

**Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Mental Health Advisory Committee Meeting
2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Date: February 10, 2015

Location: 1313 Farnam, Neb. State Office Building, Omaha, NE
Room 227

Interpreters: Katrina Watton and Anne McBride

Members Present

Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell
Mandy Leamon
Lisa Vogel

Technical Advisors Present

Ann Thompson
Karen Potter-Maxwell
Diane Meyer

Staff Present

Peggy Williams
Beth Ellsworth
Maribeth Jensen-Darnall

Visitor

Jessica Nickels – Vocational Rehabilitation

Traci Cooney: Minutes

Gather, Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Campbell called the meeting to order and Ms. Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of November 18, 2014 Minutes

Ms. Williams passed out the November 18, 2014 minutes to be reviewed for corrections. Ms. Campbell asked that Jessica Nickels last name be corrected under her report.

Motion to accept the minutes

[Ms. Lisa Vogel/Ms. Ann Thompson] Motion passed

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Williams asked if anyone had anything they would like to add to the agenda. She requested to add Columbus Training under New Business.

Motion to amend and accept the agenda

[Ms. Ann Thompson/Ms. Lisa Vogel] Motion passed

New Business

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Wyvill was unavailable to attend the MHAC meeting and asked Ms. Williams to provide his update. Ms. Williams explained that NCDHH will have their budget hearing on Thursday March 5, 2015. Mr. Wyvill will go before the appropriations committee and request a full-time position in Scottsbluff and request to increase the current Field Representative position in Kearney to full-time.

Ms. Williams reported that Ms. Diane Meyer was selected as the boss of the month for February 2015.

On behalf of Mr. Wyvill, Ms. Williams explained the LR 517 recommendations and reported the purpose for LR 517 was to study ways to improve the quality and availability of interpreter services for Nebraskans who are deaf or hard of hearing. Mr. Wyvill testified before the Department of Education Board in January requesting that educational interpreter standards be raised from 3.5 to 4.0. The Department of Education Board held a working meeting last week and several people testified from the Department of Education and Dr. Pete Seiler testified on behalf of the Neb. Association of the Deaf. Information was provided that Rule 51 had not been reviewed in 15 years. Department of Education will set up a committee to look at LR 517 recommendations. Mr. Wyvill met with John Neal of Lincoln Public Schools regarding this issue and a recent article that was in the Lincoln Journal Star about raising the standards.

DV Federal Grant/HDAAS Advocacy Training

Ms. Williams and Ms. Steinhauer-Campbell reported they were contacted by the Neb. Coalition to End Domestic Violence in Lincoln. Previously, HDAAS met with the Coalition to discuss setting up an advocacy training program for them. Due to funding the Coalition is not able to cover the cost of interpreters for the training. The Coalition is currently working on finding a grant that will assist them in covering the cost to pay for interpreters. Ms. Williams explained that the grant they were looking at was sent to Ms. Williams for review, however, based on the grant deadline time it did not permit the grant to be completed. Ms. Steinhauer-Campbell recommended the Coalition look for smaller grants to cover the cost of the interpreters and then look at larger grants for future projects.

CHI Health Training, "Effective Healthcare"

Ms. Williams is working with Kathleen Valle, Alegent-CHI to provide an online training for nurses and doctors to watch when it is convenient for them. This training concept is in the beginning stages, more information will be provided at future meetings. CEUs will be considered for the training.

Webinar Training 6.24.2015

The Coalition to End Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence has asked Ms. Williams to provide training to DV/SA providers via webinar on June 24, 2015 from 10am-11:30am. Ms. Williams will present on barriers that deaf and hard of hearing women face in DVSA situations, not only at home but in community shelters as well. Ms. Davis from NCDHH will present on deaf culture and Ms. Pierce from NCDHH will present on using interpreters in this setting. This will be a statewide training.

Ms. Jensen-Darnall asked if this training would cover men and gay and lesbian communities. Ms. Williams stated she will look and see if she can find any research/data regarding these situations, however, the focus of her portion of this training is to talk about barriers which would include men, gay and lesbian victims of DV/SA. Ms. Nickels offered to provide a paper she wrote in Graduate School on this topic if this would be of assistance.

Columbus Training

Ms. Williams informed the committee that NCDHH will hold a Full Board meeting in Columbus

on June 12. She plans to go to Columbus a few days early and provide training to DV and Mental Health programs. NCDHH will hold a Town Hall meeting in Columbus on June 11.

Old Business

2015 NET Program

Ms. Williams updated members on the progress being made for the 2015 NET program. Ms. Costello has returned to work following her accident. A committee has been set up to provide input on this year's program. Members of the committee include Peter Seiler, Jonathan Scherling and Jerry Siders and Linsay Darnall, Jr. The program will be 30 minutes long and will include information on audism, cultivating communication, contributions made by Deaf Nebraskans and history. On February 18, Ms. Costello and Ms. Williams will go to the deaf museum to look at the history of NSD and its roots in Nebraska's deaf culture. Mr. Wyvill would like the beginning to have a strong impact and the end to be something equally impactful. Ms. Williams is still working on ideas. The cost of the program will be approximately \$30,000. The program will debut at the Nebraska Association of the Deaf event June 4-5 prior to being aired on NET. Ms. Williams would like to have this program emphasize that people who are deaf or hard of hearing have a right to be heard through visual means. Members provided Ms. Williams with several ideas that she will look into.

May 16, 2015 Interpreter Workshop

Ms. Williams reported that the interpreter workshop will be held at the Immanuel Conference Center in Omaha. There is no cost for interpreters to attend. Dr. Ron Lybarger will be presenting this workshop and CEUs will be provided. This workshop is open to community and educational sign language interpreters. Ms. Williams stated in writing the grant, the cost of the presenter's hotel room was left out. Ms. Bird offered to cover the cost of this through the Southeast Regional Program. A special thanks to Ms. Bird for assisting with this cost.

Agency Updates

Diane Meyer

Mr. Josh Garrett from Chicago presented a workshop on December 6 on peer mentoring.

March 27-28 – 7-12 graders will attend a Fitness Frenzy. This will include yoga, Zumba, first aid and life saving techniques. It is anticipated that 80-90 children will attend.

April 24-25 – There will be an elementary component to the Fitness Frenzy. Another topic for this age group will be pets and pet responsibility.

Battle of the Books – Middle school children read 3 books and then competed against other schools via technology, 17 teams will be included. This was a question and answer event, similar to Family Feud. The team made it to regionals. Mr. Mike Brummer was the leader.

April 24-25 – 6 students will attend the Academic Bowl at Gallaudet.

Peggy Williams/Jessica Nickels

Ms. Williams asked Ms. Nickels to introduce herself and tell the committee a little bit about herself. Ms. Nickels announced that she is the new VR Counselor in the Omaha VR office and took over Ms. Steinhauer-Campbell's Omaha clients. She has a Bachelor and Master Degree in Social Work and had lived in Chicago for some time. She then moved to the Omaha area and worked at the Iowa School for the Deaf. She does know some sign language; she took her first

sign class 5 years ago in her junior year of college and really enjoyed the class.

Ann Thompson

Ms. Thompson stated that the HDAAS annual chili cook-off was successful. They plan to continue this event on an annual basis. The next HDAAS meeting will be Friday, March 13, 2015.

Mandy Leamon

Ms. Leamon updated that phase 1 of the Fremont Medical Center remodel is complete. Phase 2 is just beginning. They plan to open the inpatient unit in June/July and are working to hire appropriate staff.

Next Meeting – Wednesday May 13, 2015 in Lincoln 2p-4p

Omaha meetings will be held on Tuesdays and Lincoln meetings will be held on Wednesdays.