

Nebraska Sign Language Interpreter Review Board Meeting

October 29, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00pm.

Conference Room 227

1313 Farnam On The Mall, Omaha NE

- I. **Roll Call** The meeting of the Nebraska Interpreter Review Board (IRB) was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chairperson Mr. Jerry Siders in Conference Room 227 of the Omaha Nebraska State Office Building.

Board Members Present: Mr. Pat Bracken, Ms. Cheryl Poff, Mr. Jerry Siders, Ms. Pam Duncan, and Mr. Heath Focken. **Interpreters:** Debra Seiler and Victoria Deuel **Staff:** Ms. Crystal Pierce, Cindy Woldt

Members Absent: Ms. Bethany Koubsky, Ms. Vonda Apking

Public: None

- II. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was amended to add new Interpreter Initial Application form under New Business. And to remove date November 6 – Omaha under item IX. Future Meetings. Amended agenda approved following a motion by Ms. Poff and seconded by Ms. Duncan.

- III. **Approval of Minutes from August 24, 2015:** Minutes were approved following a motion by Ms. Duncan to accept and a second by Mr. Bracken.

- IV. **Public Comments:** No one from the public was in attendance.

V. Old Business:

A. **EIPA Hearing Date:** The Nebraska Department of Education will hold a public rule-making hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. (CST) on proposed revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 51, Regulation and Standards for Specialist Education Programs. The proposed regulations increase the competency levels and professional development requirements for individuals providing sign language interpretation in schools. Additionally, the rule is being revised to incorporate the changes made in 92NAC 24 regarding special education endorsements. The hearing will be in the State Board Room in the Lincoln Nebraska State Office Building and by videoconference at the Nebraska Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation Office in Scottsbluff.

VI. New Business:

- A. **Title 96 Public Hearing Updates:** Crystal Pierce presented the public comments received at the Title 96, Chapter 1 Hearing on the NCDHH Rules and Regulations Relating to Sign Language Interpreters.

Joselyn Luedtke from HHS commented on 004.06D(1) missing the language “has committed a violation of”.

Andrew Snarr with Sorenson Communication recommended that the 30 hours for a Temporary Certificate be changed to 30 days. Sorenson Communication routinely moves staff from their call centers in other states and with a call center in Omaha the 30 hours of interpreting would be a significant problem for the company.

Nebraska Association for the Deaf (NeAD) recommended language be added that would clearly indicate that current Deaf Intermediary Interpreters would be grandfathered when the

new law took effect January 1, 2016.

Ms. Pierce shared a draft of revised language for the rule to address all three of the public comments and recommendations which will be present to the Full Commission Board at its next meeting. The IRB took no formal action on the draft revisions after discussion. Ms. Pierce will share with the Full Commission Board the IRB discussion.

- B. Interpreter Initial Application:** Ms. Pierce noted that the current version of this application has been confusing in terms of what documentation needed to accompany the completed application. This draft is designed to address that confusion. IRB members made several recommendations to the draft, but no formal action was taken by the IRB.

VI. Public Comments: No one from the public was in attendance.

VII. Executive Director Report: No report as the Executive Director was not in attendance.

IX. Future Meetings: The following dates and locations were set for the 2016 meeting dates.

February 12, 2016 – Lincoln

May 6, 2016 – Omaha

August 5, 2016 – Lincoln

November 4, 2016 – Omaha

X. Announcements: Ms. Duncan shared that the City of Omaha has a monthly Highlighted Topic. She suggested that when Deaf and Hard of Hearing becomes the Highlighted Topic, that perhaps the IRP, neRID, and NeAD provide information on how to acquire and appropriately use an interpreter and provide communication accommodations.

XI. Adjourn: Chairperson Siders adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.