

MEETING MINUTES NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Opening:

The regular board meeting of NCAD duly called and held on Saturday, November 12, 2023 via ZOOM (online streaming) at 9:01 AM.

Present were:

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

Invited Guest: Mark Patrick, Director of NC School for the Deaf in Morganton
Christina Moore from NC 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 the last board meeting (8/20/2022) was reviewed.

Motion by: Vice President Lupo

Seconded by: Coordinator T. Moss

Vote Count: Majority

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

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

Vice President Lupo inquired: Why is there not a Teacher of the Deaf on this committee?

President Blevins remarked that he can make the suggestion to add another representative to the Common Ground Committee.

AGENDA TOPIC: Educational Interpreters

There is no EIPA auditor. NC DPI does not screen educational interpreters’ qualifications across the state. Their guidelines for ‘Qualified Educational Interpreters’ are only suggestions for all 100 counties to follow. This leaves room for leniency. In other words, many unqualified interpreters are being employed within NC DPI system.

NCSD School Director, Mr. Mark Patrick, commented that all K-12 teachers must obtain NC teacher certification and teaching license. Therefore, “manual interpreters” should be required to have interpreting license.

If Educational Interpreters are required to have an interpreting licensure, this will resolve many problems for the students. Not to mention that it will greatly improve Deaf Education by providing qualified interpreting service.

President Blevins proposed to invite Mark Lineberger, Chairperson of NCITLB (NC Interpreter & Transliterator Licensing Board), to the next NCAD board meeting.

AGENDA TOPIC: NC School for the Deaf

NCSD School Director, Mr. Mark Patrick, explains the latest campus renovation on House 12, formerly known as the Superintendent House. For the last two decades, House 12 was NC School for the Deaf Historical Museum which is open to the public. All belongings and artifacts

have been cleared from House 12. Temporarily, the NCSD Historical Museum has been relocated to the first floor of Hoffmeyer Hall. House 12 Renovation is in design phase and the renovation project is estimated at \$2 M.

The Campus Water Distribution Project, a 300k pump station, is completed and is performing 100%. The new system now brings NCSD quality water services. Every underground line is now new.

AGENDA TOPIC: DeafBlind

Christina Moore, Deaf Services Specialist from the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing under NC DHHS explains that NC is one of only 16 states to cover the cost of sign language interpreting as well as other communication access services for Medicaid beneficiaries.

NC DSDHH is focused on fostering communication by removing the marginalization and ensuring full and equitable inclusion within the Deaf Community especially the DeafBlind citizens of NC.

While NC DSDHH provides Deaf-Blind Services such as assistive technology, employment services and specialized training for SSPs (Support Service Providers) to help people who are deaf-blind improve the quality and ease of their everyday lives, the challenges are:

- delayed paychecks for SSPs
 - a demand to increase the pay for SSPs since they have to add insurance to their auto policy for the DeafBlind consumers
 - not enough SSPs
 - free speech-to-text equipment for DeafBlind consumers that does not rely on wi-fi
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AGENDA TOPIC: NCAD-NCASLTA Conference

NCAD Conference Chairperson, Theresa Moss, brings the board up to date on the conference planning:

- Keynote Speakers, NCAD & NCASLTA Presidents
 - Admission Costs
 - Banquet and Entertainment
 - Logistics of all workshops and general assembly meetings for both organizations
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Meeting Adjourned, 11:36 AM