

MEETING MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Opening:

The regular board meeting of NCAD duly called and held on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH), 4900 Waters Edge Drive, Raleigh, NC at 9:26 AM.

Present were:

President – Craig Blevins
Treasurer – Martina Moore-Reid
Secretary – Jaime Marshall Staley
Central Regional Representative – Christa Butner

Guests:

Ashley Benton, NC DHHS
Brad Trotter, NC DHSS

Not Present:

Vice President – Donnie Dove
Southeast Regional Representative – Sharon Lott
Northeast Regional Representative – Linda Nelson
Western Regional Representative – Laura Herman

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

*Approval for the Meeting Minutes from August 26, 2017 has been postponed to the next board meeting because quorum has not been met.

President's Report is given after President Blevins introduces Mr. Brad Trotter:

Brad Trotter, Director NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, gave a brief history:

In 1992, NCAD filed a state lawsuit on the basis that the state failed to provide psychiatric treatment for deaf / hard of hearing patients. As a result, a budget was created. Currently, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the funding comes from the state whereas $\frac{1}{4}$ comes from "federal block".

Currently, the annual budget is set at 1.45 million dollars, covering all overhead operations and ten full-time positions. All services, including crisis solutions, may be initiated through Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCO)s. Additionally, outpatient services may be initiated through the division's contractual partner, RHA Behavioral Health.

13 members serve on the Mental Health Advisory Board. Linda Nelson is on the board, representing NCAD. Mr. Brad Trotter is seeking recommendations on "Deaf replacements" to

attend their quarterly board meetings in Raleigh. This is a 3-year term which needs to be filled by July 1, 2018.

LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) positions are open. Requirements are: 2 years of supervision, pass written exam, possess a MSW, and pass ASLPI with Advanced Plus. Mr. Trotter is facing a challenging in filling these positions as there are not many candidates.

Marshall Staley questioned why Broughton Hospital in Morganton is employing full-time interpreters who are not RID certified at the Deaf Unit. Marshall Staley expressed concerns about unqualified interpreters who are interpreting for deaf / hard of hearing patients during their psychiatric evaluation, treatments and therapy sessions. Mr. Trotter redirected, suggesting that the question be brought up by our NCAD representative, Linda Nelson, when she attends the next NC Mental Health Coalition quarterly board meeting. Note: Broughton Hospital is under NC DHHS.

Mrs. Ashley Benton from DSDHH gave updated reports:

Three new positions have been created: 2 Office Assistants and Outreach and Education Coordinator.

NC Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) had their first meeting in November 2017 and is still in the process of establishing a task force to address: funding for sign language interpreters and training of healthcare providers and to create an assessment / follow-up care for nursing home residents with hearing loss. The Task Force will last a minimum of 6 months. Co-chairs are Jan Withers and Dr. Adam Zolotor, President and CEO of NCIOM.

Medicaid Reimbursement for Sign Language Interpreting Services projects \$1.6 million to be incorporated into budget and policies and procedures for implementation are being drafted by DSDHH collaborating with Division of Medical Services and Division of Health Benefits

Training for Law Enforcement Officers is still in the works. NC DSDHH has asked Mr. David Rosenthal through Temporary Solutions to do some contractual work: develop training for seasoned law enforcement officers and D/HH community. In addition, training for new officers (Basic Law Enforcement Training – offered through NC Justice Academy) has already been developed, offering a Deaf component for Crisis Intervention Training.

Presidents Report:

After attending the General Assembly's occupation board oversight committee meeting on January 9, 2018 in Raleigh (also called the "Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee" meeting), President Blevins reported that there is another attempt to sunset (terminate) the NC Interpreters & Transliterators Licensing Board and its licensure requirements, along with a number of other NC licensing Boards. If it becomes law, it will diminish state licensing boards and their ability to regulate.

President Blevins appointed Northeast Regional Representative, Linda Nelson and Treasurer Moore-Reid to attend the next National Association of the Deaf's 54th Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference in Hartford, CT from July 3-7, 2018.

Secretary Report:

An update was given on the EIPA BILL Action Committee.

Due to the recent development of Occupational Licensing Board being in jeopardy and for financial reasons, the Deafhood Training for March 7, 2018 has been cancelled.

Secretary Marshall Staley has contributed \$29.78 toward the blue host fee to maintain website domain.

Meeting adjourned: 12:56 PM