

## MEETING MINUTES

### NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

---

#### **Opening:**

The regular board meeting of NCAD duly called and held on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 235 Thornton Drive, Wilmington, NC at 9:06 AM.

#### **Present were:**

President – Craig Blevins

Treasurer – Martina Moore-Reid

Secretary – Jaime Marshall

Western Regional Representative – Dayamarali Espinosa (via zoom)

Central Regional Representative – Linda Nelson

Eastern Regional Representative – Mike Lupo

Social Media Coordinator – Theresa Moss

#### **Absent:**

Vice President – Meredith De Naples

#### **Guest:**

Jan Wither, Director of NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH)

---

With the approval of the board members present, President Blevins acted as Chairman of the meeting and Secretary Jaime Marshall recorded the minutes.

Meeting Minutes from 2021 were reviewed.

**Motion by:** Social Media Coordinator Moss

**Seconded by:** Representative Espinosa

**Vote Count:** Majority

---

#### **AGENDA TOPIC: NC EHDI / NC DSDHH's Common Grounds**

Invited Speaker: Jan Wither, NC DSDHH Director

Using the national common ground guidelines that started in March, 2019, they modeled the guidelines to form a statewide common ground.

During Summer/Fall 2019, Jan Withers and Marcia Fort (Unit Manager, Genetics and Newborn Screening, Division of Public Health Director of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention)

began a NC Common Ground project. A group of 10 participants came to a list of 14 shared goals after several meetings took place.

**Participants:**

1. Hannah Eskridge Director, UNC-CH Children’s Cochlear Implant Center (OPTION program)
2. Beth Whitfield Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Children with Hearing Impairments, Exceptional Children Division, Dept of Public Instruction
3. Christy Holmes Pediatric Audiology
4. Jenna Rankin Hearing parent of Deaf child
5. Daphne Peacock Deaf parent of Deaf child and teacher at NC School for the Deaf
6. David Rosenthal NC Association of the Deaf
7. Michele Handley Director, Eastern NC School for the Deaf
8. Jon Henner Assistant Professor, Professions in Deafness, Dept of Specialized Education Services, UNC-G
9. Denise Nelson NC Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing representative  
Lead – Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services, Durham Public Schools
10. Meredith Kaplan NC Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing representative  
Deaf parent of Deaf children

Four separate meetings were held. The NC Common Ground Team recognizes that there is a lack of service for families with deaf/hard of hearing children between the age of 0 and 3. It was agreed by the committee that all D/HH children and their families should have opportunities to meet with other families and children and as well as adults who are deaf/hard of hearing.

---

**AGENDA TOPIC: HB 317**

Invited Speaker: Jan Wither, NC DSDHH Director

team.

**SECTION 2.** The Department of Health and Human Services and other State agencies and organizations upon the request of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) shall make databases containing information on children under the age of 22 who are diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing available to DPI. DPI shall use this information to develop and maintain a statewide data tracking system for the purpose of coordinating with other State agencies and organizations and ensuring literacy achievement for all such children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**SECTION 3.** This bill shall be effective on 1/1/2013.

The amendment to the HB 317 will cover all D/HH & DB (not just children, age: 0-22, on the Individualized Educational Plan but including those who are on the 504 Plan and those who are not on either one).

The amendment to the HB 317 will not be proposed until 2023.

Representative Lupu comments that despite the existing HB 317 law since 2013, there is no summary of data that has been made available to the public. Representative Lupu has contacted

Thomas Page from University of NC in Chapel Hill for a summary of all data. Thomas Page, contracted with NC DPI, is responsible for compiling all existing data and he has not shared any statewide statistics. The evaluations that K-12 Teachers of the Deaf complete online every year are very geared to the development of speech and listening skills rather than language acquisition.

Director Withers shares that Dr Wyatte Hall, author of Language Deprivation and Deaf Mental Health, was invited to speak at a Care Project function two years ago. Dr. Wyatte Hall explained what happens to the lives of deaf children and adults after language deprivation – what kind of language development and psychological impact of language deprivation the deaf children and adults experience. Some parents including some professionals were resistant to the idea although some were very receptive.

The Board discusses the importance of preschool deaf/hard of hearing children using sign language. Using an interpreting at this age is not ideal and that children at this age learn best by direct communication.

Withers shares that the NC Department of Health and Human Services is currently going through some departmental restructuring. A new division has been created: Division of Child & Family Well-Being. Some services are being merged.

---

## **AGENDA TOPIC: HB 1030**

### **Session Law 2016-94 House Bill 1030 Consent for Release of Contact Information**

A law that gives parents, guardians or custodians of students identified under the IDEA with hearing and or vision loss, the choice to release their constant information and their student disability information to the three residential school for the deaf and blind.

Representative Lupo shares his concerns about a statement that is sent out to all parents in public school. Secretary Marshall comments that the letter does not explain to the parents about why they need to fill out the “Consent for Release of Contact Information” form each year. Schools for the Deaf are not allowed to keep contact information in which they are required to shred all parents’ contact information.

President Blevins will follow up on this with Antwan Campbell, D/HH statewide consultant and investigate on who wrote the letter.

---

## **AGENDA TOPIC: NC DHHS Program Manager of Division of MH/DD/SA (Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Substance Abuse) Services**

Representative Nelson shares the news that the Program Manager, Mr. Brad Trotter, will retire on December 1, 2021. There has been no formal announcement. Representative Nelson shares her concerns of the recent change to the job criteria particularly that the position no longer

requires ASL skills. This was followed up with Mr. Brad Trotter. His recommendation was to communicate any program concerns to his current supervisor, Sarah Waleed.

Treasurer Moore-Reid shares that she and Jeff Freer co-chair the RIT quarterly meetings. RIT (Regional Integrated Team) is known as a team of five sisters: NC Vocational Rehabilitation, NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, NC Mental Health, NC DHHS: Department of Blind and RHA.

Representative Nelson will follow up with Jan Withers on further updates.

---

### **AGENDA TOPIC: Deaf Cultural / Deaf Library in NC**

With NCAD's unanimously approval in February 2019, Mr. Jimmy Autrey was designated as the chairperson of the NC Deaf Culture Digital Library (NC-DCDL). Mr. Autrey has a long history of preserving, cataloging, and sharing memorabilia, photographs and artifacts and stories about NC School for the Deaf with the general public.

On Oct. 4, 2019 Mr. Jimmy Autrey was invited by the curator of NC Room of Morganton Public Library, Laurie Johnston, to give a presentation the in honor of NC School for the Deaf's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

According to Mr. Jimmy Autrey, Donna Smolik and Alice Lougee Hagemeyer are still working out an agreement in regards to NC Deaf Culture Digital Library (NC-DCDL).

Jimmy Autrey will update the NCAD Board more of the NC-DCDL's progress by January 2022.

---

### **AGENDA TOPIC: Tillinghast Apartments**

Tillinghast Apartment, owned by NC Association of the Deaf, is in need for some repairs – a new roof. The budget is available. James Wilson, a former NCAD President, is the President of the Tillinghast Place Board. Donnie Dove, a former NCAD Vice-President, also serves on the Tillinghast Place Board as well.

Representative Nelson asks that the President of the Tillinghast Place Board submits NCAD a biannual report.

---

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Moore-Reid shared that there are a few discrepancies that need to be straightened out. Pay pal does not indicate detailed information on individuals who signed up for NCAD memberships. Pay Pal does not show detailed information on donors as well.

---

**AGENDA TOPIC: PayPal Fund**

**Motion:** Treasurer Moore-Reid proposes that the \$1,653.39 PayPal fund (monies from membership and donations) to be transferred to the general funds.

**Motion By:** Treasurer Moore-Reid

**Seconded By:** Representative Nelson

**Vote Count:** Majority

---

**AGENDA TOPIC: Treasurer's Report**

**Motion:** We, the NCAD Board, approves the Treasurer's Report

**Motion By:** Representative Nelson

**Seconded By:** Social Media Coordinator Moses

**Vote Count:** Majority

---

**BREAK: 12:28 – 1:13 PM**

---

**AGENDA TOPIC: Fundraising**

President Blevins discusses quarterly educational workshops. Representative Lupo volunteers to do the first one in the spring on the topic of Language Deprivation. CEUs will be offered.

Silent auctions will happen at the Spring workshop.

Annual sponsorship letters will be sent out in January 2022. Business promotions will be advertised on our website, starting April 2022 - April 2023. Representative Espinosa volunteers to send out the sponsorship letters.

---

**AGENDA TOPIC: Human Rights Committee at NCSD**

Daya Espinosa, who is also the HRC Alumni Representative, at NC School for the Deaf explains her role serving on the HRC Committee and the HRC duties to the NCAD Board Members: assessing and protecting rights of students.

---

**AGENDA TOPIC: NCITLB - Provisional License for Educational Interpreters**

NC Interpreters and Transliterator Licensing Board proposes to add 3.5 EIPA to the provisional license category (90D).

Under 90D-7. Requirements for Licensure states that applicants are to meet of the following qualifications:

- (1) Is 18 years of age or older
- (2) Is of good moral character s determined by the Board.
- (3) Meets one of the following criteria:
  - a. Holds a valid NAD, level 4 or 5 certification
  - b. Is nationally certified by the RID
  - c. Holds a valid TECUnit
  - d. Holds a quality assurance NCICS, level A or B
  - e. Holds a current CLTSLA, level 3 or above
  - f. Holds such other certification or classification or meets such other criteria or standards as may be adopted by the Board through rulemaking

---

### **AGENDA TOPIC: E-Newsletter Constant Contact Service**

The NCAD Board approves the continual service with Constant Contact.

---

### **AGENDA TOPIC: 2022-2023 Articles for NCAD E-Newsletter**

Secretary Marshall discusses the October 2021 issue which was recycled from a webpage from the NCAD website ([OurNCAD.org](http://OurNCAD.org)). It is the same information that has been on our website for at least 5 years now. This was a “copy and paste” of a webpage that appeared on the October 2021 issue.

A brief e-newsletter was sent out within a few days, explaining that the Q&A section was merely examples of possible situations and not something that actually happened.

Dear Readers,

We, the NCAD, appreciate your inquiries about the case scenarios in our recent e-newsletter. However, please know that the case scenarios listed in the October issue were all examples and not actual situations.

NC DSDHH has deaf and hearing staff across the state who are skilled and licensed interpreters. All licensed interpreters at NC DSDHH adhere to the interpreter code of ethics and carry themselves professionally.

NC Association of the Deaf's consumers are often referred to NC DSDHH for further services. We, the NCAD, are grateful to work collaboratively with NC DSDHH to meet the needs and goals for the betterment of our community.

“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.” - Fred Rogers

To all the heroes, thank you.

At your service,

NC Association of the Deaf

---

**AGENDA TOPIC: increase per diem**

**Motion:** Treasurer Moore-Reid proposes to increase the per diem to \$50 a day.

Breakfast, 10 / Lunch 15 / Dinner 25 **Motion:** We, the NCAD Board, approves the Treasurer’s Report

**Seconded By:** Representative Lupo

**Vote Count:** Majority

---

**AGENDA TOPIC: Mileage**

**Motion:** Representative Nelson proposes to increase the mileage to 33 cents.

**Seconded By:** SM Coordinator Moses

**Vote Count:** Majority

---

**AGENDA TOPIC: NAD Biennial Conference**

Representative Espinosa will attend the next biennial conference in Orlando, Florida during June 30 – July 4, 2022.

---

**AGENDA TOPIC: Monthly Regional NAD Meeting**

Treasurer Moore-Reid will replace President Blevins to sit in the monthly regional meetings. Representative Nelson will step in if needed.

---

**Meeting Adjourned: 3:36 PM**