

Approved at the December 10, 2021 meeting

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Full Commission Board Meeting
Omaha State Office Building, 1313 Farnam, Room 227, Omaha, NE**

November 19th, 2021, Meeting Minutes

A. Opening

Chairperson Candice Arteaga started the meeting of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) full commission board meeting on November 19th, 2021, 8:30 am at the Omaha State Office Building, 1313 Farnam, Room 227, Omaha, Nebraska.

B. Notice of Open Meeting

Chairperson Candice Arteaga announced that the notice of the meeting was duly given, posted, published, and tendered in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and all board members received notice simultaneously by email. Publication of official notice of the meeting appeared in the October 21, 2021, edition of the Omaha World Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation in this state, as required by the Open Meetings Act. The agenda was kept current in the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's office and on the NCDHH website. The materials generally used by the Board for this meeting today are on the table in a public folder that is available to the general public for the purpose of this meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act {Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1412 (8)}. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for the duration of the meeting.

C. Roll Call

For the record, Board Members Ms. Candice Arteaga, Mr. Robert Feit, Ms. Frances Beurivage, Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Ms. Diane Schutt, Dr. Josh Sevier, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams were all present. Ms. Valerie Hitz was absent for roll call. NCDHH Staff members present were Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director; Mr. Cody McEvoy, Behavioral Health Coordinator; and Ms. Jessica Larrison, Education Advocate. Sign Language Interpreters present were Ms. Lorelei Waldron and Ms. Amber Tucker. Ms. Margaret "Mydge" Heaney with Inclusive Communication Access Nebraska provided CART services.

D. Review of Agenda

Executive Director John Wyvill reviewed the agenda with the Board Members and invited the board members to stop by the Omaha NCDHH office after the meeting.

E. Acceptance of Agenda

Mr. Robert Feit moved to accept the agenda as written. Dr. Josh Sevier seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Candice Arteaga, Mr. Robert Feit, Ms. Frances Beurivage, Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Ms. Diane Schutt, Dr. Josh Sevier, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams all voting aye. Ms. Valerie Hitz was absent.

F. Acceptance of Minutes

Ms. Diane Schutt moved to accept October 22nd, 2021, minutes. Dr. Josh Sevier seconded the motion.

With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Candice Arteaga, Mr. Robert Feit, Ms. Frances Beurivage, Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Ms. Diane Schutt, Dr. Josh Sevier, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams all voting aye. Ms. Valerie Hitz was absent.

G. Chairperson of the Board Report

Chair Candice Arteaga welcomed new board member Peggy Williams and reported that Dr. Josh Sevier’s last meeting will be in December. Ms. Arteaga also thanked NCDHH Omaha staff for setting up the room and congratulated Ms. Jessica Larrison on receiving the Governor’s Excellence in Leadership award.

H. Strategic Planning Working Session (Serenity Kinney)

Serenity Kinney, Department of Administrative Services Human Resources – Shared Services Administrator, shared with the board the updated mission, vision, and goals. She led the board through a discussion on the specific objectives that will need to be in place to reach the newly updated goals. The goals and corresponding objectives were finalized to the following:

Mission Statement

We advocate to create opportunities by raising awareness through collaboration.

Vision Statement

Access for all.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal #1: Empower through training and provide services to create awareness.

Objectives:

- Educate consumers on their legal rights under federal and state laws.
- Update consumers on available technology, equipment and telecommunication access options and services.
- Educate consumers on self-empowerment and self-advocacy.
- Advocate to assure equal access to quality education for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and/or Hard of Hearing students.

Goal #2: Collaborate with stakeholders to implement and maintain programs.

Objectives:

- Provide access to quality, effective and accessible communication accommodations.
- Identify and resolve gaps in services. Promote awareness through the collection and distribution of information.

Goal #3: Promote awareness through the collection and distribution of information.

Objectives:

- Inform communities about programs and services operated by NCDHH.
- Enhance the website to better provide information through emerging technology.
- Research, gather and expand the dissemination of information through visual technology.
- Promote partnerships with other agencies to encourage website visits.

Goal #4: Ensure access to health care.

Objectives:

- Promote and/or provide healthcare/behavioral health care training to certified or licensed sign language interpreters in Nebraska.
- Educate staff of health care facilities to ensure communication access for all.
- Establish local support systems with mental health providers, domestic violence programs, and regional programs.

Cody McEvoy commented about what other states are doing in regards to mental health providers serving deaf or hard of hearing clients. These providers call a facilitator to consult with the professional and/or the deaf person to ensure accurate communication. There were questions around what “regional” is referring to and Mr. McEvoy related what he is referring to when he mentions regional programs (states having a specific program that other states can refer Deaf or Hard of Hearing clients to). Nebraska does not have this type of program at this time. Mr. McEvoy also reported that the regional programs and other providers still do not know to call us for help with locating available services.

Goal #5: Ensure access to effective and quality interpreting.

Objectives:

- Oversee and enforce the licensing of deaf and sign language interpreters.
- Review alleged violations of rules and regulations governing sign language interpreters.
- Promote and/or provide interpreter training.

Goal #6: Education and promote awareness of Deaf culture.

Objectives:

- Enhance and develop events about Deaf culture.

- Collaborate with Deaf organizations to promote awareness of Deaf culture and history.

There was discussion around including Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind in the Deaf culture goal or specifically refer to the groups in other objectives. These proposed Goals and Objectives will be sent to everyone for consideration and will be put to a final vote at the December meeting. The December meeting will not be a working discussion meeting, but if someone has a wording change that would be accommodated. There was discussion around how long the new goals will be in place. It was decided that it would be beneficial to review yearly to see if the goals are still relevant and if any changes need to be made.

I. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

J. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

K. New Business

Mr. John Wyvill reported that the Interpreter Issues Committee will meet between now and the December 10th meeting and will report back to the board on recommendations from the IRB.

L. Adjourn

Ms. Peggy Williams moved to adjourn at 1:00 pm. Ms. Diane Schutt seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Candice Arteaga, Mr. Robert Feit, Ms. Frances Beurivage, Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Ms. Diane Schutt, Dr. Josh Sevier, Ms. Sandra Shaw and Ms. Peggy Williams all voting aye. Ms. Valerie Hitz was absent.

Next Meeting Dates

- December 10, 2021 – Country Inn and Suites, 5353 N. 27th, Lincoln, Nebraska