

Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

Draft – current as of September 8, 2021

September 3rd, 2021; 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Country Inn and Suites, 5353 N. 27th, Lincoln, NE

A. Welcome

The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board (IRB) was called to order at 11:00 am by Mr. John Wyvill, Acting Chairperson, at Country Inn and Suites, 5353 N. 27th, Lincoln, Nebraska.

B. Notice of Open Meeting

Acting Chairperson, Mr. John Wyvill 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)}. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available with the public folder for the duration of the meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Publication of official notice of the meeting appeared in the August 27, 2021, edition of the Omaha World Herald, a legal newspaper of general circulation in this state, as required by the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Wyvill explained that he will be Acting Chairperson until the elections portion of the meeting where the board will be voting on a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. At that time, the newly elected Chairperson will take over the meeting.

C. Roll Call

For the record, Board Members Ms. Vonda Apking, Ms. Meghann Cassidy, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Margie Propp, Ms. Tricia Tighe and Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director, were present. Ms. Nancy Flearl and Ms. Jessica Nickels were absent for roll call.

NCDHH staff present were Ms. Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator; Abby Giambattista, Advocacy Specialist; and Traci Johns, Staff Assistant.

Interpreters for the meeting were Mr. Ben Sparks and Ms. Amber Tucker.

Judy Janssen, NCDHH contracted investigator, was present at the meeting.

D. Review of Agenda

Mr. Wyvill explained that the pink items were action items and then read the agenda. Mr. Wyvill welcomed new members Tricia Tighe, Margie Propp and Meghann Cassidy.

Ms. Jessica Nickels joined the meeting at 11:04 pm.

E. Acceptance of Agenda

Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson, moved to accept the agenda as written. Board Member, Ms. Margie Propp seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Propp, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Tighe, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent.

F. Elections

Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson nominated Ms. Jessica Nickels to be Chairperson. Ms. Nickels accepted the nomination. There were no volunteers for Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Tricia Tighe asked if Ms. Flearl could be nominated and whether she could accept or decline at a later time. Mr. Wyvill explained that she could be nominated and she would have the opportunity to decline if she did not want the position. Ms. Vonda Apking made a motion to nominate Ms. Jessica Nickels as Chairperson and Ms. Nancy Flearl as Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Margie Propp seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Propp, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Tighe, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent.

G. Acceptance of Minutes

Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson made a motion to adopt the June 4th, 2021, minutes and Board Member, Ms. Vonda Apking seconded the motion with one change to the minutes: deletion of the word “recognized” on page 3. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Propp, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Tighe, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent.

H. Public Comments

None.

I. Executive Closed Session – Informal Complaint #2525

Mr. Wyvill gave an update on the complaint process for the new board members. He explained that he and Ms. Sinkler will be recusing themselves from participating and deliberating on the complaint. Mr. Wyvill would also not be voting on the recommendation as the agency works with interpreters on a regular basis and it presents a possible conflict of interest.

Board Member, Ms. Margie Propp made a motion to go into closed session and Board Member, Ms. Vonda Apking seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Propp, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Tighe, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent. The IRB went into closed session at 11:16 am.

The board came back to open session at 12:10 p.m. The recommendation from the IRB to the full board regarding Informal Complaint #2525 states that no action be taken as there is no violation against the Rules and Regulations of the State of Nebraska. The motion to adopt this recommendation was made by Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson. Board Member, Ms. Vonda Apking seconded it. With no further discussion the motion carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Nickels, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Tighe all voting aye. Mr. Wyvill abstained. Ms. Propp and Ms. Flearl were absent.

J. Executive Director Report – presented by Mr. John Wyvill

a. Agency updates

- Mr. Wyvill shared that the Rules and Regulations document has been approved and that it went into effect August 1st. He thanked the IRB and the Rules and Regulations Task Force for their hard work. He shared that Abby Giambattista is our first Apprentice Licensee.
- Mr. Wyvill shared that upcoming events include the Omaha Zoo event on October 3rd and an NCDHH vs. OAD softball game in Omaha on September 11th. Scottsbluff will be hosting deaf comedian Keith Wann on October 7th and Candice Arteaga will be there representing NCDHH.

K. Public Comment

Sharon Sinkler, Interpreter Program Coordinator, announced that she will have an online workshop on November 13th. Robyn Dean, known for her Demand Control Schema training, will be presenting on Zoom.

L. Old Business

Mrs. Richardson-Nelson asked for an update on a topic from last meeting regarding developing an SOP for disseminating information to other states, agencies and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf regarding an interpreter who has received discipline from NCDHH. Mr. John Wyvill stated that he will provide an update after next Friday's board meeting.

M. New Business

- **Set December 3rd meeting date and location.** The meeting is scheduled for December 3rd 11:00 – 1:00 pm at Country Inn and Suites. If that room is not available, the next location to check for availability will be Firefighter's Hall.

N. Announcements

There were no announcements.

O. Adjourn

Board Member, Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 pm. Board Member, Ms. Tricia Tighe seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Apking, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Nickels, Ms. Propp, Mrs. Richardson-Nelson, Ms. Tighe, Mr. Wyvill all voting aye. Ms. Flearl was absent.