

D/HH Stakeholder Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Attendance: Jackie Anderson, Jean Anderson, Laura Barrett, Jill Bird, Mike Brummer, Cathy Carotta, Jenny Corum, Sue Czaplewski, Rhonda Fleischer, Sheri Harrington, Wendy Herrold, Tanya Hilligoss, Jill Hoffart, Shelli Janning, Erica Johnson, Lynn Johnson-Romero, Bethany Koubsky, Diane Meyer, Donna Moss, Melody Pebley, Sara Peterson, Mary Phillips, Kaylene Randall, Mindy Roberts, Lindsey Schubert, Pete Seiler, Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell, Missy Stolley, Anne Thomas
Interpreters: Kelly Brakenhoff and Jamy Elker

Welcome & Introductions

- Introductions were made by members of the committee. A sign-in sheet was available to mark attendance and to update committee members' contact information.

Public Posting Information Rhonda Fleischer

- A reminder was given that this is an open meeting and there is a time allowed for public comments. The meeting and agenda were posted more than seven days prior to this meeting on the NDE website.

Regional Program Updates

- ***CWNP (Sue Czaplewski and Sara Peterson)*** – In January, CWNP hosted the statewide workshop, “A Weekend to Sign: ASL Features.” There were three different levels offered with different presenters for each group. Over 70 participants attended including parents, administrators, teachers, and interpreters. Workshop evaluations were very positive and included requests for continued training of a similar nature. Sara mentioned that CWNP is also considering the possibility of offering a regional Weekend to Sign Workshop for parents and students. Family sign language classes have continued to take place across the region as well. There were 84 professionals who attended a recent “Signs for the Classroom” in-service. Other trainings available to CWNP professionals include a “Technology for the Classroom” training day at ESU 10 and a training focused on content included in the EIPA Written exam. Four CWNP professionals attended the national Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss conference and CWNP will be sending professionals to other upcoming national conferences including EHDI, NAIE, Midwest Conference on Deaf Education, and EIPA Immersion. In-services are also taking place for professionals to share information they learned at national conferences upon return. CWNP is hosting the statewide Arts Festival “Night at the Museum” overnight activity for students in grades 3-6 on March 11-12th. The Regional Programs will be taking a group of 30 students to Close Up in Washington D.C. April 2-8th. Camp Anderson will be held at Ft. Robinson July 9-14th with a theme of exploring Western Nebraska and team-building.
- ***NERP (Jill Hoffart)*** – NERP has been offering receptive sign language practice with Linsay Darnall Jr. via Zoom on the first and third Monday of each month from 4-5 pm CST. Jill said anyone is welcome to join at no cost. Pre-registration is not required but is recommended via email to Jenny Fundus in Norfolk (jennyfundus@npsne.org). The Zoom URL link is <https://zoom.us/j/5552262481> (You should be able to just click that link which will prompt you to open or launch zoom and then click the option “yes.” Zoom is a free download). NERP hosted the statewide Extravaganza for students in grades 3-6 with a theme of “Discover the Treasures in Your Own Backyard.” The 44 students in attendance visited Ashfall Fossil Beds, Kreycik Elk & Buffalo Ranch, and saw a rodeo demonstration. A Family Fun Day for little ones

and their families will be held in Norfolk on March 25th. A panel of teens who are D/HH will be coming to the activity to talk with the parents while the students participate in craft activities. Ricky Smith will also be performing for the families. Jill is helping to prepare for Camp Anderson this summer and mentioned that staff applications are currently being accepted. The number of D/HH students in the NERP area continues to grow with two new babies identified this month. An NERP high school student applied for a scholarship to be able to start a mentoring system (similar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters) for D/HH children and another NERP student was accepted into the Young Americans program!

- **SNRP (Jill Bird)** – SNRP took 19 students in grades 5-12 to a UNL Women’s basketball game on January 22nd. Jill noted how it was encouraging to see the older students talking to the younger students and setting positive examples. On February 3-4th, SNRP hosted the “Red and White Dance and ‘Hears’ to History” event for 70 students in grades 7-12 in Lincoln. This activity focused on the history of deaf education and Nebraska’s history while celebrating Nebraska’s sesquicentennial. Interpreters, CART, and amplification systems were all used so there was fantastic access to information for everyone. SNRP will be taking students in grades 4-12 to see “Matilda” at the Lied Center on June 2nd. Recently, Jill, Frances Beurivage, Lindsey Hinzmann, and Cara Frost presented to ESU 4 professionals about the roles of deaf educators, interpreters, and audiologists. They also provided Rule 51 updates. Jill and Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell are co-chairing the Statewide Transition Summit Team and the next team meeting will be held April 13th. SNRP is supporting several professionals to attend local and national summer conferences including the NAIE Conference in Colorado, EIPA/ASL Immersion in Aurora, Statewide Skill Development Workshop in Lincoln with presenter Faith Powell, Educational Audiology Association Conference in Arizona, Midwest Conference on Deaf Education in South Dakota, Listening and Spoken Language Symposium in Washington D.C., the Nebraska Deaf-Blind Summer Institute, and the CHARGE Conference in Florida. Two SNRP interpreters started the TIPS program in January and one will start this June. (TIPS is an interpreter training program designed to improve the skills of interpreters – hoping to help them achieve a score over 4.0 on the EIPA. The program has one face-to-face meeting followed by five months of online training. An interpreter must have an EIPA score between 3.0-4.0 to enter the program. They take the EIPA again at the completion of the program.) Next fall, SNRP plans to host two statewide workshops. One will focus on assessing a deaf child’s ASL skills and abilities and the other will focus on incorporating more diversity into sign language.
- **MRP (Diane Meyer and Mike Brummer)** – MRP hosted the statewide Fall Outing activity for students in grades 7-12, which focused on the Hispanic culture and building self-esteem. Regionally, MRP held an ice skating family activity, Minute-to-Win-It event, and a kitchen science activity for K-6th grades to create edible food such as edible Play Doh. The Battle of the Books group competed in the regional competition in the blue division this year. Unfortunately, they did not qualify for the national competition. MRP is working with the Rose Theater to bring students to see Huck Finn and Stellaluna. The statewide Communication Contest for the D/HH will be held in Kearney April 29th and the theme this year is, “What the World Gains from Optimism.” Two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded. The statewide Academic Bowl team (comprised of one senior from Lincoln, one junior from Superior, one sophomore from Hastings, and one sophomore from Sandy Creek) will travel to Indiana tomorrow to compete in the Midwest Regional Academic Bowl against 20 other teams. Another 8-week session of community sign language classes will begin March 7th and go through May. There are 50 people registered for the February 24-26, 2017, SEE Weekend Skillshop that will be held in Omaha with instructor James Kilpatrick. MRP has five interpreters participating in the Oklahoma TIPS program.

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH).....Jenny Corum

- The NCDHH D/HH Education Task Force Steering Committee is meeting every other month through May. The four subcommittee workgroups (IEP/MDT, social/emotional development, best practices in and outside the classroom, and employment/transition/post-secondary) have also started to meet and develop goals which will be submitted to the Steering Committee by May 2nd. The Steering Committee would then like to prioritize these goals into a plan by December 1, 2017; however, there is a lot of information being presented and analyzed so the date may need to be extended. Pete Seiler noted that Marc Marschark (a researcher from RIT/NTID) said the committee is focusing on the wrong question and that it should “not be asking what we are doing wrong, but rather, what we are already doing right” and to remember that “everything works for someone, but nothing works for everyone.”
- The March 4th workshop for parents focusing on IEPs will be held in Lincoln but distance sites will be available. RSVP to Jenny. (*Note, after this meeting the workshop was postponed due to lack of registrations – date TBD*).
- NCDHH’s Deaf Awareness Day at the Lincoln Saltdogs will be held June 28th at the 6:45 pm game.
- NCDHH is continuing their work on two interim studies. One study focuses on open captioning at movie theaters and the other focuses on hearing aid costs and insurance.
- NCDHH plans to hold an education summit this fall with a purpose of bringing school administrators and parents together to collaborate.

Deaf-Blind Project/Low IncidenceTanya Hillgoss

- The Deaf-Blind Summer Institute will be held July 17-20, 2017, at UNL’s East Campus location. The first two days will focus on CVI Processing Disorder with presenter Diane Sheline from Texas (Diane’s website: <https://strategytosee.com/>). The last two days will focus on literacy and technology needs for students with multiple disabilities and will be presented by Gretchen Hanser and Caroline Musselwhite. A registration flyer is forthcoming (no cost to attend) and UNL course credit will be offered.
- The Deaf-Blind Project is in the beginning phase of planning a training on touch signals to be provided by staff from the Helen Keller National Center. Touch signals are a system of touch cues that symbolize body language, facial expressions, actions and mood. Touch signals provide a person who is deaf-blind with information about what is happening in the environment, without interrupting visual, tactile or verbal communication. The workshop will be offered in Lincoln the evening of Thursday, July 20th, which is after the conclusion of the Deaf-Blind Summer Institute and prior to the start of the Nebraska Regional Programs’ Statewide Skill Development Workshop.
- Tanya and Rhonda Fleischer jointly led a Facilitated IEP Strategy Training at ESU 9. They also conducted a Person Centered Planning (PCP) meeting for a student in the Waverly school district. Tanya and Rhonda said to contact them to schedule either a training or student meeting. Donna Moss mentioned that according to research, PCP has an affect rate of .74 which is very high and the process can be very valuable.

UNO.....Julie Delkamiller & Jonathan Scherling

- No update provided.

UNL.....Anne Thomas

- The first cohort of the Mid-Plains Professional Upgrade Partnership - Sensory Disabilities (MPUP-SD) grant is going really well and has 8 students enrolled (4 in D/HH program and 4 in VI program). The goal is to fund 30 students over 3 years. They are currently recruiting

students for years 2 and 3 of the grant and have received several applicants. Six applicants have already been accepted into the D/HH program for next year and UNL is hoping to accept a total of 14 students into the grant for cohort 2. Preference for funding will be given to applicants who are accepted to the program by April 1st. More information can be found online (<http://cehs.unl.edu/secd/mpup-sd/>) or by contacting Anne (athomas16@unl.edu) or Mackenzie Savaiano (msavaiano2@unl.edu). A flyer with more information was emailed to committee members to distribute to professionals in their area.

- Anne mentioned she is participating on the Best Practices sub-committee for the Education Task Force.
- UNL is always looking for field opportunity experiences so please let Anne know of anything appropriate for UNL students to attend (athomas16@unl.edu). Mary Phillips mentioned that UNL students are welcome to attend the upcoming Southeast Transition Conference, which is focusing on “Person-Centered Planning”. It will be held in Lincoln on April 24, 2017. A flyer with more details for this workshop was emailed to committee members.

NeRID.....Sheri Harrington

- NeRID has written letters of support for LB269 (Open Captioning of Movies) and for continued full funding of NCDHH.
- NeRID is in the planning phase for 2017 events. The organization is considering regional micro-conferences organized and managed by its central/west, southeast, northeast, and metro area representatives. The NeRID 2017 Conference will most likely take place in either October or November and NeRID would also like to host a workshop on business practices/ethics.
- Two NeRID representatives, Bethany Koubsky and Pamela Duncan, will be attending the RID National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, in July. This conference has been titled, “Lead Together” and its emphasis is to train leaders that will help propel the interpreting profession forward.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell

- VR staffing changes are taking place in the Omaha region. Jessica Nickels will now serve as the coordinator for transition services in that area for clients who are D/HH.
- Due to the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) standards, VR is expecting a lot more clients as it starts to help individuals in the DD system to transition to the work world. Thus, Mark Schultz is working to transfer funds from the DD system to VR in order to maximize federal funding. The only other new change is that WIOA lowered the age of students VR is able to serve from 16-21 to 14-21.
- Vicki is chairing one of the four Education Task Force sub-committee groups called the “Employment/Transition/Post-Secondary” workgroup. This sub-committee has defined five major transition stages and has been focusing on the different needs at each stage. Their next meeting will take place March 7th and Vicki is hoping to organize goals based on the different stages of transition.
- VR is helping sponsor a Transition Job Fair for students with disabilities ages 16-21 on March 27th at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. A flyer with more details was emailed to committee members.
- Nebraska VR has recently added a series of YouTube videos called Pathways to Employment (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhngDjEMaJ0&list=PLvw2t6KttVj9WNQvMYNSW2JxgzC_cbbqQ) and Vicki asked committee members to share the link with students to help them better understand what Nebraska VR can do for them.

Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD)..... Pete Seiler

- The Nebraska Association of the Deaf will hold their biennial conference June 1-4, 2017, in Omaha. Sheena McFeely, creator of ASL Nook, will be leading sign language activities Friday night for families. A NeAD board meeting will be held Saturday afternoon. A flyer with more details is forthcoming. NeAD is looking for funding support (booth space will be made available).
- The National Jr. NAD Conference will be held at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland. The conference date is yet to be confirmed but it will most likely be held in November 2017. Funding support is also needed for this conference and Pete mentioned all D/HH students in Nebraska are welcome to attend to meet the national Jr. NAD leadership team.
- NeAD has been working hard to support LB269 which would require movie theaters to offer two movies per week with open captioning. Pete said the testimony given by Jacob Custer, senior at Lincoln Public Schools and Jr. NAD member, was very impactful and a key element to finally get the needed legislative attention. Pete has met with the president of the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) to discuss details and test the open captioning. Pete has proposed that one of the movies be offered in the afternoon on a weekday (geared more for senior citizens) and one on Friday evenings (for the younger crowd) and he is also advocating adding an auditory loop system as well. An open-captioned showing of “A Dog’s Purpose” was held in Omaha on February 18th and 59 people watched along with the Executive Vice President of Marcus Movie Theaters so it was a successful first showing!
- NeAD is also supporting LB456, which states that a person’s disability should not be a factor when making a ruling about child foster care, adoption, and child placement.
- NeAD is working with NCDHH supporting the hearing aid bill to have insurance pay for one hearing aid (especially for children up to age 18). Pete said due to the complex funding issues, the passing of this bill is not looking favorable. Therefore, he has also been working with Stacie Ray at HearU Nebraska (<http://cehs.unl.edu/secd/nebraska-hearing-aid-banks/>). HearU provides loaner hearing aids for children.
- Deaf Christian Fellowship will be hosting a workshop on May 13th for parents. Presenters will be Drs. Jim and Tom Haley and the topic will focus on bullying as it relates to children who are D/HH.
- Pete has met with Courtney Phillips, CEO of DHHS, to talk about establishing a group home for Nebraska residents who are D/HH. Rhonda Fleischer and Donna Moss said they would love to work with Pete to use Hastings as a pilot site.
- Pete is also working with Cheryl Poff to set up a SSP training for individuals who are deaf-blind with a topic of how to minimize intimidation. They do not plan to include the classroom intervener at this time.
- Fun fact: NeAD is the oldest state organization of a disability group – established in 1902!

Interpreter TA Document Update..... Rhonda Fleischer

- The revision of the Interpreter Technical Assistance (TA) document is complete. Once reviewed and approved by the NDE leadership committee, it will move forward and training will begin.

SPOT Analysis..... Rhonda Fleischer

- In response to a letter NCDHH sent to the State Board of Education requesting an outside consultant be hired to evaluate Deaf/HH services statewide, NDE will be gathering information from across the state through the SPOT analysis process to identify Strengths, Problems, Opportunities, and Threats. Input will be gathered from a variety of stakeholders, including administrators, direct service providers, interpreters, deaf community members, etc. This input will drive the in-depth look at how students are doing. NDE staff will then look at the outcomes

and provide appropriate supports. An outside consultant could be called in following the SPOT analysis if deemed necessary.

Transition Summit Team Jill Bird & Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell

- The Nebraska Transition Summit Team is adding members to make it more sustainable. New representatives have been asked to join the team including Shelli Janning and HI teachers. There will be a planning meeting on March 29th for Jill, Vicki, Rhonda Fleischer, and Donna Moss to outline an agenda for the next team meeting that will take place April 13th. Rhonda said the transition from PEPNet to the National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes in Texas has taken place and Rhonda has met the new director for the National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes (NDC).

Early Hearing Detection & Intervention in Nebraska (NE-EHDI)..... Brenda Coufal

- Brenda was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report for NE-EDHI which is attached to the minutes.

Hands & Voices..... Shelli Janning

- In collaboration with NeAD and MRP, Connect Reading events have continued to take place this year in the Omaha area. At these activities, a deaf or hard of hearing adult reads (sign, voice, or both) books to children (an interpreter is also present to sign or voice as needed). The next Connect Saturday will take place March 11th.
- Hands & Voices has also continued to host a Saturday morning coffee club that meets the 3rd Saturday of every month in Omaha - usually at Chik-Fil-A (17501 W Center Rd, Omaha). This is an inexpensive and informal way for families to come and visit with each other and there is an indoor play center for the children. The next coffee club meeting will take place March 18th from 9-11 am. Additionally, a coffee club will be held at the McDonalds in Scottsbluff on March 18th from 3:30-5:00 pm. Hands & Voices is also in the process of trying to schedule another coffee club for the central area of the state.
- Shelli and Rhonda Fleischer attended the Hands & Voices Advocacy Support Training (ASTra) in Georgia in December. ASTra is specific to D/HH and focuses on how to help parents be better participants on their child's IEP team by being pro-active. Shelli thought the training was excellent and would like to incorporate it into the GBYS parent guide trainings. It would cost approximately \$6,000 to bring the 2-day ASTra training to Nebraska. The first day would be open to a variety of stakeholders and provides valuable information for teachers and administrators as well as the parents. The second day is specific to training the Nebraska GBYS parent guides and other parents who may be interested in becoming ASTra advocates. However, Shelli estimates it would cost an additional \$30,000/year for the ASTra program to be sustainable.

Guide By Your Side (GBYS)..... Shelli Janning

- GBYS is currently serving 106 families in Nebraska. There are 11 parent guides and 2 bilingual guides have been hired.
- Shelli was excited to announce that 74 percent of children identified by the NE-EDHI program are now participating in GBYS. Furthermore, Shelli will now be the first point of contact for NE-EDHI referrals. Some of her time will be dedicated to "loss to follow up" and will be funded by EHDI through HRSA grant dollars.
- Shelli also plans to attend the National EHDI Annual Meeting at the end of the month in Atlanta, GA.
- Shelli thanked the Regional Programs for their support and collaboration with the GBYS "Moms Night Inn" event that took place in Lincoln February 18-19, 2017. There were 21 moms in

attendance and topics focused on audiology and advocacy. The event included a panel of teens/young adults who are D/HH, which was a huge success again this year. Tentative dates for next year's Moms Night Inn event will be held November 4-5, 2017 in Scottsbluff and February 17-18, 2018 in Lincoln. Mike Brummer asked if GBYS has any plans to offer a "Dads Day Inn." Shelli said that the feedback she has received indicates that the moms all feel it is important to offer a "Dads" event but that the dads are not on board yet. Thus, Shelli mentioned GBYS is going to try to offer more events for "couples" so that dads can bond with each other and then maybe feel more comfortable going to a "Dads-only" event.

Amplify..... Missy Stithem

- No update provided.

Boys Town..... Cathy Carotta & Bethany Koubsky

- Frances Beurivage retired January 6, 2017. Cathy welcomed Bethany Kobusky who has been hired to fill the position. Frances, along with Brenda Schick, will continue to work as consultants for Boys Town.
- The current turnaround time for EIPA testing is running 140 days. However, five new raters have recently been hired so hopefully that will help lessen the turnaround time.
- The last EIPA Video Conference held on February 4th was presented by Trix Bruce and focused on non-manual markers. It received fantastic feedback. The next conference will be held April 1st and Frances Beurivage will be presenting information on professional development planning to improve one's interpreting skills, and thus, hopefully one's EIPA score.
- The EIPA/ASL Immersion Training will be held in Aurora June 19-22, 2017. A registration flyer will be available soon.
- The Roots & Wings conference scheduled for September 29-October 1, 2017, will not be funded by NDE due to budget cuts. Boys Town is involved in fundraising efforts and hopes to find an alternate source of funding.
- Cathy distributed a flyer for Boys Town's upcoming Intensive Interpreter Workshop that will take place August 3rd and August 4th. The training will be the same both days and participants can chose which day to attend. The registration deadline is June 1st.
- Registration is now open for a Hearing Loss 101 course and a Spotlight on Classifiers course. Participants will receive a discounted registration rate of \$40 total for both classes by completing a survey first and then a coupon code will be sent to them (a savings of \$50).
- Bethany will be attending the National Association of Interpreters in Education (NAIE) Conference this June in Greeley, Colorado. She will also be attending the RID National Conference in Salt Lake City in July.
- Dr. Mary Pat Moeller will be retiring in August 2018. Dr. Karla McGregor has been hired as her successor.
- There are currently over 30 children in the Boys Town preschool program and 36 in the parent-infant (birth-3) program.
- Camp Abilities, for youth ages 9 to 19, who are blind, visually impaired or deaf-blind will be held July 16-21, 2017. More information can be found online at: <https://www.boystownhospital.org/AboutUs/Pages/Camp-Abilities-Nebraska.aspx>.
- The annual Beeping Easter Egg Hunt for families with children who are visually impaired will be held April 18th.
- Boys Town is discussing the possibility of opening a Hearing Clinic in the western part of Omaha. More information to come.
- There are four Boys Town professionals working to obtain their Listening and Spoken Language Certification. Cathy mentioned how Boys Town had planned to use these professionals to

mentor others working toward LSLS Certification. However, AG Bell has changed the mentorship requirement so at this time Boys Town is unsure if they will be able to do so or if they will need to continue contracting with outside consultants for the mentoring component.

- Boys Town personnel have completed Gallup polls to discover and build upon personal strengths.
- Cathy mentioned Boys Town will soon be planning their outreach for the next five years and that they are open to suggestions for future presenters/topics of interest. Suggestions may be emailed to Cathy at cathy.carotta@boystown.org. One idea Cathy would like to set up is a “network of extra support” team (“NEST” – name still in the works) that would be for students with cochlear implants who are not experiencing successful outcomes.
- Fun fact: Boys Town is reaching their 800th cochlear implant implantation since 1991!

Additional Topics

- EIPA testing for interpreters will be held in Lincoln March 25-26, 2017, at Southeast High School. Registration must be completed 30 days in advance. The next Nebraska testing will most likely be held in Omaha in either September or October 2017.
- Rhonda Fleischer and Sue Czaplewski are now able to serve as proctors for the Written EIPA for interpreters. The next scheduled test date is May 3, 2017.
- Donna Moss shared that LB22 passed, which included a massive budget cut for a lot of different school programs. Programs 401 and 402, which include funding for students who are D/HH and students who are visually impaired, were cut four percent for this school year. It is unclear what will happen for the 17-18 school year. Rhonda Fleischer said it is always important to contact your legislator about supporting these types of programs.
- Rhonda Fleischer reminded the committee to encourage students to consider applying for the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council (NYLC). NYLC is a council for Nebraska youth, led by youth ages 14-24 with disabilities, to promote leadership and advocacy for youth disability issues. The NYLC council meets five Saturdays per year (twice in the fall, twice in the spring, and once during the summer) and each meeting is different and may include training opportunities, NYLC projects, and large and small group work. There is no cost to participate in NYLC as the program is funded by Nebraska VR and the Office of Special Education. For more information, visit: <http://nylc.nebraska.gov/NYLC/Welcome.html>.

Public Comments

- No further comments were made.

Future Agenda Items

- If you have agenda items you would like to add to the next meeting, please email Rhonda Fleischer (rhonda.fleischer@esu9.us).

Next Meeting

- In order to allow more time for all committee members to share information, Rhonda Fleischer asked committee members if everyone would be willing to extend the meeting time by 30 minutes and everyone agreed that was fine. Thus, next year the meetings will take place from 9:00 am-12:30 pm (dates TBD). Wendy Herrold will email the scheduled meeting dates once they have been finalized this spring. *Update: Next year's meetings have since then been scheduled for:*
 - Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at ESU 3 in Omaha (Calamus/Platte meeting rooms)
 - Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at ESU 6 in Milford