

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015
Time: 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Location: 1313 Farnam on the Mall, Omaha, NE 2nd Floor, room 227
Interpreters: Debie Seiler & Deb Teller
Minutes: Cindy Woldt
CART:

Present: Ms. Peggy Williams, Ms. Karen Potter – Maxwell, Ms. Vickie Steinhauer – Campbell, Ms. Jessica Nickels (Visitor from Omaha VR), Ms. Diane Meyer, Ms. Beth Ellsworth, Ms. Lisa Vogel

Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 2:04pm by Chairperson, Ms. Steinhauer- Campbell. Introductions were made by going around the room.

The agenda was approved as written and accepted by Ms. Vogel and seconded by Ms. Meyer.

Approval of the February 10, 2015 meeting minutes, was accepted by Ms. Vogel and seconded by Ms. Potter – Maxwell.

Approval of the May 13, 2015 meeting minutes. Ms. Jill Bird has suggestions that were already made from a previous conversation with Ms. Williams. The minutes were accepted as written by Ms. Vogel and seconded by Ms. Potter – Maxwell.

New Business

- **NCDHH Executive Director Report – Mr. Wyvill**

Mr. Wyvill was not present at the meeting, Ms. Williams gave his report

- Ms. Williams commented on how well Ms. Steinhauer- Campbell is doing with running the meetings.
- LB287 – was signed into law in May, sign language interpreter licensing bill, excludes religious and educational interpreters and becomes effective on January 1, 2016.

Also noted that any Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) service will have to hold a business license.

- September 27, 2015 is Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha. The event is still in the planning stages.
- LR517 – raising the standard for educational interpreters

- **Webex – Ms. Williams**

- This goes hand in hand with outreach. NCDHH brought in people from the state to teach NCDHH on how to provide webinars to others. This will be a wonderful tool in providing outreach regarding domestic violence to attract people to participate.

- **Outreach**

- Ms. Williams asked for suggestions on what we could do for more outreach efforts.
 - Ms. Meyer commented that the schools have various conferences for the public schools. Suggested that we touch base and find out how to start the promotion process. Ms. Meyer also noted that she and Maureen Mann from Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH) recently attended a conference that covered K – 12th grade.
 - Ms. Ellsworth commented that she is going a booth at a conference for National Association for Social Workers, wondered if this committee should reach out to them.
 - Ms. Williams added that any further comments or suggestions can be emailed directly to her.
 - Ms. Meyer asked if we can grant continuing education units (CEU's) for people attending webinars, workshops hosted by NCDHH. Ms. Williams commented that she would have to work with the state on how to implement that.

- **2016 – 2017 Enrichment Grant**

- Ms. Williams noted that Kim Davis, Field Representative in the Lincoln office has expressed a desire to be a part so that she can continue with this grant when Ms. Williams retires.
- The suggestion was made to have a workshop that combines the deaf and interpreting community working together as one. Discussion was held on this topic with the group.

- **Advocacy Handbook**

- Ms. Williams gave a quick overview of what the Advocacy Handbook is and who was involved in the development process. This was a joint process between NCDHH and Disability Rights Nebraska. The link to where you can find an electronic copy on our website - <http://www.ncdhh.ne.gov/Publications/publications.html>. Individuals can then go and print copies as needed.
 - Ms. Williams shared that the Commission is planning on creating a video in sign language outlining the handbook.
 - Discussion among the group was held on the use of Martti (My Accessible Real-Time Trusted Interpreter in hospital settings. Ms. Williams added that Bryan Health has sent out contracts to all that interpret and to fill out a list of questions provided by Bryan Health. You also need to include a copy of liability insurance. Ms. Meyer added that she carries liability insurance as a speech language pathologist. Discussion took place regarding various professions requiring carrying liability insurance.
- **2017 NET Program**
 - Ms. Williams shared that this will be the 5th Program that she will spearhead with organizing and facilitating. She is considering doing this program on “where did it all begin with interpreting, children interpreting, and examples of the difference between language interpreters and sign language interpreters”.
 - Conversation within the group on various components that this could include.
 - Ms. Williams added that she is wanting a historical documentary, similar to the “Unheard Journey”.

Old Business

- “Unheard Journey of Deaf Nebraskans – Ms. Williams
 - Conversation regarding the Unheard Journey for those that have viewed it.

Agency Updates – All

- **Ms. Karen Potter – Maxwell** – Shared about the changes going on in the interpreting profession. Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NeRID) Conference is in November in Lincoln. She discussed the Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) advisory board about reversing their decision on closing the sign language interpreter program. There is another meeting on August 17, 2015 at IWCC.
- **Ms. Diane Meyer** – Everyone should have received a calendar with all of the statewide activities. The Young Americans are coming September 24 – 26, 2015. This is a group of college students that come and teach song and dance. On the last day the students will

put on a show, the performance is open to the public and will be held in either Grand Island or Hastings. She also added that the Fall Bash that is hosted by Hands and Voices will be held on October 4, 2015.

- **Ms. Lisa Vogel** – nothing to report
- **Ms. Vickie Steinhauer – Campbell** – There is a lot of resistance in Lincoln with hiring people who are deaf for safety reasons. We continue to train deaf consumers on how to advocate for themselves, however this is an ongoing process. Ms. Williams asked about VR doing a program on employing people who have a hearing loss.
- **Ms. Beth Ellsworth** – When Ms. Ellsworth traveled to Columbus Hospital, she was excited to hear that Martti was in place for VRI needs with patients who are deaf. Conversation regarding the pros and cons of using VRI in a hospital setting.

Next Meeting – November 18, 2015 in Lincoln

Adjourned – 3:28pm