

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Stakeholder Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Zoom

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Attendance: Sue Czaplewski, Sara Peterson, Lindsey Hinzmann, Darsha Pelland, Heather Witte, Mikayla Vanis, Penny Brown, Shelli Janning, Jill Hoffart, Diane Meyer, Colleen Richart, Melissa Weber-Arnold, Anne Thomas, Teresa McEvoy, Vicki Steinhauer-Campbell, Jonathan Scherling, Angel Sumpter, Arlene Garcia Gunderson, Mackenzie Savaiano, Tami Clay, Brian Wojcik, Susan Whitaker, Sarah McClure

Interpreters: Kelly Brakenhoff, Jamy Elker,

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.

New Members Gave Introductions:

- Arlene Garcia Gunderson new Executive Director for Nebraska Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Mikayla Vanis new Program Secretary for Southeast Nebraska Regional Program
- Jonathan Artega (NeAD) attending the meeting to introduce Colleen Richart.
- Colleen Richart excited to be part of NE Deaf Mentor program start up.

Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) - Darsha Pelland

- Update on LB1014 is offering sub awards, sending out preliminary awards soon, looking through data on how to allot money for equipment. Update on LB965 (Language Assessment Bill), the Regional Coordinators working on setting up interpreter testing in fall & spring.
- Sue Czaplewski is retiring! Thank you Sue for all your hard work, we will miss you but know there is still work to be done before her July 1st departure. There were six applicants for her position. Interviews will be conducted next week & some of the attendees of this current zoom will be part of the interview team.

University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) - Julie Delkamiller & Jonathan Scherling

- Not many updates. Three candidates came to campus for ASL instructor position. Wanting to expand the program & looking into new instructor teaching lab aspect of courses. In the process of making an offer. Numbers are down for Deaf Education and Interpreting programs. Two students are doing practicum and four doing practicum this fall. UNO is having difficulty getting community practicum hours.
- Research project has no participants yet. Looking for secondary students and the impact of interpreters skills and effectiveness of educational interpreters. Sent info on research project across the country, had participants in Idaho but ended up falling through. Research project looks at four modules with four different levels of interpreters.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) - Anne Thomas

- Currently two interprofessional grants. The first grant is MPUP IP grant for TOD & SLPs. Recruited 3 cohorts with the second cohort graduating this summer. Reach out to Deaf and Hard of Hearing community members to create a post seminar panel. Second grant is MPUP Spade for TODs, Audiologists & SLPs. This is a new grant that has recruited the first cohort. Ten scholarship letters currently out and just waiting to hear back if they have all been accepted. Pre-seminar is at the end of June. Several activities for post-seminary, want to include one with Deaf and Hard of Hearing community members. More information on the grant linked [here](#).
- Working on developing online ASL courses for TODs prior to student teaching. Five scholars have applied for the program. Challenge because scholars pursuing endorsement in masters degree making scheduling difficult. Interviewed two candidates & will send out an announcement once accepted. Courses will not be open to anybody & everybody but possibility for that option in the future. Main focus currently is TOD scholars.

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

- Brianna Stradinger new VR counselor in Omaha. Larger case load in Omaha so excited to have Brianna on board. Assistant Director Victoria Rathmusen is retiring on April 7th. Replacement is Holly Enriquez. Holly went to grad school & will continue to learn sign. Excited to have two representatives included on the panel for new executive director. Packing up & getting ready to move office to N 84th & O office sometime this summer once renovations are complete.
- Waiting list currently serving priority list 1, 2 & 3. Anyone can apply for services currently no one on the list on website.
- Continuing to do internal training for counselors, focusing on supportive decision making. State VR did give some training.
- Lindy Foley has been part of regional meetings focusing on VR services. Also working with many different committees including Traumatic Brain Injury Committee and Task Force Meeting. Lindy, working with director of Task Force Meeting, to train all VR staff. Task Force meets every quarter to develop better ways to serve Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Working on special plan related to Deaf services in the state. State VR is working on creating updated modules for 2022. Modules were last updated in 2008. Update will have lots of resources for state agencies & better services for clients in their state. RCD used to have more rehab counselors but number has dwindled, colleges offering more option but less training, wanting to go back to increased number & encourage more people to take that program.
- Statewide Coordinator sending out date to Statewide interpreters that work with VR. Fee schedule hasn't raised in 7 years so looking into that. Meeting April 5th with Holly & Victoria to talk about interpreter rates.
- Lupe Stevens (preemployment trans services manager) has more info on workplace transition services. There are 15-18 different sites in state working with summer programs. Students will earn money while they work. Brianna & Lupe work more with students while Vicki works mostly with adults.

- Vicki gave updates about Transition Summit Team. Team wants to make adjustments for summer program transition students. Sue & Lindsey (NRP) involved with Colorado work group since October, Vicki has been involved also. Colorado has own self determination skills to access what students want. Colorado also has developed a survey to gather info from educators because often teachers don't have time for training but need additional support. Transition Summit Team considering doing similar survey to identify gaps to provide workshops for students, educators, parents. Team is hoping that survey will identify gaps & what is needed and will proceed from there.
- Lindsey added, planning two day workshops at UNL (East campus. Haven't decided yet 100% on location.) Looking at workshops being all day Saturday with half day Sunday. In the past it has been hosted on Thursday night & Friday so students could get experience & come into campus. Transition team is focusing on shared time with students & parents. Want to include younger students, focused on 10, 11, 12th grades but ideally start earlier (7th grade) to talk about transition with various session topics. Still in beginning stages of planning. Found dates in July, August & September that UNL can host. Hopefully sending out save the date before the end of the school year. Sue added that D/HH & Deaf Blind will be included in the event.

Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (neRID) Pam Duncan

- Pam Duncan not in attendance & no report but Sue will add to notes if she gets that

Nebraska Regional Program Updates

- **Central Western Nebraska Partnership (CWNP) - Sara Peterson and Heather Witte**
 - Heather is in Hasting & Sara is in Scottsbluff
 - In terms of Student/Family activities Weekend to Sign was in Camp Comeca. Nineteen families attended. Included sessions for kids and adults focused on literacy and strategies for reading books in sign. Sessions were led by Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults. A few agencies joined and had an evening of carnival games.
 - Self Advocacy meets once a month in person at HHS and area high schools zoom in. Everything is led by Deaf adults. Breanna Stradinger from VR did a presentation. Great opportunity for kids to ask questions & interact with Breanna. Deaf Role Models in classrooms are Cindy & Adanijah. They have lunch with students & give TODs & Interpreters feedbacks in classrooms. Hosting family activity at ESU9 & ESU13 in January. In February participating in a family activity with GBYS in Kearney. Attending April GBYS activity across the region. Dance and Transition Event had 53 7th - 12+ grade students. Job/Agency Fair has 12 booths and 2 programs. Deaf adults spoke about careers at this fair. Want to keep the idea of the career fair at future events.
 - For Professional/Community Activities region releases monthly family and professionals newsletter. Share resources & it's a one stop shop for current events happening. Hosting fall Zoom Sign Class with 80 people currently registered. Winter/Spring Zoom Sign Class have voice-off session for participants that have taken multiple classes. Region has professionals attending the Tri State Law Conference, Supporting Success Conference, Boys Town EIPA workshops and EHDI Conference in Cincinnati. TODPLC in November & March. ITDHH Conference had 20 attendees via zoom. Language

Mentoring with Linsay Jr. offered statewide. CWNP Roundtable gives professionals a chance to talk about what they watched at workshops. CWNP Mentoring available for TODHH, Interpreters and added mentoring for MPUP Students. Attended NASES Meetings which included Directors of Special Education across the state. IEP Facilitation Trainings so Heather & Sara are trained for more involvement with CADRE. Continue to be involved in EHDI Advisory, H&V Advisory Board, Deaf Mentor Program Advisory Committee

- **Metro Regional Program (MRP) - Diane Meyer**

- In terms of Student/Family activities Diane was a co-chaperone with Jill Hoffert for Battle of the Books. Students and families attended Weekend to Sign. Special Activity with Omaha Public Schools in November. Five activities with five different classes during the school day. Including one high school & four elementary schools. Attended Extravaganza with students. Winter Social consisted of gingerbread competition where students had to work together to follow directions and attended a Christmas Carol performance on Sunday. Event lasted a total of 2.5 days. In January had six activities with six classes in Omaha Public Schools. High school had a VR adult services presentation. In February, four activities with four classes in Omaha Public Schools. Diane was supervision support overnight so Academic bowl staff & students could sleep. Attended Dance/Transition with students. For March there were four activities with four classes in Omaha Public Schools Also, attending Arts Festival with students at the end of March. In May, Diane is attending Family camp with students & families. MRP program has mental health counseling & audiological evaluations. Including, audiological evaluations and HATS equipment support - ongoing every day. End of the Year Family Picnic Omaha Children's Museum coming up. Will include The Amazing Bubble, Family Escape room activity and Scavenger hunt
- Fall Professional/Community activities included ASL Community Sign Classes. Level 1 had 2 classes and level 2 had 1 class that concluded November 10th. Spring ASL Community Sign Classes for level 1 and 2 begin February 21st and end April 20th. Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors attended in Nov, Jan, & March with plans to attend in April also. This Includes the greater Omaha area. Professionals attending Tri-State Law Conference, Boys Town EIPA video conference series in January and April and EIPA Skills and Written support. Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss Virtual Conference is January through April. Program has five professionals taking three courses, seven professionals taking six courses, two professionals taking nine courses and six professionals taking fourteen courses. NCDHH Mental Health Advisory meetings has regional professionals attend quarterly meetings in November and May. Mentors attending Linsey Darnell Jr. workshops. Working with Omaha Public Schools for Theory of Mind modual. Hosting parent activities this summer to support communication & variety of activities about every 2 weeks

- **Northeast Nebraska Regional Program (NERP) - Jill Hoffart - Norfolk**

- In terms of Professional/Community activities, nineteen teachers and SLPs attended Visual Phonics training on November 18, 2022. Included Supplement to reading instructions in Public Schools. Host Sign Language classes in Spanish weekly

September through December, which families have asked for. Three families are currently attending via zoom. Instructor of classes had a baby so currently on hold for planning more sessions. Eight attended SPICE training with CID on November 9, 2022 and four attended SPICE for Life March 1, 2022. Trainings offer auditory/listening skills training to boost listening environment for kids, specifically with cochlear implants. Second training was a continuation of the curriculum for older students. Monthly Interpreter Mentoring with Individuals via Zoom. Working with Interpreters on what was written in skills development plans. Professionals attend EIPA and Linsey Darnell Jr. workshops as they come up. April 13th is NERP TOD PLC. Start focusing on where they're at on language assessment piece & new initiatives on assessments form NDE. Looking into what other professionals use in the assessment process? Norfolk Area Safety Day with NCDHH on March 24, 2023. ASL Zoom class are six weeks on Monday evenings April 17 through May 22. Instructor is a Senior at RIT for beginning level ASL.

- For Student activities: Battle of the Bands Buff team competed in Preliminaries on November 15th. Team then advanced to playoffs at ESU 6 on December 7. It's put on by Gallaudet youth program and it's the 6th or 7th year region has been involved. Last year team made it to finals but weren't able to advance to nationals this year. Winter Playdate for Littles was on Feb 11, 2023 at Elkhorn Valley Museum with fourteen in attendance. Originally was going to have a playdate in December but snow storm postponed to Feb 11th. Theme was snow, kids had opportunity to make snow and playing with winter theme typed activities. Current & former students D/HH students attend. There wasn't a huge turn out but was beneficial for attendees because Gene Susett, a Guide by your Side representative, attended. Arts Festival on March 31 and April 1, 2023 in Norfolk has sixty students signed up. Theme is "The Future is Yours" for 3rd -6th graders. Event is career & jobs based with special guest, Trix Brooks, from Seattle. Trix will have workshops with kids followed by a 30 minute performance. Mike Brummer is leading a session on career exploration. Lindsey Jelinek, a Deaf ed major & former NRP student, will do a literature group of jobs & uniforms that go with jobs vocab lesson. Zach High will be in charge of formal "recess" to get students moving. CCDHH on April 29, 2023 in Lincoln NE. It is a scholarship contest that is supported & sponsored by Optimist clubs. Includes two \$2500 scholarships (\$5000 total) for students to win. This contest consists of a 4-5 min speech entitled, Discovering Optimism in Me, all students write & speak on the same topic. Currently four kids registered, need a minimum of 3 to host contest, but would like more to sign up. It's the 25th year of NRP doing the contest. Jeremy Daffern, an outreach specialist for commission, is a guest speaker. If you want to attend give Jill a heads up if want to watch so enough lunch is available. Audiology clinics also underway. Staff of course attends statewide events.

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

- Our new assistant is Mikayla Vanis. She introduced herself earlier but has had to jump in with two feet because we have been busy in our region.
- For Student/Family activities we hosted the statewide event Edgerton Explorit Extravaganza. There were 70 Students & 33 staff members in attendance. It was Kindergarten through 5th grade students at a day long event, 10am-2pm. This was an

opportunity for students to get to know each other. Some students are hesitant to go to overnight opportunities so it's great to have a single day activity. Had SNRP Play Date on December 7th - all Early Childhood students. Advice given in the advisory committee to start Play Date events during the day. December event called Goodies Galore Playdate included crafts & cookies. Population smaller for these events but families that have attended come to activities multiple times. Two D/HH role models lead activities, Lindsey Jelinek & Vali Hitz. Our Tie Dye Fun hosted 26 Students including 7 new students that haven't attended previous events. It was a SNRP only event Kindergarten through 7th grade. Kindergarten through 3rd grade came first in the evening with shared dinner before 4th through 7th grade stayed to then tie dye their shirts. Variety of D/HH role models attended. Multiple staff that worked other day camp activities so students got to continue relationships with those role models. The Academic Bowl team has been practicing since September. This semester the team attended regional competition traveling to Texas Regional School for the Deaf. This was the first year in person for a while & was good to have in person experience since 3 students never had an in person event. It was Thursday through Sunday with 4 students across the state, 2 NERP, 1 MRP and 1 SNRP. Included 2 seniors, 1 junior, 1 freshman. Down time Thursday so students and staff had lunch off campus. There were lots of social activities so students had the opportunity to meet with students across the country. Team was seeded 3rd during Friday's pool play competition followed by the tournament round. Often competing as late as 10/11pm. Went to a bowling alley one evening & played in an arcade. On the last night, after the championship round & awards, students went to the social room & played games/danced. Team then flew out early Sunday morning. Lindsey Jelinek was one of the other coaches. Lindsey was previously on the academic bowl team. SNRP also offers Sign Classes and Support as needed for individual families and professionals. There are videos for family & professionals to use because it was requested. People can access when they want because it is hard for families to attend weekly/monthly zoom classes. Classes are also in person when needed. At advisory committee Lindsey asked for feedback on service opportunities. This led to our Spring Service and Social Activity. Working with a regional TOD who is part of Uplifting Paws organization. Fifteen students 6th through 12th grade are stuffing eggs with dog treats & candies/trinkets. Lindsey Jelinek and Holli Luff attended as Deaf and Hard of Hearing role models. Our Spring Social for Littles had 60 people, including students and families, attending. It is an event for students birth through 2nd grade. It was at My Gym in Lincoln and a great opportunity for families to connect. Deaf and Hard of Hearing students /role models and Hands to Voices families attending. Another SNRP Play Date in April with birth to preschool students invited. Using feedback from Spring Social for Little ones on the ideal time frame for families to attend. Then will finalize information for April Play Date. SNRP is hosting the first ever Family Camp on May 5th-7th at Covenant Cedars. There are twenty one families attending with families on a waitlist. Hopefully more families can join but maxed out on space that Covenant Cedars has in terms of private housing. Possibility for more private housing to be finished in time of

event but it is currently under construction. Weekend to Sign was a great opportunity for families to connect so wanted additional opportunities for crafts & activities.

- In terms of Professional Development there are monthly PLC meetings for TOD/Interpreters, the Tri-State Law Conference which Lindsey Hinzmann attended, Supporting Success Virtual Conference, Ethics in Educational Interpreting which Sabrina Smith is teaching this month, EIPA Video Conferences/Lindsay Jr ASL Mentoring Workshops and TIPS and Mentoring through NDE. For Summer conferences five professionals will be attending AG Bell conference in June but available on demand through next school year. Professionals attending Sioux Falls Midwest Conference in June. Two educational audiologists attending EAA conference in Florida. One audiologist will attend Boys Town Pediatric Audiology Translational Research (PAT) Conference in June. Two professionals attending CHARGE Conference in July. SNRP is looking at sending staff to RID and NDEC just waiting for more information to come out. Lindsey had an opportunity for outreach with the Sertoma Club in Beatrice. Currently recruiting TODs and Interpreters. Undergoing job shadowing for education Sign Language Interpreters for high school students interested in the field.
- The Regional Programs are celebrating their 25th anniversary. Thankful for amount of enhanced opportunities & support for staff that has been provided over the years.

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

- Coordinator was promoted to manager in February. In the process of hiring for a Community Coordinator position.
- Attended the EHDI annual conference in Cincinnati which was an amazing opportunity for networking. Attending ASTra training in January which is anything parents & professionals need to know to help children be successful. Renewing sub awards with Hands to Voices & NeAD and hEAR u
- Our Newborn hearing champion campaign was put on hold but starting in February again. Collaborating with hospitals. EHDI makes site visits with hospitals that help with newborn hearing screening. Wanting to make sure they are following protocols and what they are telling parents. Beginning stages working with Boys Town to determine what resources are needed for families to do follow up screenings. Working on updating materials for a large population including information in other languages: Karen, Arabic. Also, promoting tele-audiology for western Nebraska. CMV materials on website to print and order. Excited to partner with NeAD with Deaf Mentor program. Advisory meeting in May.

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

- Excited to welcome Arlene as new Executive Director
- Susan attended ASTRA training over the winter. Now part of a collaborative group to make sure all agencies collaborate while advocating for D/HH students. Don't want to step on each others toes or replicate services
- Events coming up! May 24th Susan hosting Disability Disaster Prepared Workshop in Scottsbluff. All disability groups are invited. Same workshop as last October which was well received. June 9th is Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ballpark night. This is an annual event where

the community goes to a ballpark & announcer talks about different facts of being Deaf and Hard of Hearing. There is also a silent inning with no announcer and booths with agencies that provide services. August 1st is National Night Out with over 1,000 attendees planned. September 9th is Deaf and Hard of Hearing awareness day. Zoo visit in the panhandle planned. Feel free to invite Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in the panhandle & parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. Booths for ESU 13, Hands & Voices plus a few other agencies. Susan appreciated being part of Hands & Voices group so they can collaborate to provide best opportunities for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. March 25th is Safety Day!

- Arlene want to reach out to know more about how programs related to NCDHH at alrene.gunderson@nebraska.gov
- NCDHH Save the Date Flyer linked [here](#).

Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD) - Jonathan Arteaga

- Involved in many different activities. Thanks to the board for being involved in advisory committee with many different roles. Jonathan went to the EDHI conference & plans to bring information to Nebraska for programming. Thank you to 3-4 people that applied for mentoring. Appreciative for committee in hiring Colleen
- Hoping to make progress with different hospitals & entities around the state. Use facebook opportunities to connect
- On February 5th the board had a meeting, and wanted to recognize Black History Month with a presentation. Next board meeting Sunday April 2nd at 2pm with food, feel free to join. More information and dates on Facebook page.
- Nebraska Deaf Heritage Museum will have an event on April 1st, more information on Facebook

Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) Brian Wojcik - Program Supervisor

- Working with schools for IEP & IESP teams to provide high quality assistive services. Working collaboratively with NRP on how to allocate Covid funds for purchasing equipment used by Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. Learning center of over 200 courses related to assistive technology, which is free to anybody, more information can be found [here](#). Launching 4th AT CADRE program for people that work in education. They will learn more about assistive technology, engage in group learning & individualize learning with a final project to demonstrate what they learned. More information found [here](#). If there are individuals who would like to use services or want more info feel free to contact Brian

National Association of Interpreters in Education (NAIE)- Sarah McClure

- Sarah must've had to step away so we will come back. Sarah is listening in but in school working so will jump on later if she can.

Hands & Voices (H&V) and Guide By Your Side (GBYS) - Shelli Janning

- Hard when you're the Stakeholder towards the bottom of the list as many people have already mentioned the wonderful things going on in your organization. Excited about revamped website that launched over the fall. In December and January voted in new Hands & Voices

Board of Directors which includes different representation. This is the third time Hands & Voices is bringing in a leadership team to train ASTRA. There are currently 4 guides that are ASTra advocates.

- Jen Zysset is now ASTra Program Coordinator. She has a Masters in Education
- Hands & Voices covers most of the state of Nebraska, Guide by your Side and ASTra program are under Hands & Voices. Organizations are meeting quarterly. There is a lot of information out there so I want to make sure parents have access to correct needs. Created Roadmaps for children referred for Newborn Hearing Screen & different options for family post newborn hearing screen stages, up to 3 years old. Fourteen parent guides serve the state of NE, so the team is currently full. Survey sent out in February to 185 people through email & US mail. Forty surveys were returned. People don't often return surveys so happy with 40 responses. Surveys showed positive feedback in families' experiences with programs. Agreement with Omaha Fire Department on grant for fire alarms but writing a new grant which will take some time. Goal for this year is to work on resource videos for families. Asking different programs to create short videos on how their program/organization benefits families. Working closely with surrounding states that have Hand & Voices who said they are more than happy to have families from Nebraska attend events in other states. Mom's Night Inn had 9 moms attend. There are currently 23 moms in the Lincoln area. Younger families were mostly in attendance. Shelli thinks that's because Roots & Wings hasn't been happening. Handed out magnet with "My Child's Team" because sometimes families don't know the difference between Audiologist & ENT. ASTra training has 32 attendees with the opportunity to Zoom in if far from Omaha and Scottsbluff. February 18th was a Children's Museum event in Kearney. Guide by your Side meeting was in February where they talked about ways to get approved & acknowledged that collaboration is going well. April 25th is Easter Egg Hunt in Metro areas. Vicki or Lindsey Jr. doing book reading about "Sometimes I like the Quiet." Hands & Voice collaborating to have an Easter egg hunt with NRP out west.

Deaf-Blind Project - Mackenzie Savaiano - project coordinator

- Officially submitted Grant for next 5 year project so been busy with that. Few things will likely change but some things will stay. Many on the Zoom call will be hearing from Mackenzie on new grant cycle so she can learn more about how NE Deaf/Blind project can provide support for families across the state
- Summer Institute on July 20th-21st. Working on Save the Date then will be sending out a flyer, hopefully end of this month. Focus is recreation & movement with speakers being experts in that area, including adaptive PE teacher from Perkins. Hybrid option available but preference of everyone in attendance. Option of one graduate credit for attending which hasn't been offered in a while.
- Transition Institute July 14th-17th is going on between ten different state projects. It's in St. Louis this summer and most likely the last one. Information has already gone out and planning lots of fun outings. Deaf/Blind Project has funds available to send more than one family. Project likes to send student & one family member, can send team member if family is unable

to attend. It is for students ages 14 to 21. DB Project is sending one large family including siblings to the Charge Conference.

Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH) -Teresa McEvoy

- Normally Amy Tyler Krings would be joining Teresa but Amy is out of town today.
- Updated on Boys Town Clinical & Educational Programs - A reminder about a new program to Boys Town Clinical Programs. Our clinics are now providing evaluations and interventions for feeding and swallowing concerns. This does include both mealtime, functional evaluations as well as videofluoroscopic swallow studies. Boys Town Education programs are currently serving 28 children and families in the 0-3 home based program. Also serving 21 preschoolers in the preschool program, it is now a full-day program with lunch. The preschool program runs from mid-August through the end of June. In 2022 the Cochlear Implant team placed 61 new devices. Over the years, the team has placed 1139 cochlear implants serving a total of 786 unique patients. Their latest request in cochlear implant manufacturing is to improve the CI's abilities to connect to the variety of technology available. The Boys Town Speech-Language Clinic served 198 unique patients with hearing loss in 2022. Boys Town continues to support all communication needs along with Auditory-to-Visual continuum during evaluations and interventions.
- EIPA Updates - Last time we met, EIPA was preparing to launch our new website. The newly revised site launched on November 9th. URL for the website linked [here](#). We welcome feedback! Biggest change is that individuals can register to take EIPA exam through Boys Town website. There has been confusion over the years to have separate website for test registration. When it comes to EIPA workshops, Deborah Cates hosted "Using EIPA Results to Enhance Personal Professional Development" on December 3rd. After the workshop there was the most feedback we've ever received. On April 1st William Ross III presented "Master of Meaning." This training focuses on interpretation from English to ASL, and how to manage shades of meaning, addressing subtleties and the nuances found in language. Deb Cates hosted the EIPA mentor workshop "March Mentor Workshop." This is offered twice per year & the next time it's offered will be in August. The link to the pre-registration application is [here](#). A new 6-part course by Deborah Cates called "Unpacking Discourse Mapping" has posted the first 4 modules. Module 5 will be available on April 14th & Module 6 will be available on May 12th. Price is \$20 per module or \$100 for bundling all 6. Link to the modules attached [here](#).

Amplify- Missy Stithem

- No report provided.

Additional Topics

- No further topics or comments were shared.

Public Comments

- Thank you retirees!!

Future Agenda Items

- Please email ___ if you have any future agenda items you would like to discuss.

2023-2024 Meeting Dates

- Will be announced later