

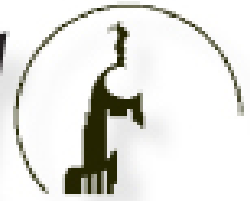
Pete Ricketts
Governor

Mr. Michael Brummer
Chairperson

John C. Wyvill
Executive Director

The Communicator

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

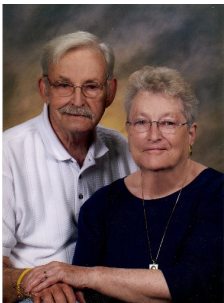


Spring 2015

A newsletter surveying health, government and issues affecting Nebraskans.

Deaf History Month 2015 at NCDHH

March 13, 2015 marked the beginning of Deaf History Month. The Commission took to social media and other avenues of communication to highlight important moments in Deaf history in relation to Nebraska:



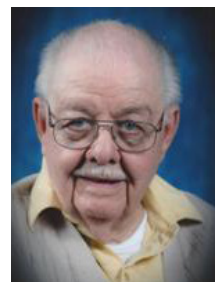
1. The Commission recognized Dr. George and Elly Propp. Dr. Propp was a pioneer in advocacy and education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and instrumental in the creation and establishment of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in 1979.

2. NCDHH next highlighted Dr. Frank Turk, a long influential figure in the Deaf community. A Full Board member at NCDHH, Dr. Turk is well known as the “Father of Deaf Youth of America” because he founded two successful camps: Youth Leadership Camp (YLC) and the National Leadership and Literacy Camp (NLLC).



3. The Nebraska School for the Deaf (NSD) was founded in Omaha, Nebraska in 1869. NSD was a residential school for Deaf students in kindergarten through grade twelve, and was founded by William Decoursey French in North Omaha.

4. NCDHH also recognized Otto Gross. Otto graduated from the Omaha School for the Deaf, and was a master carpenter of Nebraska. His work included many of the church doors and windows in the community, the Lied Center, the UNL Architecture Building, and much more. Most notably, Otto was chosen to help restore the home of President Truman. Otto was a member of the Lincoln Silent Club and past president of Nebraska



Executive Director's Corner

by: John Wyvill



For many of us, Spring is an opportunity to shake off the winter doldrums and seize the opportunities growing around us. It reminds me of Helen Keller's quote: "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing".

Inside this newsletter you will see our team take this adventurous spirit to heart in working hard to make a difference in lives of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans. Make sure to save the date for May 16, NCDHH is hosting a workshop for interpreters, titled "Help Yourself: Stress Management, Self-Care and Resiliency Strategies for Interpreters". Often times we forget the vicarious trauma interpreters encounter in providing communication access in the Hospital ER, police stations, and many other settings. This workshop is designed to provide that support for our interpreters who go above and beyond to ensure communication access is provided.

NCDHH is helping support the NeAD conference here in Lincoln from June 4-6 at the Cornhusker Marriott hotel. We will be premiering the NCDHH/NET special "Unheard Journey of Deaf Nebraskans" at the conference on Friday night, June 5th at 8:30 pm. You will see some of our NCDHH Board and team members at the conference. I hope to see you there! Just after the NeAD conference, NCDHH will have its town hall meeting on June 11th in Columbus, Neb. (NCDHH Board member Gina Frerich's home-town). If you are in the area, please feel free to come on by; we look forward to meeting you!

With the talk of summer coming, it means our favorite national pastime is just around the corner- baseball. Due to the help and support of Charlie Meyer, General Manager of the Lincoln Saltdogs Baseball team, NCDHH will be back for the 2nd annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Night at the July 1st Lincoln Saltdogs home game. Stay tuned for information about door prizes, who will throw out the first pitch, a silent inning and much more.

Make sure to follow The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on Facebook with updates on our exciting journey.

Moving Forward: Every Person, Every Day!

The Unheard Journey of Deaf Nebraskans

by: Peggy Williams, Mental Health Specialist



The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) and the Nebraska Education Television (NET) are producing a program on the history and journey of Deaf Nebraskans. Titled “Unheard Journey of Deaf Nebraskans,” this program highlights the Deaf Museum, several Deaf individuals talking about their journey with employment, volunteer work, planning meetings a Leadership workshop for the deaf presented by Lindsay Darnall, Jr. and more.

As a long time employee of the Commission, I have on many occasions had contact with people who are interested in learning sign language. Understanding the culture of people who are deaf is critical when learning sign language. One of my most cherished mentors, Dr. George Propp, had a picture in his office at the University of Nebraska that read, “If you do not understand my culture you will not understand my words”. That was all it took for me to understand the importance of the Deaf Culture and the importance of educating students on the culture of the Deaf and learning the culture along with the language.

I have valued what I have learned about the history of Deaf Nebraskans and the Nebraska School for the Deaf during my journey of developing and creating this program with NET producer, Penny Costello. Often times we forget about history, but learning about it teaches us how we got to where we are today and why it is so important. Understanding the phenomenal history of Deaf Nebraskans will provide you with a broader understanding of how it all began in Nebraska. I encourage you to visit the Deaf Museum at the former Nebraska School for the Deaf campus for more information.

The premiere of “Unheard Journey of Deaf Nebraskans” will be shown on Friday, June 5th at the Biennial Nebraska Association of the Deaf Conference at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel at 8:30 PM. Be the first to see this program before it airs on NET 2. At this time, the dates for NET 2 have not been determined.

For more information about this program please contact Peggy Williams at the Commission, 402-471-3593 or by email, peggy.williams@nebraska.gov.

Interpreter Discretion is Advised

by: Crystal Pierce, Interpreter Program Assistant



It has been said that having something isn't always better than nothing. Having an unqualified interpreter for a job is not better than having no interpreter at all.

I have been working for the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) for six months as the Interpreter Program Assistant. The biggest change for me is seeing everything from the flipside of freelance interpreting. It is similar to watching a play from the wings rather than sitting with the audience. From my new perspective I have discovered that we as interpreters (or communication facilitators), are sometimes horrible at communicating with each other. This miscommunication causes confusion, rumors, and misunderstandings. One of my responsibilities is to breakdown the chaos of uncertainty.

It seems that recently I have been having more and more conversations about how we should be accepting assignments. As interpreters we are making decisions every day, all day long. We have to contemplate: What is the best sign to use to convey the concept the speaker is presenting? Is there a sign I could use that would make this idea more clear? What English word best expresses the Deaf person's affect? And so on.

In reality, we are making decisions about a job before we even walk in the door. We have to determine if we are even qualified and comfortable with the situation of each and every assignment we are offered. We start with the questions of: Can I interpret into the preferred mode of communications for the clients? Do I have any conflict of interest with the clients or the setting? Am I qualified to interpret at the level needed to handle this level of information? Would I be able to stay neutral with the content that may come up? These are just a few questions we ask ourselves.

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) states that interpreters should accept assignments using discretion with regard to skill, setting, and consumers involved. Of course, we are unable to predict everything that may come up within an assignment. On many occasions what I thought would happen and what was entailed for me was completely different.

Interpreter Discretion is advised (continued) by: Crystal Pierce, Interpreter Program Assistant

What is important to note, is if we ever find that we are unable to continue with an assignment, as professionals, we need to remove ourselves from the situation. Both hearing and Deaf people involved trust that you are doing your job at the level of interpretation needed. If someone violates that trust- they not only do a disservice to themselves, the people involved, but also the profession as a whole.

It only takes one: one decision, one interpreter, one bad experience. If a first experience isn't a positive one, it could impact their outlook on ever using an interpreter again. In turn, this can impact the Deaf community. As the "silent" individual involved, interpreters can influence so many people- positively or negatively.

At NCDHH we have our interpreter referral program. Our goal is not to simply fill a job with whatever warm body is available. If no one is available, that is okay. We would rather give the hiring entity a chance to reschedule, if possible, in hopes of a better outcome and interpreting setting.

The next time you are offered an assignment, take a good look at yourself and decide if you are able to do that assignment. Something a little more challenging is okay. Hey- I would never have taken on Shakespeare without the slight push of encouragement from one of my fellow interpreters, but I did it and loved it. It was a challenge for me, but with some hard work and practice I was able to do it.

Social Media and Technology



**Like NCDHH on
Facebook!**

Visit us on the Web!
www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov

What is a Hearing Loop?



A hearing loop, or induction loop, is a small cord that surrounds the perimeter of a room. When installed, a hearing loop transmits sounds from a microphone directly into telecoil-equipped (T-coil) hearing aids. This transmission of the sound directly into the hearing aid can allow sound to be more easily understood by individuals who are hard of hearing.

Kearney has been making some great progress toward helping individuals who are hard of hearing through the installation of several loop systems. The places that currently utilize loops systems are: Kearney Public Library, Merryman Performing Arts Center, Kearney Community Theatre, Peterson Senior Activity Center, World Theatre, Zion Lutheran Church, and First United Methodist Church.

I visited the Peterson Senior Activity Center, located at 2020 West 11th Street in Kearney, to check out their hearing loops. There are two different areas of the Activity Center that have loops: the main dining area and the classroom. The loop system is hooked into their sound system, so any time they have events, they use the hearing loops. The loops are installed in the ceiling of the main dining area and in the floor of the classroom, so they are not visible. Individuals with hearing aids that have the T-coil function are able to use these loops during activities. These loop systems have been a great addition to the Peterson Senior Activity Center, and have aided many of their hard of hearing patrons.

NCDHH Hires North Platte Field Representative



Introducing the newest team member to NCDHH: Kathy Scusa! She will be the Field Representative for the North Platte area. A native Nebraskan from Paxton, Kathy received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Biology and Art from Doane College. Kathy has eight years of medical scheduling and registration experience, and fifteen years with law enforcement dispatch.

Kathy says she tries to do three things each day: learn something new, help someone in any way, and compliment someone.

Be Alerted for Potential Weather Disasters

by: Kim Davis, Field Representative



Once again, it is the season for potential natural disasters, such as lightning, floods, tornadoes and fires. I like to check for any new or updated emergency alert technologies or programs for self-awareness and, even more importantly, to stay abreast on being prepared to take shelter or evacuate. A tornado siren alert does no good when you can't hear it go off in the middle of the night or even during the day wherever, you are. That's pretty scary, especially if the weather does take a turn for the worst. Having an effective visual or vibrating Emergency Alert System is something to consider. Determining which emergency alert system is best would

require doing some research on which devices or programs are effective and available where you live. You may wish to contact the below appropriate emergency management programs of interest for further information. If you are uncertain, feel free to contact me at 402-261-2657 or Kim.Davis@nebraska.gov.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio:

Seek one that has the capability to provide captions and the ability to operate on battery when there is an electricity power outage. Prior to purchasing one, you may wish to see if the county you reside in will have the ability to provide the broadcasting NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) warnings, watches, forecasts and other emergency information. The NWR Station Listing for Nebraska can be found at www.nws.noaa.gov.

Portable Battery Operated TV:

Seek one that has a captioned decoder built in the portable digital TV of interest that is 13-inches or smaller. If you have the ability to see a demonstration of the TV, check the captions to see if it is readable, since the font sizes will be smaller. Or, seek for reviews from others who may have the same make and model of your interest. Again, depending on where you reside, you may also need to consider the effectiveness of the reception of the portable TV's antenna. If ineffective, upgrading the digital antenna may be needed, if reception will be made possible. Amazon is a good place to check on reviews, features and pricing comparisons, especially if you wish to purchase one at your local stores. Visit Amazon at www.amazon.com.

Be Alerted for Weather Disasters cont.

by: Kim Davis, Field Representative

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs):

If you have a mobile device, you may check to see if it has the WEA program pre-installed. To confirm your device is capable of receiving the alerts and is available in your area, please check your wireless device's setting or contact your wireless provider. WEA messages may include extreme weather alerts, threatening emergencies, Amber Alerts and Presidential Alerts during national emergencies. This may also function effectively outside your residential area when you're out traveling. For more information, visit www.ctia.org/your-wireless-life/consumer-tips/wireless-emergency-alerts.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) APP:

FEMA recently created an app available through Apple's App Store and Android's Google Play. You can receive alerts from the National Weather Service on this app, as well as preparedness tips, resources on where one can find disaster recovery centers, and much more. Additional information can be found at www.fema.gov/news-release/2015/04/14/fema-launches-new-feature-mobile-app-empowering-users-follow-weather-alerts.

National Weather Service Email and SMS Weather Alert Services:

You may wish to subscribe for weather alert services through email or text messaging (SMS). There are several different available providers. Visit www.weather.gov/subscribe or check your local TV or radio station to see if they provide local emergency alerts through email and/or text messaging.

Social Network Sites Check-Ins:

Having a communication plan in place for family members and friends to be aware of where you can be found or to update on your status and well-being is also critical. One of several available options is that you can obtain notifications from specific persons or update your status in your profile on Facebook, Twitter or Google accounts. This feature provides a way for subscribers to quickly communicate their status in an emergency. Subscribers may also seek to receive emergency or public alerts from participating emergency alerting, public safety and other organizations involved in emergencies.

Twitter – visit Twitter Alerts at <http://ow.ly/f8slJ>

Facebook – visit Facebook Safety Check at www.facebook.com/about/safetycheck

Google – visit Google Public Alerts at <https://google.org/publicalerts>

Battery Charger

This is a must have back-up, unless you desire to have a large number of extra batteries for most of the above devices of your choosing. You could charge your batteries, mobile phones or operate the portable TV in your car using a power inverter with USB ports and AC outlets that plugs into your car cigarette adapter.

NCDHH Announces Partnership with UNO to Establish Sign Language Interpreter Program

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) formally announces a collaborative partnership with the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) to establish a sign language interpreting internship program. To graduate, UNO's Sign Language Interpreter program requires students to register for an internship in the final year of coursework.

The internship is designed to promote good working relationships between Interns, Sign Language Interpreting Mentors, and the Interpreter Preparation Program Internship supervisors. During the internship, students have the opportunity to work with a certified/licensed interpreter and/or Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals who serve as a mentor.

Dr. Julie Delkamiller, UNO Assistant Professor of Special Education and Communication Disorders, notes the importance of internship opportunities, "NCDHH has taken the lead for raising expectations for sign language interpreters. UNO offers the only sign language interpreting program in Nebraska, so this collaboration seemed like a win-win situation for all people involved," she said.

Throughout the internship, students will apply the theory, knowledge and skills obtained in the classroom to the delivery of interpreting services. At the same time, they will also acquire new professional knowledge and skills, develop effective professional work habits and develop working relationships with co-workers and deaf consumers.

"This internship program will provide critical, relevant work experiences for students at UNO that are aspiring sign language interpreters. Not only will this train young professionals in Nebraska, but will also help us address the pressing need for more qualified interpreters to provide communication access across the state," NCDHH Executive Director John Wyvill said.

NCDHH Announces Partnership with UNO to Establish Sign Language Interpreter Program

Students will work closely with NCDHH Interpreter Program Assistant, Crystal Pierce, during their internship. Pierce, who is a licensed interpreter, will act as a mentor for the students. The role of a mentor is to model interpreting techniques and professional behaviors that demonstrate best, standard practice, and at the same time encourage the intern to explore a variety of different techniques.

“The internship part of an Interpreter Training Program (ITP) is invaluable. It is the time where you jump in with two feet and explore the interpreting field, while still having a professional working with you as a life-line. Working as a mentor with these students, I am reminded of when I first started. That is the best part of being a mentor: knowing what I went through as I worked my way into the interpreting world and using that knowledge to help guide others onto their own path,” Pierce said.

For students interested in the Sign Language Interpreter Program at UNO, please contact Dr. Julie Delkamiller at jdelkamiller@unomaha.edu or visit the UNO College of Education website at <http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-education/special-education-communication-disorders/>

Know Someone Who Deserves Recognition?

NCDHH started Boss of the Month as a means to highlight a member of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing community, or stakeholders that we work with.

If you would like to nominate someone for Boss of the Month, please email Executive Director John Wyvill at john.wyvill@nebraska.gov

A list of previous honorees can be found on our website at www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/Publications/botm.html

Hearing Loss Resources at Your Fingertips

by: Beth Ellsworth, Field Representative



Every time I see an article about hearing loss I smile, because for such a long time hearing loss was hidden. Great progress has been made, but there is still much to be done in order for hearing loss to be fully understood. Hearing loss is not limited to older adults. Noise induced hearing loss is on the rise among children, teenagers and young adults. Many veterans are also returning from service deaf or hard of hearing.

Below are some of the articles:

- http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/health/conditions_treatments/2012-01/2012-Hearing-Guide-AARP.pdf
- <http://www.healthyhearing.com/report/43310-Ten-signs-of-hearing>
- <http://blog.aarp.org/2015/02/11/famous-rock-concerts-that-blew-minds-and-ears-2/>

Here is a list of some of the resources on the web.

- <http://www.hearingloss.org/>
- <http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/>
- <http://www.heroeswithhearingloss.org/>
- http://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/programs/listen-carefully/?gclid=CNS-Fk8iS-8QCFZSCaQod_04ABQ#/listencarefully

As a Field Representative I enjoy working with people who experience a hearing loss or are deaf. I also have the opportunity to work with the public to promote understanding about what hearing loss is like. NCDHH has offices in Omaha, Lincoln Kearney and North Platte. To learn more contact a Field representative in your area.

To reach me call 402-682-7129 Video Phone or e-mail me at beth.ellsworth@nebraska.gov

My Inspiration

by: Brenda Chappell, Field Representative



Deaf Awareness Month had me looking back and remembering who has made a difference in my life. I am so sure that I would not be here if not for the deaf community who believed in me and helped me through so much.

When I became deaf at age two, I was enrolled in a program where expectations demanded me to learn to hear and I believed that I must learn to hear. I was frustrated when I couldn't meet the expectations. I was all alone with a handful of children who were different than me.

Eventually I learned sign language, but the expectations didn't diminish. I felt there was something wrong with me because I was supposed to learn to hear, and I couldn't.

When I moved to Nebraska and enrolled at the Nebraska School for the Deaf, I was marveled to see everyone signs in every class room. I had never seen so many people sign before. From there I faced many challenges, but good ones. I learned so much. Not only the class subjects, but also about life. I met many people who became role models and mentors. They taught me that I could do anything I want. I could succeed if I want to. Even better they were deaf, too. The best part of deaf school was that I didn't have to think about hearing. I was there to learn about math, English, science, social studies, etc. I participated in sports and clubs. I attended countless workshops. They also taught annually a piece of deaf history about Thomas Gallaudet and Laurent Clerc, who conceived the first deaf school in America. Those names I will never forget. They were my biggest inspiration.

During school years I received a few deaf-related subscriptions. There were stories about their obstacles and how they overcame them. They mentioned deaf individuals obtaining important positions at their place of employment.

I have seen deaf adults fight against many obstacles. They told me that is why we should fight for our rights and that we should not give up. We are human just like hearing people, and we should not be treated any less.

When I was in my junior year, there was a huge event in deaf history – Deaf President Now (DPN) at Gallaudet University. The world dropped everything and listened. My classes were suspended so we could watch the news. A few reporters came to my school to interview students.

My Inspiration cont.

by: Brenda Chappell, Field Representative

The first deaf Gallaudet president, Irving King Jordan inspired me by saying his famous quote “Deaf people can do anything hearing people can, except hear.” I received a T-shirt with this quote and wore it proudly.

When I went to Gallaudet University, I loved it. Not only were deaf students everywhere, there were many employees signing there and technology that gave students access to communication. The professors, deaf and hearing alike, demanded much from students and challenged their minds. They had high expectations. They believed in me and challenged me to go beyond.

I became a teacher in a mainstreaming school in Texas after I graduated. I became a role model to deaf students. I faced a few deaf children who believed that they couldn't achieve and some of them didn't bother to try. It was not easy to convince them that they could do anything. I knew from experience- there were some people who would tell me that I couldn't do anything because I was deaf and believed I was hopeless. Fortunately, I had enough people who told me that I could and I chose to listen to them, instead. I had to say to students “Look at me! I am Deaf and I have a college degree! Why can't you!” Other times, I had a low tolerance of nay-sayers and I would scream “Being deaf is no excuse for missing homework! Being deaf is no excuse for doing lousy in math!” Even worse, their parents believed their deaf children would not succeed. They realized that they couldn't use the same excuse when they met me.

I am no longer a teacher, but I met so many deaf children and I was their role model. I took them under my wing and taught them that they can do anything they want and their deafness should not stop them. Deafness should not be used as weakness or excuse for failure. Yes, their ears are closed, but their minds are not. They can think. They can see. They can taste. They can feel. They can learn. They can create anything with their hands.

In my youth I learned that I could because of many wonderful deaf people who were my inspiration and my role models. There are many deaf and hard of hearing children who don't have someone tell them that they can do anything. I believe our inspirations should not be taken for granted. It is important to meet deaf and hard of hearing youth and share our experiences so they could be inspired to go beyond the norm.

How to Become Indispensable at Work

by: Maribeth Jensen-Darnall, Administrative Assistant



When it comes to working in the American culture and being part of another sub culture especially Deaf culture, it can be challenging at times when you are trying to fit in. What are some values that may be different? The most dominant pattern here in the United States is “Individualism”. Some of us are raised to think of themselves as individuals who are responsible for their own lives. This may mean “Do It Yourself or to say “I’m fine; I did it on my own” or may not appreciate being asked for details. This is the importance that Americans put on privacy. We may like personal space and may keep personal thoughts to ourselves. Those who are hearing may value being alone, and for those who are Deaf, they might find that strange. For those who are Deaf some may struggle with both values.

In the Deaf culture, one of the most dominant cultural patterns is called “Collectivism”. This means that Deaf people are members that include “all” Deaf people. They see themselves as a close knitted and interconnected community. They enjoy being in the company of other people who are Deaf. They are often thrilled when they have other Deaf members on their team because often in the workplace they are alone.

When working together (a blended team of hearing people, deaf people, Deaf people and Hard of Hearing people), treating people with genuine respect is helpful. You never know who you may be working with some day so treat everyone as you would want to be treated. For an example, I have a friend who was picked on all her life because she is Deaf and she went to public school. Now she is a lawyer in Iowa and many people, who picked on her growing up, ask her for help and have apologized to her for their behavior.

In addition, when there is difficulty at work or if you’re the newest member on the team do not be afraid of challenges or difficulties that may arise. You may not like some things that you experience at work and feel at some point in a crisis. The Chinese ideogram for crisis has two separate characters: One means danger and the other means opportunity. For an example, two companies may merge together and organization may be changed You need to acknowledge the danger and the opportunity. Those who see this as an opportunity to grow, accept changes, willing to be flexible, that person becomes indispensable at work. What will you do in this situation? I leave you at this to ponder and discuss with your co-workers, family and friends.

Social Media and Technology

NCDHH

Nebraska Commission
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Media Center

Interested in learning more about...

American Sign Language

Interpreting

Deaf Culture

Hearing Loss

And more!

Available to Nebraskans, NCDHH has a free media center loan program. Available materials include books, videos, and teaching materials on topics from American Sign Language, deafness, interpreting, hearing loss, and more

Browse and Submit Your Request at:

ne.gov/go/ncdhh-media

or by phone:

(800) 545-6244

ncdhh.nebraska.gov



**Like us on
Facebook!**



4600 Valley Road, Suite 420, Lincoln, NE 68510-4844

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE OF
NEBRASKA

Change Service Requested

Is this address correct? If not,
please let NCDHH know.
Thank you for your help.

Submit an Article Idea!

NCDHH welcomes ideas and articles for consideration and insertion into future issues of the newsletter.

Please submit articles to:

NCDHH Newsletter Ideas
4600 Valley Road, Suite 420
Lincoln, NE 68510-4844

or e-mail them to:
ncdhh@nebraska.gov

Articles submitted are not necessarily the views of NCDHH. The NCDHH newsletter is published four times annually.

NCDHH Street & Electronic Address

Lincoln Office

4600 Valley Road
Suite 420
Lincoln, NE 68510-4844

Omaha Office

1313 Farnam-on-the-Mall
Omaha, NE 68102-1836

Kearney Office

(800) 545-6244

V/TTY: (402) 471-3593

VP: (402) 261-2670

V/TTY TOLL FREE:
(800) 545-6244

E-mail:
ncdhh@nebraska.gov