

MEETING MINUTES
NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Opening:

The regular board meeting of NCAD duly called and held on Saturday, March 12, 2022 via ZOOM (online streaming) at 8:35 AM.

Present were:

President – Craig Blevins
Treasurer – Martina Moore-Reid
Secretary – Jaime Marshall
Western Regional Representative – Dayamarali Espinosa
Central Regional Representative – Linda Nelson
Eastern Regional Representative – Mike Lupo
Social Media Coordinator – Theresa Moss

Absent:

Vice President – Meredith De Naples

Guests:

Jan Withers, Director of NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH)
Ashley Benton, DeafBlind Services Coordinator, DSDHH

Presidents Report:

President Blevins announces the resignation of the NCAD Board's Vice President, Meredith De Naples.

Donnie Dove will continue to represent the NCAD Board on NC Interpreters and Translitterators Licensing Board.

AGENDA TOPIC: Deaf Mentor Program

Invited Speaker: Jan Withers, NC DSDHH Director

Withers is pleased to announce that funding has been received to start a state-wide Deaf Mentor Program where Deaf Mentors will be employed to work with families of deaf children under age 3.

The Deaf Mentor Program from the Ski-Hi Institute, *an evidence based, family-centered and proven educational program created and evaluated through support from the US Office of Special Education Programs*, is expected to begin servicing families in 2023. Time will be needed to provide the new Program Manager and Deaf Mentors training.

Representative Nelson inquires whether the Deaf Mentors will be making home visits. Withers explains that it depends on the families' preference (home visit or a public place, whichever the family is most comfortable with).

Representative Lupo mentions that a similar program may begin in the Wilmington area which the funding may come from United Way. Director Withers explains that NC DSDHH's Deaf Mentors will be working with families of Deaf children under age 3. Representative Lupo is encouraged to continue as the program, possibly funded by United Way, will serve deaf/hard of hearing students who are already enrolled in public school.

AGENDA TOPIC: NC DSDHH Workshop/Training

Invited Speaker: Ashley Benton, DeafBlind Services Coordinator, DSDHH
Ashley Benton announces monthly webinars and workshop/training that can be requested.

Secretary Marshall suggests that it would be helpful if DSDHH had a webpage showing a list of all workshops that are being offered to the public such as Different, Different World and Privilege, Power and Oppression. A list of workshop descriptions on NC DSDHH's website will help the public to be aware of their expertise.

AGENDA TOPIC: Tillinghast Subcommittee

Secretary Marshall provides information on the Tillinghast Project, a traveling exhibit that will be showcased at the upcoming 2023 NCAD Conference.

The Tillinghast Subcommittee meets at the NC School for the Deaf Historical Museum biweekly, doing research. Anyone can volunteer. Regular volunteers are: NCSD Historical Museum President, Jimmy Autrey; Social Media Coordinator, Theresa Moss; NCAD Website Designer, Sam Moss; NCSD Historical Museum Curator, Georgeanne Crowe and James Ledford.

AGENDA TOPIC: NCAD Conference

Social Media Coordinator Moss shares information about the conference planning. Date has been set: Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23, 2023 at the Meadowbrook Inn in Blowing Rock. Board Members will check in on Friday, April 21.

Eight workshops will be offered in two days. Two workshops will simultaneously run all day, allowing the conference participants choose which workshop they'd like to attend. There will be no workshop repetition.

AGENDA TOPIC: Deaf Education Committee

Representative Lupo shares several topics that NC Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's Deaf Education Committee has covered. Representative Lupo chairs the Deaf Education Committee. The focus has been on the quality of teachers working with deaf/hard of hearing students. Their biggest concern is that there are not enough teachers specializing in this field.

Representative Lupo discusses HB 1030, a law requiring that parents are given the choice to release their contact information and their student's disability information to the school for the Deaf. However, parents (who have received this form) do not understand why they are signing it. There is no information on the reason behind providing their consent to release their child's information to one of the state schools for the deaf. There also have been cases of other school professionals discouraging parents from signing it. That is another issue we would have to address another time.

Marshall Secretary recommends that the NCAD Board do some revisions to keep it brief but make it more friendly and less intimidating for parents to decide to sign it.

Concerns about the HB 1030 Form:

- 1) “...*residential schools serving visually and hearing-impaired students..*” and “*reporting to residential schools on deaf and blind children*” - this gives the impression that the blind and deaf/hard of hearing children are grouped together.
 - 2) The wordings, residential schools, have the parents thinking that their child commuting to “residential school” as a day student is not an option. E/NCSD school will provide transportation to day students as long as the commute does not exceed 50 minutes one way.
 - 3) The parents are not aware that this is an annual release of consent. They have no clue that their contact information is only kept for “X number of days” before their contact information shared with E/NCSD is shredded.
 - 4) The parents are under the impression that everything about the student will be shared with the residential school if they sign the letter. It is unclear what will be “shared.” It is unclear about the purpose of the letter: so that E/NCSD can share information on services, Deaf events/activities and summer camps if any.
 - 5) NC DPI is not required to document that this HB 1030 letter has been shared with the parents every year so how can we ensure that the parents are getting the annual letter?
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AGENDA TOPIC: Educational Interpreters

Secretary Marshall expresses concerns that Exceptional Children Directors in 100 counties are not fully informed about the new policy that has gone in effect on July 1, 2022 (referring to the new changes on EIPA requirements). Secretary Marshall is a university professor and has been contacted by the local elementary school in Watauga County, asking if she would some of the ASL students to interpret for a deaf student. Two weeks later, another email was received from a local interpreter asking if Secretary Marshall could tutor an interpreter for this same deaf elementary student in Watauga County.

Secretary Marshall is concerned that since Watauga County's EC teacher and EC Director did not know about the EIPA requirements, this may very much be happening in other counties as well. There is no auditor in NC to keep track of all Educational Interpreters' qualifications. In addition, NC Department of Public Instruction does not have a record of all Educational Interpreters working in the system.

Announcement:

Mr. Brad Trotter, Director of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse has resigned.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:06 AM