

## Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

**Draft 1, current version as of 03.11.2024**

Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

*4600 Valley Road, Conference Room 4A*

*Lincoln, NE*

### **A. Welcome**

The Meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board was called to order at 1:42 PM by Chairperson Meghann Cassidy.

### **B. Notice of Open Meetings Act**

Chairperson Meghann Cassidy 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.

### **C. Roll Call**

For the record, board members Meghann Cassidy, Margie Propp, Tami Richardson-Nelson, Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell and NCDHH representative Kim Davis were present. Gina Petersen, NCDHH Administrative Technician/Licensing Specialist was also present. Briana Stradinger and Vonda Apking were absent.

Interpreters: Crystal Pierce and Ben Sparks

Minutes: Gina Petersen, NCDHH Administrative Technician/Licensing Specialist

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

Chairperson Meghann Cassidy reviewed the agenda with the Board Members.

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

Ms. Margie Propp moved to accept the agenda as written, seconded by Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell. With no further discussion, the motion carried with all voting ayes.

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

There were no changes suggested. Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell made the motion to approve, and Ms. Margie Propp seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried with all voting ayes.

## G. Chairperson Updates

a. Discuss Community Forum

b. Next Steps?

- Mrs. Tami Richardson-Nelson stated that from her understanding, the IRB would review the comments from the community forum, think of comments or suggestions, then present those to the full board.
- Ms. Margie Propp commented that she is unsure whether it was really the IRB's role to have held the interpreter community forum, or whether that should have been done by something like an interpreter issues committee under the full board.
- Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell suggested making a recommendation to the full board to establish a taskforce to handle the next steps to take from the from the community forum.
- Ms. Margie Propp agreed with Ms. Steinhauer Campbell, suggesting that the IRB supplies the full board with the community forum notes and let them handle it from there.

c. **Motion I**

- Ms. Propp motioned that the IRB give the community forum notes to the full board and recommend that the full board establish a taskforce. Ms. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell seconded the motion.

d. **discussion**

- Ms. Propp commented that during her time on the board there was an interpreter issues taskforce, so there may be some information from that time as well, though it feels repetitive with no results. Ms. Steinhauer-Campbell responded that it still seems worth a try since it has been a few years since Ms. Propp was on the board.
- Chairperson Meghann Cassidy added that the interpreter shortage seems to have gotten a lot worse, which makes this a good time to propose that task force.

### *Discussion on interpreter shortage in Nebraska*

- Ms. Margie Propp suggested that one of the taskforce members be someone from the IRB to which Ms. Davis responded that this motion should be voted on first, then followed up by a motion and vote on Ms. Propp's suggestion.
- With no further discussion, the motion passed with all voting ayes.

e. **Motion II**

- Ms. Margie Propp motioned that at least one of the taskforce members be a person from the IRB, who can act as somewhat of a "chairperson." Ms. Steinhauer-Campbell seconded.
- With no further discussion, the motion passed with all voting ayes.

- Chairperson Meghann Cassidy discussed briefly with the board reaching out to Ms. Briana Stradinger regarding attendance.

## **H. NCDHH – Kim Davis**

### **a. Agency Updates**

- Ms. Kim Davis stated that as previously announced, NCDHH’s executive director resigned. Additionally, NCDHH’s interpreting program coordinator Sharon Sinkler is retiring on March 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a retirement party at 1:30 PM in the room next door to 4A.
- Ms. Davis commented that the agency has been going through a lot of transitions and are trying to fill the behavioral health coordinator position as well, hopefully lining up interviews in the near future. Ms. Davis encouraged the IRB members to share that position opening with anyone they think may be a good match.
- In the meantime, the full board is handling the search for a new executive director. The previous director had set up a management team of Sharon Sinkler, interpreter program coordinator, Public Information officer Kelsey Cruz and Ms. Davis herself. Ms. Davis and Ms. Cruz are acting as interim director while the full board searches for applicants.
- Ms. Davis highlighted Ms. Cruz’s legislative activities, mentioning LB-1180, which relates to the NSTEP program, asking for the ability to change the criteria from one wireless device per household to two wireless devices per household. Additionally, shortening the time frame from 5 years to 3 years. The bill has been introduced and now waits to be voted out of committee and onto the general floor.
- Ms. Margie Propp asked the group if they should work on something for Ms. Sinkler’s retirement, like a thank you card, for being active in the IRB and changing things for the better.
- Ms. Propp suggested that she gather messages from the IRB to write down in a card to give to Ms. Sinkler at her party.

## **I. Public Comments**

## **J. Old Business**

## **K. New Business**

### **a. Next Meeting Dates:**

- June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 PM in Lincoln
- September 6<sup>th</sup>, in Omaha

- December 6<sup>th</sup>, in Lincoln

**L. Announcements**

- a. Ms. Kim Davis announced that Gina Petersen, NCDHH Administrative Technician and now Licensing specialist, will be taking over Sharon Sinkler's duties after her retirement.

**M. Adjourn**

- a. Chairperson Meghann Cassidy made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:37 PM, and Margie Propp seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried with all voting ayes.