

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Stakeholder Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Educational Service Unit #3, Omaha and Zoom
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Attendance: Lindsey Hinzmann, Sue Czaplewski, Darsha Pelland, Diane Meyer, Kristin Jolkowski, Lauren Secilmis, Julie Delkamiller, Angel Sumpter, Shelli Janning, Teresa McEvoy, Amy Tyler-Krings, Anne Thomas, Lupe Stevens, Susan Whitaker, Lori Skrobecki, Kara Boyer, Tami Clay, jonathan, vicki
Interpreters: Kelly Brakenhoff and Jamy Elker

Welcome & Introductions

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

Public Posting Information (Sue Czaplewski)

- 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 Nebraska Regional Program website.

Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)- Darsha Pelland

- Darsha Pelland began her role at the Nebraska Department of Education on July 5, 2022 as the Low Incidence Director.
- In response to LB1014 a needs assessment survey has been created, distributed, and closed. Parents, school districts, and professionals were invited to fill out the survey. There were approximately 2500 responses. The Nebraska Regional Program coordinators as well as Nebraska Department of Education staff will be meeting with Brian Wojick will be meeting in December to review the data and look at trends.
- The Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education is seeking project proposals for the use of the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds that will address the shortage of qualified educational sign language interpreters. One way of addressing these challenges is through the design and implementation of interpreter mentoring programs to support new interpreters, interpreters from diverse populations, Deaf interpreters, and working interpreters seeking professional growth. Those interested in submitting a proposal for designing an interpreter training/mentoring program, you can find the proposal form and more information on the NDE, Special Education website or on the [Request for Funding Proposal Sheet](#). Proposal submissions will open **November 1, 2022**, and close on **January 3, 2023**. Projects will be rewarded by **March 1, 2023**. The Contract will be for the 2023-24 and the 2024-25 school years. The link to submit a proposal can be found here: <https://forms.gle/u8u1GbF15UsHwSpR7>
- The Nebraska Department of Education will write a report based on the LEAD-K bill that was recently passed. This will be shared and reviewed by the Nebraska Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and submitted by December 31, 2022.
-

University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO)- Julie Delkamiller

- The University of NEbraska Omaha has a current opening for an [ASL Instructor](#). This position would have a teaching and lab component. Qualified candidates must hold a Master's degree or higher in American Sign Language (ASL), Deaf Studies, or related fields as well as having a native or near-native proficiency in ASL. The job posting has been shared but there have not been many applicants yet so the application deadline has been extended. Julie requested stakeholder's share the information in order to get more applicants.
- Help with research project- Deb Cates and Julie have submitted IES grant application looking at Deaf Edu. Research Study titled "[The Impact of Sign Language Interpreter Skill on Education Outcomes in K-12 settings.](#)" This study will incorporate Social Science academic content presented by a teacher and interpreters at varying EIPA levels. The study will be conducted via [modules on Canvas](#) and each lesson will be approximately 25 minutes in length. A pre and post test will be given for each of the modules and students will be scored against themselves. Julie is looking for students in 7-12 grade who would be interested in participating in the study. [Parents would need to give consent](#) to have their child participate in the study. The study will be looking at the learning of the students as well as the effectiveness of using online modules to deliver content to students.
- Julie mentioned she was interested in applying for a grant for mentoring interpreting students. She has noticed that students in her program are lacking interaction opportunities since COVID. The UNO student interpreting group has struggled to get started again..

University of Nebraska- Lincoln (UNL)- Anne Thomas

- The University of Nebraska Lincoln is recruiting for two tenure track [assistant professor](#) positions as well as a [full time professor](#) position for the department.
- UNL has secured another MPUP grant focused on interdisciplinary preparation in Speech Language Pathology, Audiology, and Deaf Education (MPUP-SPADE). The [MPUP-SPADE](#) project will provide specialized, interdisciplinary training to at least 30 scholars who are interested in pursuing either a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP), a doctoral degree in Audiology (AUD), or a master's degree and teaching endorsement to become certified as a Teacher of the Deaf (TOD). Students interested in pursuing the teaching endorsement and Master's degree in Deaf Education must hold a current and valid teaching certificate in their state and students pursuing a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology or a Doctor of Audiology degree must hold an undergraduate degree in Communicative Disorders or have completed prerequisite coursework. The Teacher of the Deaf Program will be online while the Audiology and Speech Language Pathology programs will be in person. Applications are being accepted through January 15th for the first cohort group which will kick off this summer with courses starting in the fall of 2023. There will be 2 additional cohort groups. Scholars will finish with a degree in the area in which they apply.
- UNL has received approval to start offering synchronous online evening ASL courses. These classes will have a class and lab component. Students in the Teacher of the Deaf Program will have priority registration but they may be able to offer classes to other individuals depending on registration numbers. UNL is currently working on finding a qualified instructor. The instructor must be a certified teacher, ideally in ASL. However, since that is such a niche area, UNL would consider a certified teacher with ASL skills. Anne mentioned they had a couple leads for possible instructions but will put out a full search if needed. The earliest the classes will begin will be Fall of 2023 but may be later than that.

Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation (Nebraska VR)- Vicki-Steinhauer Campbell and Lupe Stevens

- Nebraska VR has finished 19 summer programs that were offered. They will begin assisting with five different job expos with schools in 5 different ESU areas.
- Nebraska VR has put out a survey to all licensed Nebraska interpreters. This information will be used to determine if their pay is competitive or not and if not the data may be used to support a potential raise in pay.
- Nebraska has hired a new counselor in the Omaha area that will be providing support to Deaf or hard of hearing students. She will be starting on Monday for DHH students
- Holly Enriquiz is a counselor in the Scottsbluff office serving some clients who use sign language. She is also teaching ASL to some other VR staff.

Nebraska Transition Summit Team- Summit Team Members

- Lindsey Hinzmann, Sue Czaplewski and Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell attended the National Deaf Center Virtual Career Exploration Work Group meeting in Denver at the end of the October. The focus of the work group was to discuss how to begin a multi-state activity focusing on virtual career exploration. There were several states in attendance and professionals collaborated to discuss and plan opportunities for online transition activities for students, staff, and families. Resources were shared between states. Meetings will continue monthly. Nebraska will also begin with gathering and analyzing data about transition that has been collected about Nebraska students and adults who are Deaf or hard of hearing.
- The Transition Summit team secured a grant from NDE to hold a Transition Summit for Deaf or hard of hearing students. This took place June 23-25 at Central Community College in Hastings. There were 14 students in attendance. The summit begin with a focus on meal planning and prep. A former Nebraska Regional Program student who is currently attending CCC in Hastings majoring in Culinary Arts led activities related to this topic. Students worked in groups to use a recipe to create a grocery list for a portion of a meal they were responsible for making for dinner in the evening. Students then went to Walmart and purchased items they needed before going to ESU 9 to make the meals for the evening. Students created an action plan that focused on thinking about meals they will learn to make independently. Students also did a price comparison between the meal they made and their favorite meal at a restaurant. Throughout the Summit, students also had the opportunity to explore their strengths, interests and careers that match them. Other topics included budgeting, completing applications, interviews, and resumes. A mental health therapist who is Deaf also came and discussed how there are some things we have control over and other things we don't, however, how we deal with situations is key. Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell and Cindy Koch also led students in activities related to self-determination. Resources such as VR were also discussed.

Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (neRID)- neRID Representative

- Julie Delkamiller shared that currently there are several officer positions open with the neRID organization. Membership numbers are also down with only 8 members currently. There is a concern that not all interpreters within the state are getting information about neRID. This organization allows interpreters to network with each other. If the organization cannot get up and running, there is a chance that it will be disbanded and any money would go back to RID. The organization would like to try to get a conference organized.
- Sue asked if there were individuals that could join the Stakeholder meetings as a representative from neRID. Julie mentioned tha Deb Teller is currently the treasurer for neRID.

Nebraska Regional Programs for Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (NRP)

- Central Western Nebraska Partnership (CWNP)- Heather Witte & Sara Peterson

- Camp Anderson @ Camp Comeca 57 students, focused on Deaf led- role models or student led activities to build leadership. The theme was survivor.
- EF - Deaf Culture Experience Trip 28 students; attempting since 2020- Jonathan Arteaga and Adjanijah Gonzolas - graduate of western part of the state, joined as Deaf role models. The group did normal sightseeing along with deaf culture- National Cathedral- Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan are buried, Mozzarella, Deaf Starbucks, attempted to go to Volta Bureau, part of a day at Gallaudet.
- Pete's Safari Day (invited GBYS & NCDHH) - family event in GI
- Zoo Day in SB (NCDHH activity) - family day in Sept
- Splash Pad Activity in Kearney, this was a GBYS family activity and CWNP was invited
- Pumpkin Patch Activity - this was a H&V/GBYS Activity, CWNP was invited, held in 3 locations
- Monthly Self-Advocacy- Cindy Koch- lunch groups, Brianna will be joining for VR,
- Student Lunch Groups- DHH role models into schools to eat lunch to talk about schools, careers, community activities, build self advocacy
- DHH Language Model in the classrooms- in preschools (older students interacting with students)
- Monthly family newsletter- began this again includes flyers, monthly resources, agency- GBYS, NSTEP, etc.
- Weekend to Sign- 21 families registered- 2 days session for parents and students (learn vocabulary and concepts and then do an activity in sign)

- Professional/Community Activities

- Language Mentoring with Linsay Darnall, Jr- 2nd monday of month via Zoom
- Roundtable for CWNP with PLC-discussion about things that have popped up and problem solving
- Zoom Sign Language Class and in person classes taught by D/hh individual
- Family Sign Language Classes (in Spanish too)- NERP
- New TOD Mentoring- from Deaf TOD, and it is growing
- Professional monthly newsletter- have flyers, NCDHH, H&V shared info, highlight shared team drive information (new or important)
- EIPA Workshops sponsored by Boystown
- TOD PLCS

- Metro Regional Program (MRP)- Diane Meyer

- Student activities- enticing students and families to come back
 - Farm Fun and Picnic - end of year family event Glifford Farm
 - Summer Fun Clubs - whole family
 - Batting Clinic
 - Arm Knitting- started and would be finishing at home
 - Fireflies in a Jar- with fairy lights and caught fireflies
 - Stargazing- telescope, in the park
 - Gone Fishin' Clinic- NGP- rods and reels learn how to cast, catch and keep what they wanted,
 - It's Your Pottery- creation store pick what you want to do and paint, owned by Special Education director
- Fall Outing - Where the Wild Things Are, 6th-9th statewide: with connection with NCDHH at safari and zoo; hearing service dog, Dog Gone Problems- talked about how to train dogs, potential jobs students could explore

- ABC's - oral students at Western Hills
- Native wildlife in Nebraska- K-6 elementary students Washington and Western Hills- fingerspelling names
- Tips for Surviving College - HS at Burke (10-12 college bound, Cody McEvoy talked about surviving college- laundry, budgeting); 9-10 grade who not decided to college- team building activities with reading comprehension
- Escape Room - team building and reading comprehension - HS at Burke
- Winter Social: A Winter Wonderland - 10-12th grades: gingerbread building competition, interpreted performance of The Christmas Carol
- Battle of the Books- 4 students practice, joining on zoom to connect, Coach can only encourage students to be independent readers and learners.
- Professional/Community activities
 - Community Sign Classes- 2 levels -1 class Thursdays; 1 level 2 class on Tuesday; taught by Kylie Bergoch, have great questions, parents or professionals,
 - Hearing Access 2022: Technology 101 with BTNRH would like to attend next year, brought individuals in on Saturday. They had stations to experience technology FM, CI, interpreters enjoyed opportunity. Surprised at how long it takes it to change different modes for touchscreen
 - Visual Phonics
 - In-Person-
 - Virtual-
 - Supporting Success for Students with Hearing Loss virtual conference 2023- 16 individuals to attended
 - New DHH mentoring for TOD
 - EIPA workshop

- **Northeast Nebraska Regional Program (NERP)- Jill Hoffart reported by Heather Witte**
 - Family fun day-Sept 11- Cindy Koch taught Fall and Halloween signs at Skyview Lake Park - pizza and icecream truck- 96 attended
 - CID Spice training Nov 9 in Norfolk -8 TODS registered
 - Battle of the books 4 readers in the Buff level- 7th & 8th graders. Led by NERP alum Lindsey Jelinek- deaf ed major at UNL - Preliminaries are Nov 15 and Playoffs Dec 11. If qualify for Nationals, they will go to GU during the weekend of March 30th
 - Little Ones Play Date - Dec 17- Children's discovery zone at Elkhorn Valley Museum- grade 2 and younger
 - Family sign class in Spanish on zoom
 - Staff sign class in July for 2 schools
 - In-person Visual phonics training Nov 18 - 19 educators are registered

- **Southeast Nebraska Regional Program (SNRP)- Lindsey Hinzmann**

Student Activities

- Dance/Transition: This statewide event was hosted by SNRP for students in grades 7-12. The focus was on having a positive mindset and positive attitude. Students were challenged to think positively and look for the positives when planning their vision for their futures and the necessary action steps to help them reach their goals. Students learned about gratitude, how to show gratitude, and also discussed how they want to be remembered. As part of the event, students made masquerade masks with positive messages on the back that they could wear for the masquerade dance.

- SNRP Day Camp: SNRP had 18 students participate in Stop Motion Animation Day Camp this summer. Students developed a story plot for their own Stop Motion film production, created characters and background images, learned how to do Stop Motion through an app on the iPad, and filmed their projects incorporating lighting and music. It was really neat to see all their individual movies at the end of the week!
- Academic Bowl
- SNRP Play Date: This activity was for SNRP little ones ages birth to preschool and was held during the day. Four SNRP families attended and enjoyed playing at the orchard's playground, bikes, corn maze, tunnels, and butterfly garden. It was a nice way for families to connect with each other and SNRP is hopeful these same four families among others will continue to attend future play dates.
- SNRP Family Festival: Bloom Where You're Planted Farm. 100 people attended, corn pit, slides, hayrack ride, yard games, scavenger hunt to meet other families, pumpkins and food, playground,
- Extravaganza; Edgerton Explorit Center, states of matter and artic blast along with static electricity demonstration will be provided by the staff.

Professional Development

- Outreach to Districts to provide training on Best Practices in Early Childhood
- Sign Language classes and videos
- Family sign Language Classes
- Sign language clubs in schools
- TODs monthly-
Interpreter PLC-
Supporting success

Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (NE-EHDI)- Angel Sumpter

- Diversity and inclusion- updating materials to website and materials
- Carryover money for deaf mentor program
- ASTRA program for H&V money
- Expanding screening information
- CMV on website and has printed materials if want paper copies contact Angel-
- Pause on champions program- hopefully begin in January 2023
- Scholarship will be coming out next week for EHDI Conference. NeEHDI will sponsory 4 parents. Scholarship will close in February

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH)- Susan Whitaker

- Oct 6- held a disability disaster workshop for D/HH, DB, VR to collaborate and include VI individuals, raising independence - how to put together an emergency kit specific to each disability group and what to include in the kit, great turnout, zoom to Alliance. This was successful and will plan another one in March to tie in with severe weather week March 16- more info to come- could zoom to places outside of the Panhandle
- LB1014 money for 500,000 to set up a program to help rural communication access to interpreters to D/HH/DB, reimburse costs incurred for interpreters to be brought in live, in rural (outside Lincoln and Omaha metro areas.) Business can ask for reimbursement from NCDHH for interpreter fee and incurred cost- reimbursed to who brought in (onsite and qualified) can included IEP Meetings,
- Legal communication access fund for rural areas only- private legal settings- live onsite and VRI interpreting, CART, auxiliary aids and services (attorney and DHH/DB) can ask for

reimbursement for cost incurred to provide (run for 2 years- reassess and reevaluate if success to see if continues);

- Position for Executive Director JW resigned- hoping to find someone who is D/HH or fluent in sign language, open until Nov 11th, posting on state website, extended deadline

Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD)- Jonathan Arteaga

- Success partnering with many organizations: Saltdogs, Storm Chaser, and zoo day, promote NeAD through these organization/events, expand on events more
- Deaf Mentor program - 6 people for strategic planning, sub committee to transition to new work group, 1st meeting November 9th. Will seek out a coordinator and when they have that they will be open and running
- NeAD Meeting on November 5th - want parents at the table and involved, have 1 parent delegate ANYONE CAN be involved in NeAD- professionals, involving other people in community.

Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)- Brian Wojcik

- Survey 3455 responses for survey- equipment needs assessments re: services and equipment
- Only 3 counties did not have responses: Hitchcock, Thomas, Kimball
- Possibility of collaboration in offering professional development (PD) ATIA learning center (190 course already)- exploring possibility for PD, 4 to 5 course with CEUs, NCECBVI- offers TVI and Certified Orientation and Mobility specialists

National Association of Interpreters in Education (NAIE)- NAIE Representative

- **No current representatives, looking for state representatives**

Hands & Voices

- Guide by Your Side (GBYS)- Shelli Janning

Shelli is also Community Outreach Coordinator for EHDI- she can go to audiological appointments with families, and can connect them with other resources, while giving unbiased information.

- New H&V website- Melissa Butler just finished, lot of information - easily navigate
- Recruiting board members for H&V and getting parents and those that live across state
- ASTRA (National H&V presenter) Usually this training is provided in 1 day, but this training will be spread out: 3 hours on Friday evening and finish on Saturday to make it more easily absorbed. The training is proactive. Hopefully families can attend in Omaha and other sites. (Remote site- will have parent guide and NDE/NRP rep)
- Fall Bash- Omaha area and offered in different locations across state - 75 people attended in Omaha, 60 in GI, NP had a few families, and 20 in SB area. EHDI paid admission price and food
- 15 trained parent guides across the state. They try to connect families with those families that have similar experience, across the rest of state, families may connect with another family that is closer in proximity.
- Serving 191 families - some utilizing services, some that don't utilize but want to stay connected, serve 0-21 years of age,

- continuing Rising Star Award- submit a paragraph why you are nominating a student and the students will receive \$15 card to Amazon, posted to FB group
- Highlighted in newsletter- resources for guide families, sharing information
- Moody Monday- start conversation, comment on post- randomly draw winner- prize courtesy of NE EHD
- Creating Road Map for newly diagnosed and late onset families and everything they should know and who is who. Also listing resources they should be connected with.
- Parent gathering at ZOO at Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day- 125-132 people showed up, meet other parents
- Spanish meet-up for families, meaningful play, signs, hoping to do more of that,
- Moms Night Inn - SB, audiologist 101 and devices, communication options, Jessica Hoss - “you don’t have to be a teacher to be a teacher” teach things at home or have more practice time at home with your child. Panel of DHH students to share experiences, talk about resources- video that will be shared.
- Roots and Wings has heard that this was powerful for families, look forward to have it return
- Thank NDE for supporting GBYS

Deaf-Blind Project- Mackenzie Savaiano

- No report given

Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH)- Amy Tyler Krings & Teresa McEvoy

- Amy Tyler Krings is the new Director of Clinical and Educational Programs for the Center of Childhood Deafness, Language and Learning.
- EIPA’s launch of the new classroominterpreting.org website is one week from today, November 3.
- New EIPA Test registration system
- EIPA Workshops
 1. Ethics and Values - What Guides Our Decisions? Amber Tucker, October 1
 2. Using EIPA Results to Enhance Personal Professional Development, Deborah Cates, December 3
 - Attendees will receive a tool for comparing their score with these patterns to see where their skills are comparatively strong, and where they are comparatively weak relative to other interpreters at their skill level.
- EIPA Course Updates
 1. **New 6-part course: Unpacking Discourse Mapping, by Deborah Cates**
 - Price is \$20 per module, or \$100 for bundling all 6
 - *This course looks at the six elements of discourse mapping that influence the overall clarity of a signed interpretation: stress or emphasis for important words or phrases, register, use of verb directionality/pronominal system, use of space for comparison/contrast, sequence and cause/effect, location/relationship using ASL classifier system, and appropriate eye contact and movement. In each module, Dr. Cates will teach about one element with example interpretations at various EIPA skill levels. Interpreters will have the opportunity to practice identifying and using the element. The techniques in these modules can be applied to any practice material to build discourse mapping skills.*
 - **#1: Use of Space has been released (<https://eipa.boystown.org/>)**
In this module, interpreters will learn to:
 - identify the structure of ideas in teacher discourse
 - represent the relationships between ideas spatially
 - maintain cohesion throughout an interpretation using space.
 - **#2: Stress and Emphasis** – Available November 18
 - **#3: Use of Verb Directionality and Pronominal System** - Available in December
 - **#4: Classifiers** - Available in March
 - **#5: Register** - Available in April
 - **#6: Eye Contact and Movement** - Available in May

- **Practice Materials Updates**
 1. All Gen2 videos are online now
- **Revised Written Test**
 1. Deb Cates is heading up the research behind the newly revised written test. Before releasing, the test will undergo an extensive research study to validate the revised questions. The validation study will include both experienced interpreters and recent ITP graduates and will include measures of both validity and reliability.

BOYS TOWN CLINICAL & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- **Boys Town Educational Programs:**
 1. Boys Town staff continues to offer the following educational services:
 - 0-3 Services for families with a child identified as deaf or hard-of-hearing; Services have resumed in the home as COVID restrictions have been lifted for educational services in the Omaha area
 - Boys Town Preschool is now a full day program!
 - School-based Counseling Services for Students K-12 who have been identified as deaf or hard of hearing
- **Lupe Medina, Special Events Coordinator, resigned to take another position. Daisy Corona has been hired for this position and will be helping with events, including Roots & Wings, in the future.**
- **Boys Town Speech-Language Team now has 12 clinicians to provide communication assessments and interventions.**
 1. Now offering feeding and swallowing assessments and interventions as a new service for babies and young children demonstrating delays

Amplify- Missy Stithem

- No report given

Additional Topics

- Darsha- said it was incredible to hear everyone and the collaboration and great to hear what we have for students/families
- Darsha is Low Incidence Director, TOD by trade- Ralston for 4 year, ESU 16- for 20 year (16 school years), student taught at ISD

Public Comments

- Thanks to Jonathan for jumping up to the plate when we need him for activities, great role model, love to collaborate to get more role models (NeAD).
- Kelly - shared new book and can purchase from her directly, thanks for support

Future Agenda Items

-