

MEETING MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Opening:

The regular board meeting of NCAD duly called and held on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard, 3060 Hammond Business Place, Raleigh, NC 27603 at 9:27 AM.

Present were:

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

Absent:

Western Regional Representative – Vacant
Eastern Regional Representative – Vacant

Guest:

Jan Withers, NC DSDHH Director

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 board meetings (5/7/2022) was reviewed.

Motion by: Treasurer Moore-Reid

Seconded by: Representative Nelson

Vote Count: Majority

Presidents Reports

President Blevins discusses the Cochlear Implant letter that was sent to the Governor Cooper:



July 26th, 2022

The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina
North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper,

On February 25th, 2022, your office announced a proclamation that February 25th be the Cochlear Implant Day for North Carolina. We, the North Carolina Association for the Deaf (NCAD), believe this does not represent the majority of the views of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community as an effective intervention for improving the quality of communication and life for us.

Cochlear implant research inaccurately and unfairly presents to the professional community an effective medical intervention for addressing communication access and language development for deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Many children with cochlear implants continue to struggle with spoken language due to not having full access to communication with peers who use spoken English.

A cochlear implant is an expensive medical device that requires evasive surgery requiring years of therapy to learn to hear with it. In addition, it does not guarantee that a child will be successful with it even if they follow a strict plan. NCAD feels we should be celebrating people, not a medical device with a long history of uncertainties. We are not a group of people who believe we need to be fixed but have the desire to see the rest community embrace our language, American Sign Language, and the rich culture and history of our people.

As a side note, the contributing members of the groups named in support of this proclamation (NC EHDI and NC DSDHH) were unaware of or did not participate in making such a proposal for Cochlear Implant Day. No other Associations for the Deaf were consulted such as Deaf Seniors of NC, NC Black Deaf Advocates and NC DeafBlind Associates.

In conclusion, we are against the implementation of celebrating Cochlear Implant Day in North Carolina as the implant is merely a medical tool. We would like to see it removed.

Thank you.

NC Association of the Deaf Board

AGENDA TOPIC: NC DSDHH Report

Ashley Benton represents NC DSDHH at NCAD Board meetings. For today's board meeting, the Director of NC DSDHH, Jan Withers, has chosen to come in her place.

- I. Workshop/Training Descriptions
 - a. NC DSDHH is in the progress of creating a webpage of workshop/training that are available to the community by adding workshop descriptions
 - b. The website is experiencing some challenges as it does not have the ability to insert videos and documents where consumers can download and print copies
- II. Health Care
 - a. The national health care equity survey focuses on race and ethnicity, showing that marginalized communities are not experiencing equal access to health care
 - b. There is 400+ nursing homes statewide with only 7 regional resource centers under NC DSDHH to serve upon requests.
- III. Interpreting service is challenged/limited in certain areas
 - a. Safe Housing for Battered Women
 - b. Domestic Violence Shelters
 - c. DMV (interpreting service is needed for deaf/hoh consumers)
 - d. Teletherapy (research is being on how to add captioning and how to implement interpreting service during consultation)

AGENDA TOPIC: NC DSDHH Report

Secretary Marshall reports a concern that NC Beginnings and NC EHDI are not offering and will not offer paid sign language classes (including online courses) for families with deaf children.

AGENDA TOPIC: NC Mental Health Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Representative Nelson has served on NC Mental Health Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the past six years. When NC MHCDHH Director, Brad Trotter, retired (shortly before the COVID pandemic), there have been no council meetings for nearly two years until August 12, 2022.

Lunch Break: 12:15 – 1:17 PM

AGENDA TOPIC: NAD Delegates

All state delegates were required to a series of workshop/training prior via Canvas to attending the National Association of the Deaf conference in Orlando, June 30 – July 4, 2022.

Five priorities were determined:

- ASL Resources for Deaf babies
- Addressing Mental Health Crisis Among Deaf Youth
- Achieving Equity in Deaf Education
- Deaf Senior Issues
- Dismantling Racism in the Deaf Community

Jenny Buechner has been selected as the 2022-2024 President of the NAD.

AGENDA TOPIC: NCAD Conference's Balance Sheet

Treasurer Moore-Reid discusses the balance sheet and the sponsorship letter for the NCAD-NCASLTA conference. The board awaits two pledges from NCRID and NC Relay. Sponsorship letters will be followed up by Social Media Coordinator, Theresa Moss and Secretary Marshall.

AGENDA TOPIC: Treasurer Report

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

Motion by: Representative Linda Nelson

Seconded by: Social Media Coordinator, Theresa Moss

Vote Count: Majority

AGENDA TOPIC: Western Regional Representative

Motion: We, the NCAD Board, approves Desiree Orenge Delbert to serve as Western Regional Representative.

Motion by: Secretary Marshall

Seconded by: Treasurer Moore-Reid

Vote Count: Majority

AGENDA TOPIC: Pender County's Bilingual Program

Mike Lupo, a Teacher of Deaf, has created the state's first bilingual program in public school starting with 6 deaf/hard of hearing elementary students (k – 5th grade). In Fall 2023, there will be at least 12 deaf/hard of hearing students.

AGENDA TOPIC: 2023 NCAD Conference

NC American Teacher Association Teacher Association is NCAD's main sponsor for the 2023 NCAD Conference.

Announcement: NCAD Representative on the NC EHDI Committee

Representative Linda Nelson asks for a replacement. Quarterly meetings are usually on a Wednesday, from 12 to 3 pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:32 PM