

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Full Commission Meeting – August 29, 2014 – Approved 12/12/2014  
4600 Valley Rd, Room 4A, Lincoln, NE  
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Chairperson Brummer called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**B. Roll Call**

Members present were Mr. Michael Brummer, Ms. Regina Frerichs, Dr. Carol Lomicky, Mr. Steven Manning, Dr. Jan Moore, Ms. Margie Propp and Dr. Frank Turk. Members absent were Mr. John Hogue and Ms. Diane Muelleman. Staff attending was Mr. John Wyvill, Executive Director, Ms. Lori Burrage, Business Manager and Ms. Peggy Williams, Mental Health Specialist. Interpreters were Ms. Sharon Sinkler and Ms. Lorelei Waldron.

**D. Acceptance of Agenda**

Mr. Brummer asked for acceptance of the agenda. **Mr. Manning made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Dr. Moore seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, absent; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**E. Acceptance of Minutes**

**1. Full Commission Meeting – June 13, 2014**

**2. Full Commission Meeting – June 20, 2014**

Dr. Lomicky asked the acceptance of the minutes. **Ms. Frerichs made a motion to accept the minutes of Full Commission meetings held on June 13 and 20, 2014. Dr. Turk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, absent; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Audience Comments**

Mr. James VanBruggen, DAS Budget Analyst; Mr. Jonathan Scherling, Nebraska Association of the Deaf and Ms. Vickie Rasmussen, VR Client Assistance Program introduced themselves.

**F. Chairperson's Report**

**1. Board and Staff Retreat**

Mr. Brummer reported the staff recommendation is that the retreat be held at the Roca Ridge Events Center either October 10th or 17th. Discussion was held. **Dr. Frank Turk made a motion to hold the retreat at the Roca Ridge Event Center with the facilitator recommended by the State Personnel Director.** Ms. Propp asked if the staff was on board with the retreat. Mr. Wyvill stated the reaction is mixed. Discussion was held. **Ms. Propp seconded the motion.** Dr. Turk stated the situation cannot be left as it is, relationships need to be built with

the staff. Mr. Manning asked if the staff felt threatened with job responsibility changes. Mr. Wyvill stated part of the problem is change; he has a different management style than the previous directors. Dr. Turk clarified the purpose of the retreat is to make everything as positive as possible. Ms. Propp noticed in the facilitator's proposal there are pre-planning surveys where people can provide feedback on what they want to discuss. **Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, absent; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Mr. Manning made a motion to have the retreat on October 10, 2014. Dr. Turk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**John Hogue arrived at 9:07 a.m.**

## **2. Travel Policy – One Way Mileage**

Mr. Brummer stated the proposed policy is needed based on recent developments with board meeting in Scottsbluff. **Dr. Moore made a motion to accept the personal mileage policy. Mr. Hogue seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

## **3. Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Committee**

Mr. Wyvill asked for a volunteer to serve on the TRS Committee to replace Mr. Dillard W. Delts. Mr. Manning volunteered to serve on the committee. **Ms. Propp made a motion for Mr. Manning to represent NCDHH on the TRS Committee. Dr. Lomicky seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

## **4. LR 517 Update**

Mr. Brummer reported various work groups have met and future meetings are planned. Mr. Wyvill reported town hall meetings and surveys are upcoming.

## **G. Business Manager's Report**

### **1. General Ledger Report**

Ms. Burrage reported on the general ledger and the final FY 13-14 carryover funds.

## **H. Executive Director's Report**

### **1. Director's Written Report**

Mr. Wyvill reported on his significant activities since June.

### **2. North Platte and Tri-City Update**

Mr. Wyvill reported that Ms. Jenna Johnson was hired as the North Platte

Field Rep and Ms. April Guthrie were hired as the Kearney Field Rep.

### **3. Carryover Funds – FY 14-15**

Mr. Wyvill reported that the agency had \$472,000 in carryover funds. Discussion was held. **Ms. Propp made a motion to accept the carryover funds proposal. Dr. Turk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

### **4. Final Biennial Budget Request FY 15-17**

Mr. Wyvill reported on the final biennial budget request. **Dr. Turk made a motion to accept the final biennial budget request for FY 15-17. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

### **5. Proposed Modification Amounts**

Mr. Wyvill made a recommendation to cut the Kearney full time position and office space if needed. The position would continue as part-time working from home. Discussion was held. **Ms. Propp made a motion to approve the proposed modification plan. Dr. Lomicky seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

### **6. Memorial Stadium Accessibility Update**

Mr. Wyvill reported he will contact UNL if he doesn't hear anything in the next couple weeks.

### **7. Lincoln Saltdogs Update**

Mr. Wyvill reported an estimated 150 deaf or hard of hearing people attended the game. Mr. Charlie Meyer wants to do a bigger event next year.

### **8. Creighton Update**

Mr. Wyvill reported he will be meeting privately with the president of Creighton University on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **9. Public Service Commission (PSC) Update**

#### **a. Verizon Consumer Complaint**

Mr. Wyvill reported that he received a consumer complaint about Verizon. He met with PSC and Verizon. Dr. Lomicky requested that something be included in the newsletter.

#### **b. Cell Phone Bill**

Mr. Wyvill reported that Mr. Dillard W. Delts, Ms. Tami Richardson-Nelson and Disability Rights Nebraska have met regarding a legislative change to provide two cell phones instead of one.

### **10. Deaf-Blind Equipment Update**

#### **a. Audit Letter**

#### **b. Waiver-FCC**

Mr. Wyvill reported the agency is done with the Deaf-Blind Equipment Program and Voc Rehab has taken over the program. The State Auditors will conduct the second year audit. The cost will come out of general funds and it will

not be a clean audit. The equipment is accounted for but the paperwork is a mess. Mr. Wyvill has asked the FCC for a waiver and has asked for reimbursement for the first year audit costs of \$4,500 and the future audit which is estimated at \$7,500.

#### **11. Staff Monthly Activity Reports – June 2014 through July 2014**

##### **a. Time and Energy Reports**

##### **b. Counties Served**

Mr. Wyvill stated the month of August was very busy for the Field Reps. He made the decision to have the Field Reps spend a week in Scottsbluff, Hastings and Kearney. The Field Reps will continue to spend a week in Scottsbluff monthly. Ms. Williams reported the monthly report numbers show a decline in June and July due to staff vacancies but the August numbers should show an increase. The monthly report/tracking system was been changed.

#### **12. Interpreter Licensing Rules and Regulations Update (possible action item)**

Mr. Wyvill reported that the Interpreter Review Board did not complete their review of the rules and regulations but is hopeful that the rules and regulations will be ready for the Board to take action in December. Ms. Williams reviewed the technical and grammatical changes. Ms. Williams stated Ms. Barb Woodhead and Ms. Traci Cooney have discovered several changes.

#### **13. Possible Interpreter Review Board (IRB) Interpreter Complaint Referrals (possible action item and closed session)**

Mr. Wyvill reported on a pending interpreter license application which required an executive session. Mr. Wyvill explained the licensing complaint process.

### **K. Subcommittee Discussion**

#### **5. Awards and Recognition Committee**

The Awards and Recognition Committee met prior to the closed session and made a recommendation to remove the signature lines on the service awards for the Commission and IRB members. Discussion was held. **Ms. Propp made a motion that all IRB board members receive a framed certificate with the Capitol in the background signed by the Board Chairperson and Executive Director; all Board members serving two terms would receive a Nebraska shaped plaque and the Awards Committee to revise the awards and recognition program to reflect the aforementioned changes. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Ms. Propp made a motion to present Distinguished Service Awards to Dr. Pete Seiler, Dr. Donita Mains and Mr. Dillard W. Delts with the revised wording. Mr. Manning seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Mr. Manning made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the IRB complaint, 14-1 at 12:24. Ms. Propp seconded the motion. Roll call**

**vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Ms. Propp made a motion to move into open session at 12:51 p.m. Dr. Moore seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

**Results of the closed session. Ms. Propp made a motion to approve the interpreter license of case 14-1. Dr. Turk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

#### **14. Mental Health Workshop Update**

Mr. Wyvill reported that the agency did not collect enough funds to cover the costs of the workshop and was alerting the board that he made the decision to proceed and will take full responsibility for that decision. Originally the board was told carryover funds would be used. It was later discovered state statute requires that fees are to be collected to cover the cost.

#### **Audience Comments**

Mr. Jonathon Scherling asked to address the board. Mr. Scherling, NeAD President, expressed continued support of the Board members and NCDHH. NeAD and NCDHH share the same goals and mission.

#### **L. New Business**

Dr. Lomicky distributed a flyer regarding a performing ballet company that will have performances geared toward children. It is the Helen Keller/Anne Sullivan story. The event will be held November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> with approximately 600 children will be brought in for the performance. Dr. Lomicky asked how NCDHH can have a presence at these events to bring awareness to kids and adults who are living with hearing loss, deaf or deaf-blind.

Mr. Wyvill announced in honor of Deaf Awareness month, the Governor will sign a proclamation on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. for Deaf Awareness and Sign Language Interpreter Day. Senator Coash also requested a meeting regarding the LR 574 interim study on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Manning made a motion to adjourn at 1:39 p.m. Ms. Propp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Frerichs, yes; Mr. Hogue, yes; Dr. Lomicky, yes; Mr. Manning, yes; Dr. Moore, yes; Ms. Muelleman, absent; Ms. Propp, yes; Dr. Turk, yes. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.**