

## **Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting**

December 6, 2019; 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

1313 Farnam Room 222, Omaha, NE

### **A. Welcome**

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board (IRB) was called to order at 1:00 pm by Ms. Peggy Williams, Chairperson at 1313 Farnam, Room 222 in Omaha, NE.

### **B. Notice of Open Meeting**

Chairperson, Ms. Peggy Williams announced 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. The agenda has been kept current and available at the Commission's office and on their website. The materials generally used by the board for this meeting are on the table in a public folder that is available to the general public for this meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, {Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1412 (8)}.

Publication of official notice of the meeting appeared in the November 27, 2019 edition of the Omaha World Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation in this state, as required by the Open Meetings Act.

### **C. Roll Call**

For the record, Board Members Ms. Peggy Williams, Mr. Thomas Beyer, Ms. Jessica Nickels, Ms. Vonda Apking, Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director, Mr. Richard McCowin, and Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson, were present. Ms. Nancy Flearl, was absent.

Also present were Ms. Traci Cooney, Interpreter Licensing Specialist and Ms. Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator.

Interpreters for the meeting were Ms. Amber Tucker and Mr. Ben Sparks. Margaret Heaney of ERI was present to provide CART services.

Members of the public in attendance were Ms. Crystal Pierce, Ms. Frances Beurivage, Ms. Julie Delkamiller, Ms. Tina Work, Ms. Beth Townsend, Ms. Karen Potter-Maxwell, Ms. Anne McBride, Ms. Arica Carlson, Ms. Barb Woodhead, and Ms. Ronda Rankin.

Mr. Wyvill introduced a new NCDHH staff member, Mr. Dillon Curren.

### **D. Review of Agenda**

Mr. Wyvill added that items marked in red or pink are action times.

### **E. Acceptance of Agenda**

Board Member, Ms. Richardson-Nelson moved to accept the agenda as written. Board Member, Ms. Jessica Nickels seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Mr. McCowin, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent.

#### **F. Acceptance of Minutes**

Mr. Beyer recommended a change on page 3 in the last paragraph under section b. That recommendation was to change the motion to show that Mr. Wyvill had abstained from the vote. Ms. Apking made a motion to approve the September 6, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Board Member, Ms. Richardson-Nelson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Ms. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. McCowin, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent.

#### **G. Chairperson of the Board's Report**

Ms. Williams asked that everyone introduce themselves for the large group of public attendees.

#### **H. Public Comments**

Ms. Delkamiller discussed a letter she submitted for the Board members as a representative of UNO. They have several concerns regarding new graduates being able to actually seek employment. She provided information from other states and their process for licensing uncertified interpreters. She explained her concerns of the decline in number of students taking classes as well as the further impact to UNO that they could look to close the program in the future.

#### **I. Executive Director Report – presented by Mr. John Wyvill**

##### **a. Review of the Rules and Regulations**

- Mr. Wyvill handed out a revised timeline to members. This shows what the next steps are in the rule making process if the Board agrees to the current version and refers it to the Full Board for approval.
- The Board thanked members of the Task Force for their time in reviewing and editing this document. Members of the Task Force included Ms. Barb Woodhead, Ms. Crystal Pierce, Ms. Deb Teller, Ms. Judy Gouldsmith, Ms. France Beurivage, Mr. Heath Focken, Ms. Peggy Williams, and the assistance of Ms. Sinkler and Ms. Cooney. Ms. Williams mentioned that Dr. Pete Seiler was on the Task Force until his move out of state.
- Ms. Williams asked Ms. Woodhead to provide an update to the Task Force's recommendations. Ms. Woodhead had provided copies of the recommendations to the members prior to the meeting. She reviewed the document in detail. Some of the recommendations were in the Rules and Regulations and others were recommendations for the internal processes for NCDHH staff.

Mrs. Richardson-Nelson made the motion to accept the Task Force recommendations #1-#5. Mr. McCowin seconded this motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent. Mr. Wyvill motioned to amend the motion to accept the recommendations and recommend that the Interpreter Issues Committee review the submitted Task

Force document. Mr. McCowin seconded this motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent.

- Mr. Wyvill stated that staff is recommending to the Board that the Rules and Regulations are ready to move to the Full Board and would like this Board to approve the current document. Mr. McCowin stated that he had a few recommendations.
- Members discussed the draft Rules and Regulations. Mr. McCowin recommended that the definition of Auxiliary Aid include “deaf interpreter” and remove “other interpreter”. Mr. McCowin mentioned that CASLI is now developing testing material for RID. He recommends to add CASLI to the definitions. Mr. McCowin also recommended removing “deaf/blind” under the Intermediary license under section 003.01B.

Mr. McCowin made a motion to accept the Rules and Regulations as amended with his 3 recommendations. Ms. Nickels seconded this motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent.

b. Informal Licensure Complaint

Executive Director Mr. Wyvill announced that he is recusing himself from deliberating on cases 2516, 2517, 2518 and 2519.

Ms. Apking made a motion to go into closed session at 2:56pm for purposes to discuss cases 2516, 2517, 2518 and 2519. Ms. Nickels seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent.

Ms. Apking made a motion to go into open session at 4:22pm. Ms. Williams seconded this motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking all voting aye. Mr. Wyvill and Ms. Flearl were absent.

During open session, Ms. Apking made a motion to inform the Full Commission Board that based on the redacted information we have been provided in cases 2516, 2517, 2518 & 2519, we, the IRB are unable to make an informed recommendation to dismiss the cases or recommend action. Mr. Beyer seconded this motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Williams, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Apking all voting aye. Mr. Wyvill recused himself. Ms. Flearl was absent.

**J. Public Comment**

None given

**K. Old Business**

Nothing to report

**L. New Business**

- **Set February 2020 meeting date and location**

The next IRB meeting will be on February 28 in Lincoln starting at 1pm. More details will be provided to the members at a later date.

**M. Announcements**

**N. Adjourn (Ms. Williams)**

Mrs. Richardson-Nelson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:31pm. Ms. Apking seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Apking, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Mr. McCowin, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Williams, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent.