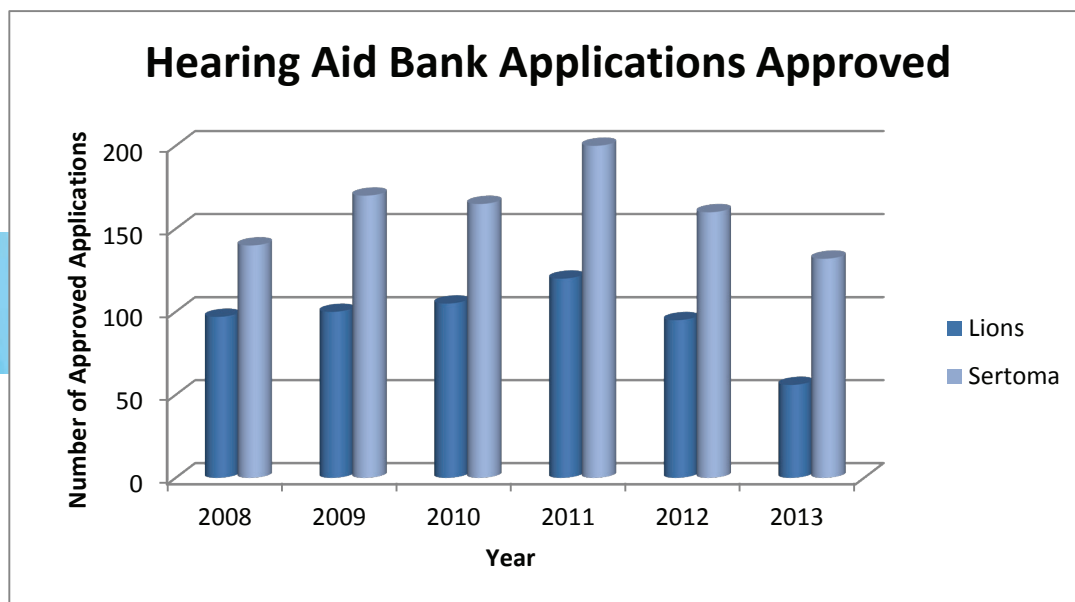
The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing coordinates referrals, applications and awareness of two hearing aid banks: the Sertoma Hearing Aid Bank and the Lions Hearing Aid Bank.

The Sertoma Hearing Aid Bank is a cooperative effort of the Sertoma Speech and Hearing Association of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Speech and Hearing Clinic and NCDHH. The purpose of this hearing aid bank is to serve individuals age 65 and older.



The Lions Hearing Aid Bank is the cooperative effort of the Nebraska Lions Foundation, the University of Nebraska Medical Center and NCDHH. This hearing aid bank serves people under the age of 65.

NCDHH coordinates all hearing aid bank referrals and processes the applications in accordance with guidelines established by the Lions and Sertoma Clubs. NCDHH approves applications, informs applicants of the necessary testing and fitting procedures and assists the applicants in the over-all process.

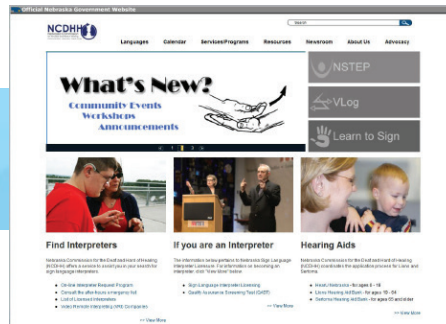




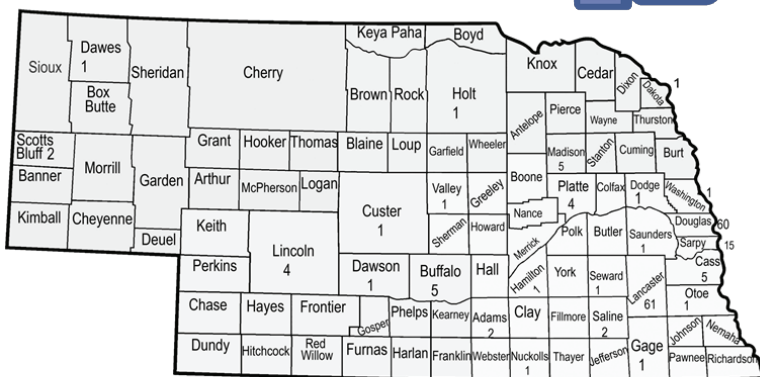
## Online Outreach

For over 15 years NCDHH has maintained a website, sharing information with our stakeholders online, available at any time. Our current web address is [www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov](http://www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov). Our website has become a global resource. The vast majority of our online users access our website from computers in the United States, but users in India and the United Kingdom frequently access our information.

[www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov](http://www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov) had 27,100 visits in 2013. The three most frequently visited webpages were our Technology, Resources and NSTEP pages with 13,846 visits combined.



On November 18, 2012, NCDHH created a Facebook page to broaden outreach efforts. At the end of 2013, the NCDHH Facebook page had 318 “Likes” from around the world. The three posts which reached the most people of 2013 were Dr. Seiler’s retirement announcement video, Mr. John Wyvill’s introduction video and the Propp Family Scholarship video.



Total number of facebook likes for Nebraska - 179

Arizona	1	New Hampshire	1
Arkansas	55	New Jersey	1
California	3	New Mexico	1
Colorado	2	North Carolina	1
Florida	3	Ohio	4
Georgia	2	Oklahoma	4
Hawaii	1	Tennessee	5
Illinois	2	Texas	3
Indiana	2	Utah	2
Iowa	14	Virginia	1
Kansas	2	Washington	3
Kentucky	3	Wisconsin	1
Louisiana	1	Afghanistan	1
Maryland	2	Canada	3
Michigan	2	Germany	1
Minnesota	2	India	2
Missouri	6	Pakistan	1
Nebraska	179	Philippines	1
Total # of Facebook Likes			318



## Registry Information (Continued)

### Registry by County

As provided in the originating legislation, the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing conducts a statewide, voluntary registry of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans. The information provided by this registry assists in the planning of services.

Registry cards are made available to speech and hearing centers, hearing aid dispensers, hearing aid bank applicants and nursing homes. The cards are also available at the Commission offices, or can be completed online at [http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/communication\\_card.html](http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/communication_card.html).

Continuing efforts are made to generate awareness among all Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans of the registry and urge their participation. A breakdown of the current registry data by county follows.

A statistic collected in 2013 is Instances of Service Provided\* (ISP). This number provides the amount of times NCDHH contacted a consumer in a given county.

County	Deaf	Hard of Hearing	Deaf/Low Vision	HoH/Low Vision	Late Deafened	Total Combined	ISP*
Adams	6	131	0	0	0	137	93
Antelope	2	24	0	1	0	27	28
Arthur	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
Banner	1	11	0	0	0	12	4
Blaine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boone	3	46	0	0	0	49	17
Box Butte	3	87	0	0	1	91	33
Boyd	1	19	0	0	1	21	8
Brown	0	9	0	0	0	9	1
Buffalo	9	290	0	2	4	305	218
Burt	5	30	0	0	0	35	14
Butler	3	51	0	0	1	55	36
Cass	14	78	0	1	1	94	151
Cedar	1	29	0	0	0	30	21
Chase	0	22	0	0	0	22	9
Cherry	1	25	1	0	0	27	16
Cheyenne	1	44	0	0	1	46	22
Clay	1	33	0	0	0	34	0
Colfax	1	32	0	0	1	34	5
Cuming	2	31	0	0	0	33	46
Custer	3	65	0	1	2	71	109
Dakota	3	16	0	1	0	20	60
Dawes	1	61	0	1	2	65	4
Dawson	4	136	0	1	3	144	101
Deuel	1	14	0	0	0	15	1

## Registry Information (Continued)

County	Deaf	Hard of Hearing	Deaf/Low Vision	HoH/Low Vision	Late Deafened	Total Combined	ISP*
Dixon	0	15	0	0	0	15	42
Dodge	11	203	1	0	0	215	311
Douglas	244	1,772	3	12	19	2,050	3,146
Dundy	0	14	0	0	0	14	2
Fillmore	3	21	0	0	0	24	10
Franklin	1	21	0	0	1	23	16
Frontier	0	28	0	0	0	28	3
Furnas	2	47	0	0	0	49	13
Gage	5	65	0	0	0	70	51
Garden	2	31	0	0	0	33	8
Garfield	1	26	0	0	0	27	6
Gosper	2	22	0	0	0	24	4
Grant	1	5	0	0	0	6	2
Greeley	0	26	0	0	0	26	11
Hall	8	276	0	1	1	286	114
Hamilton	1	46	0	0	0	47	20
Harlan	0	19	0	0	0	19	7
Hayes	0	8	0	0	0	8	5
Hitchcock	2	39	0	0	2	43	12
Holt	6	80	0	1	1	88	42
Hooker	0	8	0	0	0	8	7
Howard	3	63	0	0	1	67	3
Jefferson	0	28	0	0	0	28	25
Johnson	1	11	0	0	0	12	19
Kearney	0	65	0	0	2	67	9
Keith	3	54	0	0	2	59	24
Keya Paha	0	6	0	0	0	6	0
Kimball	1	42	0	0	0	43	19
Knox	0	38	0	0	0	38	23
Lancaster	115	727	0	7	7	856	3336
Lincoln	13	328	0	5	4	350	252
Logan	0	6	0	0	0	6	1
Loup	0	2	0	1	0	3	6
Madison	8	149	0	1	0	158	260
McPherson	0	2	0	0	0	2	4
Merrick	2	49	0	0	0	51	15
Morrill	4	37	0	0	0	41	13
Nance	0	19	0	0	1	20	5
Nemaha	1	17	0	0	0	18	23
Nuckolls	0	20	0	0	0	20	9



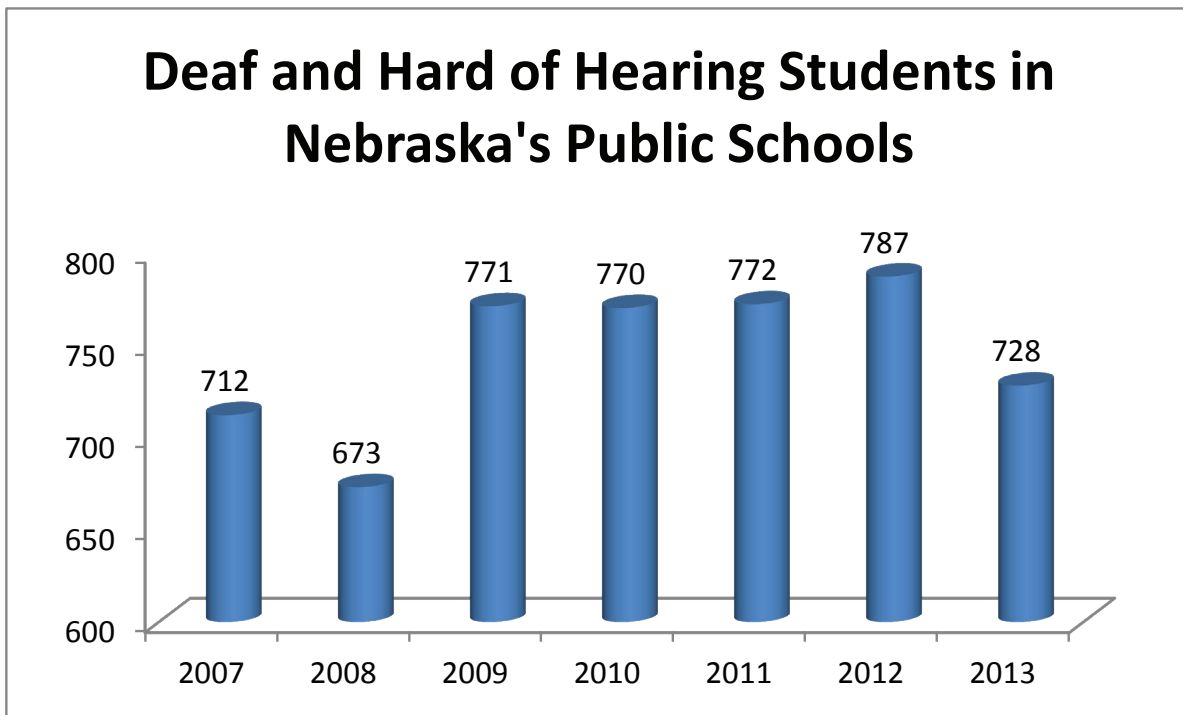
### Registry Information (Continued)

County	Deaf	Hard of Hearing	Deaf/Low Vision	HoH/Low Vision	Late Deafened	Total Combined	ISP*
Otoe	7	44	0	1	0	52	52
Pawnee	0	17	0	0	0	17	2
Perkins	0	20	0	0	1	21	35
Phelps	1	49	0	0	0	50	29
Pierce	1	29	0	0	0	30	7
Platte	12	202	0	1	1	216	206
Polk	3	21	0	0	0	24	3
Red Willow	4	89	0	0	1	94	64
Richardson	1	25	0	0	0	26	8
Rock	1	13	0	0	0	14	1
Saline	6	47	0	1	0	54	113
Sarpy	54	374	0	0	1	429	361
Saunders	5	67	0	0	0	72	120
Scotts Bluff	12	482	0	2	3	499	267
Seward	4	56	0	0	0	60	31
Sheridan	0	48	0	2	0	50	14
Sherman	0	46	0	0	1	47	7
Sioux	0	9	0	0	0	9	1
Stanton	0	15	0	0	0	15	1
Thayer	0	18	0	0	1	19	13
Thomas	1	5	0	0	0	6	2
Thurston	0	21	0	0	0	21	22
Valley	3	38	0	0	0	41	14
Washington	4	74	0	0	0	78	66
Wayne	0	22	0	0	1	23	19
Webster	2	18	0	0	0	20	12
Wheeler	0	8	0	0	0	8	0
York	5	56	0	1	0	62	41
Out of State							424
<b>Totals</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>7634</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>8,384</b>	<b>10,810</b>



## Children in Public Schools

According to the Nebraska Department of Education, there were 787 Deaf and Hard of Hearing children receiving educational services, ages three to twenty-one, living in Nebraska in 2013. This is the number of children for whom hearing loss is their primary verification. This number does not reflect those students who have some hearing loss yet do not meet the parameters under the Special Education department.



## Interpreter Education



As Nebraska's only official Continuing Education Unit Sponsor of RID activities, we maintain the integrity of the education that interpreters receive through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf through strict policies and procedures. Below are listed the titles of workshops and educational opportunities that NCDHH sponsored for CEUs in 2013.



<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Public Speaking Fundamentals	01/07/2013
ASL/English Linguistics	01/07/2013
English Composition II	01/07/2013
Spoken/Signed Transliteration	01/08/2013
Language Clarity techniques in discourse; looking at language expansion features	01/10/2013
ASL 220-Ethics and Decision Making	01/14/2013
Ethical Decision Making: What Do I Do Now?	03/02/2013
COM 220-Logic and Persuasion	03/09/2013
What are Support Service Providers and Interpreters?	04/12/2013
A Hands-On Deaf-Blind Experience	04/12/2013
Getting the Eye-dea about DeafBlindness	04/13/2013
Lunch, the Deaf Blind Way	04/13/2013
Let's Talk; Communication Aids and Devices/iCanConnect	04/13/2013
Deaf Blind Panel Discussion	04/13/2013
Kudos to you; out of the box interpretations in the church	04/18/2013
Out of the Box; Getting Rid of Visual Clutter	04/19/2013
Dropping the Form; English to ASL	04/19/2013
Stuck in the Four Walls of the Church	04/19/2013
Heart to Heart; Understanding & Translating Bible Storytelling	04/19/2013
Going Broadway! Theater Interpreting in Church	04/19/2013
What's Really Being Said Here?	04/19/2013
The Art of Giving Feedback	04/19/2013
Expanding Music and Messages	04/19/2013
Out of the Box; Resources Interpreters Can Use	04/19/2013
Thinking Out of the Box; How Interpreters Can Work Effectively in Deaf Ministries	04/19/2013
Serving the Deaf Blind by Interpreting the Message Correctly	04/19/2013
Who's on First, What's on Second; Role Shifting	04/19/2013
Developing Receptive Skills	04/20/2013
Praise God in His Sanctuary; Approaching Elements of a Worship Service With a Fresh Perspective	04/20/2013
Oh My Registers; Expressions and Inflections in Interpreting	04/20/2013
Unlocking the Next Level; A Guide to Interpreting Theological Jargon	04/20/2013
I Feel a Song Coming On; Empowering Musically Oblivious Interpreters to Move with Excellence	04/20/2013

## Interpreter Education

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Visual Perspective & Mental Gymnastics	04/20/2013
How Big Was It? Was it Ginormous?	04/20/2013
Depiction; Exploring Cinematic Techniques	04/20/2013
The Joke's On You; Humor and the Interpreter	04/20/2013
Debrief, Decompress and Discuss; Q&A with Chad and Glory	04/20/2013
ASL Literature; The Beauty of Deaf Culture	04/20/2013
Space & Classifiers: Enhancing your interpretations utilizing spatial organizational techniques & CL	5/04/2013
SPED 3110 - American Sign Language V	05/13/2013
ITP311, Interpreting Application and Analysis	05/13/2013
HIS 103-American History I	05/13/2013
EIPA Summer Skills Development Workshop	06/17/2013
Psy 390: Moral Psychology	09/04/2013
Intro to Christian Thought and Practice	09/04/2013
Interpreter Workshop with Dr. Adan Penilla	09/07/2013
CPR-AHA Heartsaver CPR AED	09/19/2013
Interpreting for Child Signers: Tips to Enhance Your Sign-To-English Interpreting Skills	10/12/2013
Dialog in the Dugout: Coaching for Successful Teamwork	11/08/2013
Bases are loaded; Getting Rid of Visual Clutter	11/09/2013
Interpreters Audists? Nahhhh...	11/09/2013
Pre-Game Workout; "What is Really being Said Here"	11/09/2013
Four S's for Healthy Interpreters	11/09/2013
Voicing: More Than Just Receptive Skills	11/09/2013
Escuela De Sordos in Leon, Nicaragua	11/09/2013
Understanding your EIPA Report and Using the Report to Develop a PDP	11/16/2013
Understanding Discourse Mapping	11/16/2013
Making sense of discourse mapping	11/16/2013
Classifiers for the K-12 Classroom: Classifiers are not an option in the k-12 setting	12/07/2013



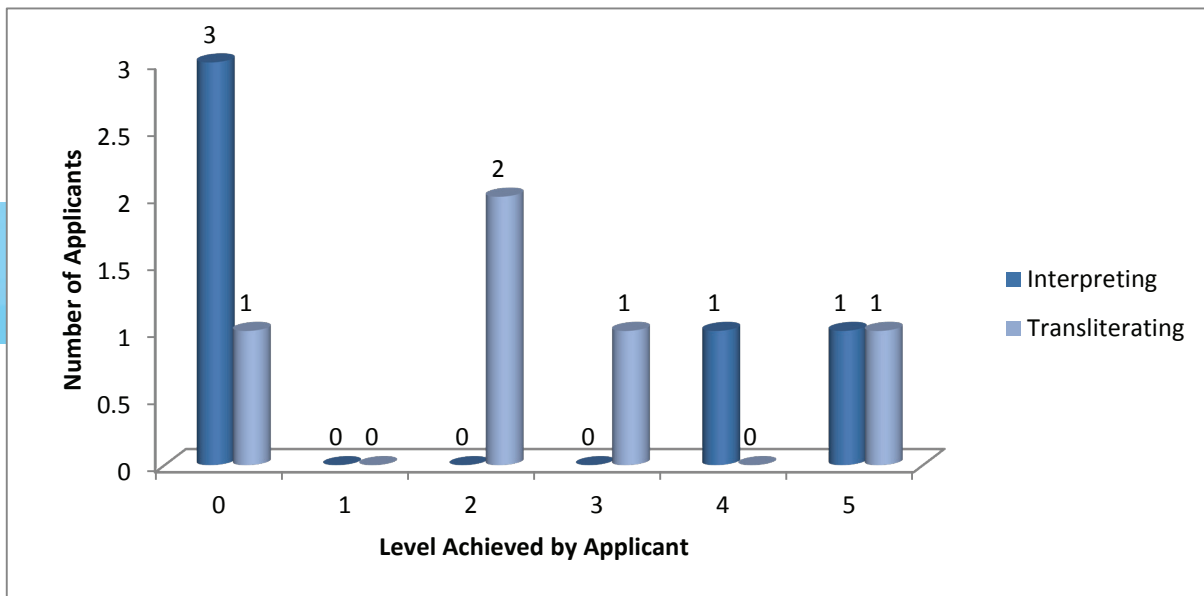


## Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST) Performance Evaluations

The Quality Assurance Screening Test, QAST, provides an assessment of an interpreter’s expressive and receptive skills in the areas of interpreting and transliterating. The written portion of the test measures their knowledge of the Code of Ethics and general interpreting aptitude. The chart displayed below references the results of testing administered by NCDHH in 2013.

This information assists NCDHH in determining whether an interpreter is qualified and is used by our agency for referral to outside agencies. The level assigned to the interpreter and feedback from the evaluators assists the interpreter in selecting workshop training and independent study relevant to their particular weaknesses.

Level 5 is the highest rating and is considered an “Accomplished Level” in which there are no restrictions. Most interpreters achieve level 2 or level 3. Level 3 is the minimum qualification for Nebraska Interpreter/Transliterator Licensure. Interpreters holding a Level 2 qualify for a Nebraska Provisional Interpreter/Transliterator license.



In 2013, the Performance Assessment of the Nebraska Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST) was administered to ten applicants. Four applicants qualified for a Nebraska Interpreter/Transliterator license by attaining a Level III or better.

The Nebraska QAST Performance Test was enhanced in 2013, enabling applicants to be rated I through V with a single stimulus. Prior to the improvement, applicants were given the option to test using a “novice/intermediate” or “advanced” stimulus.

## Mental Health, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Training Programs

### The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) Mental Health Specialist performs the following:

- Monitors and provides advice to mental health and substance abuse programs providing treatment to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.
- Coordinates intervention/prevention and training programs to consumers and programs who serve them, educators, interpreters and general public about mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- Advises and guides program service providers and representatives of community based organizations on program service questions.
- Coordinates and oversees the Mental Health Advisory Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.
- Ensures full access to comprehensive mental health, alcoholism and substance abuse services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons by collaborating with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other providers.



## Mental Health Awareness Programs

The mission of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s Mental Health services to is to “assist providers, consumers and the general public in promoting accessible mental health and alcohol/drug services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens in Nebraska.”

Serving the mental health needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals’ population presents special challenges. Cultural and communication issues that arise present problems for general service delivery professionals, who do not have the background, experience or the assessment tools necessary to effectively serve this population.

The NCDHH Mental Health Specialist provided the following training programs and workshops in 2013 in an effort to follow the mission and goals of the Commission’s program.

Training Program #1: “Living with Hearing Loss

Date: March 28, 2013

Community Served: Northeast Sertoma Club

Training Program #2: “Effective Healthcare for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Date: April, 2013

Community Served: On Line course – Nebraska Methodist College

Training Program #3: “Effective Healthcare for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Date: April 5, 2013

Community Served: Bryan College of Health nursing student’s sign language class

Training Program #4: Cognitive and Personality Development

Date: November 11 – 17, 2013

Community Served: UNL Deaf Education Mountain Prairie Partnership students

Training Program #5: “Providing Health Care Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People”

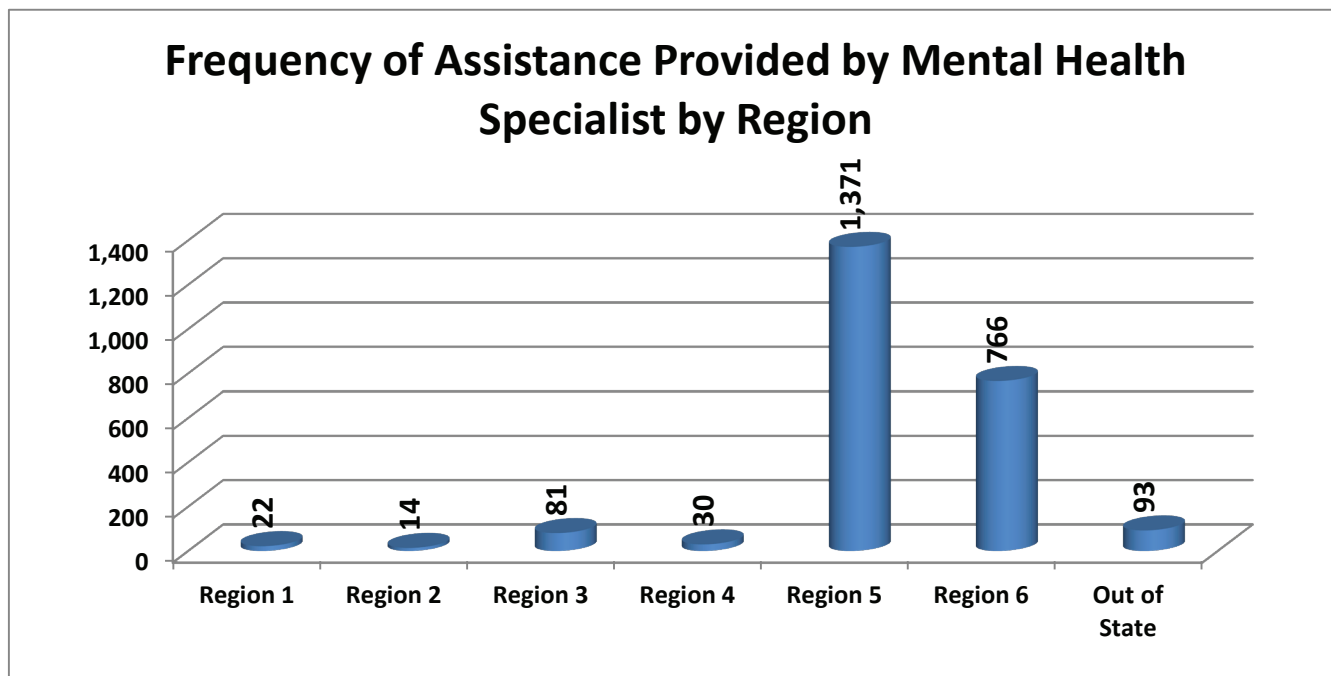
Date: December 6, 2013

Community Served: Bryan College of Health Science nursing student’s sign language class



## Regions Served by Mental Health Specialist

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) Mental Health Specialist serves the entire State of Nebraska, in addition to serving a number of citizens who reside out of the State of Nebraska.



### Counties Included in Each Region

Region 1: Sioux, Dawes, Box Butte, Sheridan, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne and Deuel.

Region 2: Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Keith, Lincoln, Perkins, Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Dawson, Gosper, Dundy, Hitchcock and Red Willow.

Region 3: Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Custer, Valley, Greeley, Sherman, Howard, Buffalo, Hall, Phelps, Kearney, Adams, Clay, Furnas, Harlan, Hamilton, Merrick, Franklin, Webster and Nuckolls.

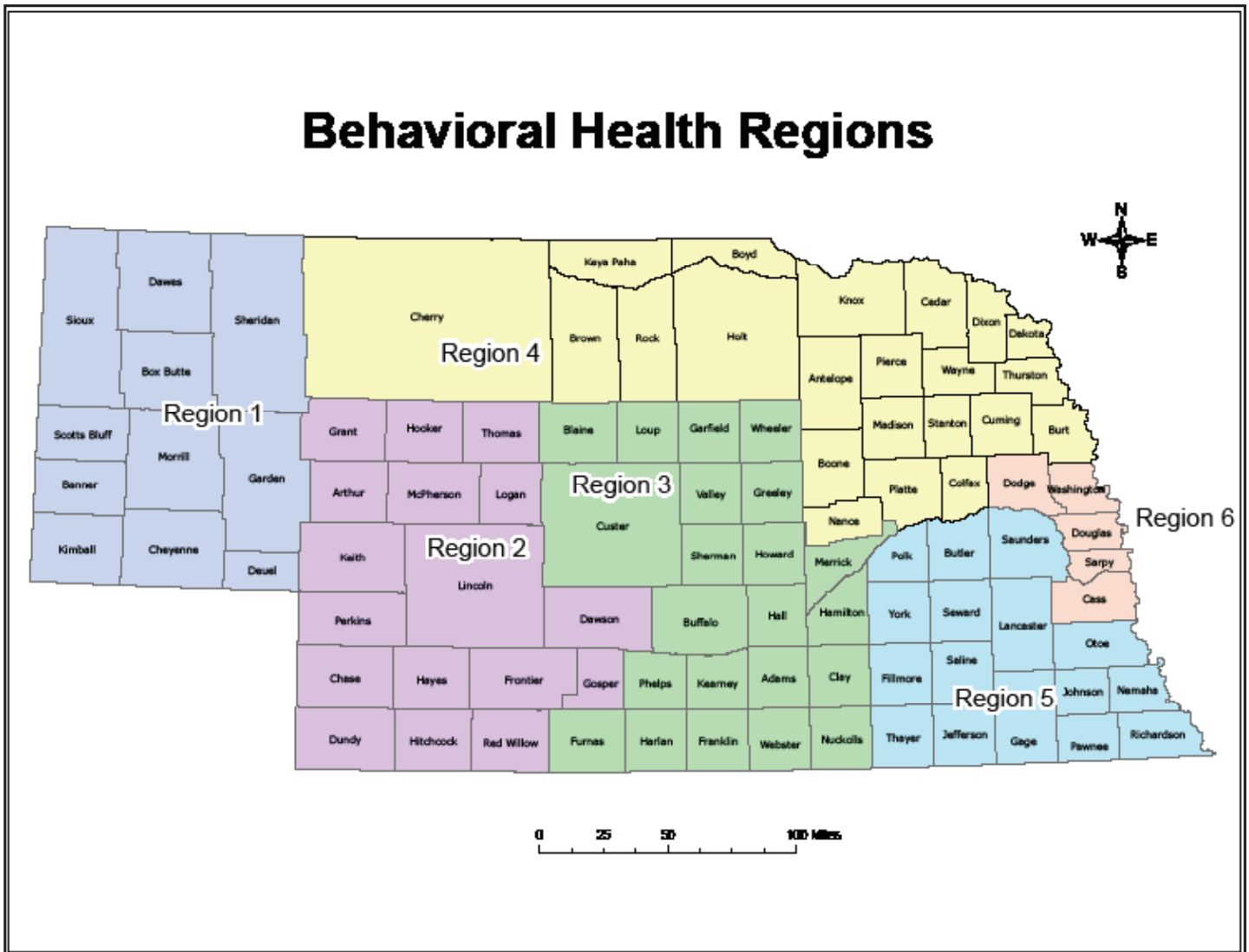
Region 4: Cherry, Keya Paha, Boyd, Brown, Rock, Holt, Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Thurston, Wayne, Pierce, Antelope, Boone, Nance, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Burt, Colfax and Platte.

Region 5: Polk, Butler, Saunders, Seward, Lancaster, Otoe, Fillmore, Saline, Thayer, Jefferson, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, York and Richardson.

Region 6: Dodge, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy and Cass.

## Behavioral Health Regions

Nebraska is divided into six Behavioral Health regions. These are local units of government that partner with the state government to do planning and service implementation.



The Behavioral Health Regions system allows clients to receive services from local providers. Providers are able to focus their services on local clients. NCDHH’s Mental Health Specialist maintains contact with each region ensuring equal access to services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans.



## 2013 Commission Members

**Mr. Steven Manning**, Chairperson, Deaf Representative  
Omaha  
February 2009-January 2015

**Dr. Jan Moore**, Vice Chairperson, Interest & Knowledge in  
Deafness and Hearing Loss Representative  
Kearney  
February 2009-January 2015

**Ms. Diane Muelleman**, Secretary, Hard of Hearing Representative  
Omaha  
March 2010-January 2015

**Mr. Michael Brummer**, Interest & Knowledge in  
Deafness and Hearing Loss Representative  
Omaha  
February 2013-January 2016

**Ms. Eileen Dakan**, Hard of Hearing Representative  
Kearney  
July 2012-January 2015

**Mr. Dillard Delts**, Deaf Representative  
Omaha  
February 2008-January 2014

**Ms. Amy Kasch**, Hard of Hearing Representative  
Omaha  
February 2011-January 2014

**Dr. Carol Lomicky**, Deaf Representative  
Kearney  
February 2011-January 2014

**Dr. Raymond Meester**, Interest & Knowledge in  
Deafness and Hearing Loss Representative  
Lincoln  
April 2007-January 2013

**Ms. Sue Petersen**, Interest & Knowledge in  
Deafness and Hearing Loss Representative  
Omaha  
February 2010-January 2013

**Ms. Margaret Propp**, Interest & Knowledge in  
Deafness and Hearing Loss Representative  
Lincoln  
February 2013-January 2016

## Personnel Directory

**Dr. Peter Seiler**  
Executive Director  
1/1/2013 - 6/28/2013

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Interim Executive Director  
7/1/2013 - 10/20/2013  
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**John C. Wyvill**  
Executive Director  
10/21/2013 - present  
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**Kim Davis**  
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**Beth Ellsworth**  
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**Cindy Woldt**  
Staff Assistant II - Lincoln  
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Staff who left in 2013: Bonnie Jo Hicks, Brian Bobbie

## Contact Information

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