

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Stakeholder Meeting Agenda
October 17, 2023
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Don Clifton Center - Lincoln

Welcome and Introductions - Sara Peterson
Public Posting Information - Sara Peterson

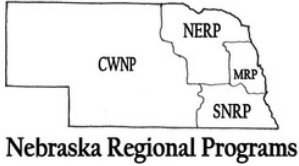
Questions/Discussion - Open Forum

- Any questions about agency reports in the DHH Stakeholders email
- Discussion Topics received
- Opportunities for collaboration/joint agency events
- How to increase participation
 - Student Events
 - Family Events
 - Parent Events
 - Professional Events
- Statewide Conference DHH-March 28-30, 2025
 - Share topics, generate ideas for presenters
- Deaf Heritage Museum and Cultural Center
- Missing representation from this group - are there others we need to invite to participate
- Additional Discussion Topics from members
- Public Comments - All
- Future Agenda Items - All

Next Meeting - TBD - Dates will be announced
in mid April for the 2024-2025 school year

DHH STAKEHOLDERS

February 28, 2024



SEAC

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is an advisory panel established to provide policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities. The responsibilities of the Special Education Advisory Council include becoming knowledgeable about research-based educational practices and reviewing Nebraska Department of Education - Office of Special Education activities designed to improve outcomes for children with disabilities. The Council consists of a balance of parents, educators, administrators, and representatives from various state agencies who serve differently-abled children birth through age 21.

DHH Stakeholders

The DHH Stakeholder group meets twice annually to discuss issues and collaborate

Contact Us

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Darsha Pelland
Director of Low Incidence Disabilities
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Stakeholders

Members of the DHH Stakeholder group include the following agencies/groups:

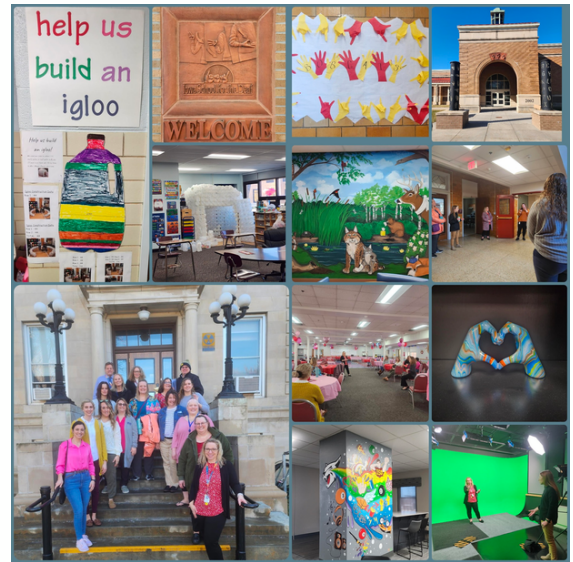
- NDE
- NRP
- UNO
- UNL
- Nebraska VR
- neRID
- NTSDHH
- NE-EHDI
- NCDHH
- NeAD
- ATP
- NAIE
- H&V
 - GBYS
 - ASTra
- D-B Project
- BTNRH
- Amplify

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

NDE Updates

- Statewide Deaf/HH Language Conference - In Planning stages
 - Language enrichment focus
 - Three strands - Teachers of the Deaf, Families (Adults only) and Interpreters
 - March 28-30, 2025 @ Younes South in Kearney, NE
- LB1019
 - Interpreting Mentoring has been awarded to 6 projects
 - Services - Proposals have been submitted for funding the Statewide Conference (Venue, Interpreters for conference, Presenters, Working Lunch), Transition activities, ATP software
 - Equipment - Reviewed Survey Results - Continuing to work with ATP on future purchases

NDE OSE Visits ISD

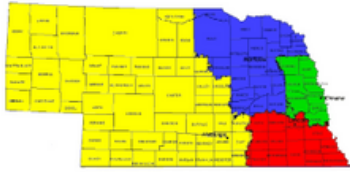


Contact

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<https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/>



Nebraska Regional Programs

NEBRASKA REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Upcoming Statewide Student Events

March 1-2 is the Elementary Arts Festival at the Luminarium. This event is hosted by MRP and is for students 3-6 grade.

The Spring Dinner/Dance will be on March 22 in Norfolk. This is a Statewide event hosted by NERP. To tag along with the Dance, The Transition Summit: College or Workforce; Make your Dream a Reality will be on March 23.

The Communication Contest for Deaf Hard of Hearing will be on April 29 in Lincoln. This is coordinated by NERP and NE Optimist Clubs and offers two, \$2500 scholarships. The Theme is "How to Change the World with Optimism."

Camp Anderson 2024 at Fort Robinson will be held July 14-20 in Western Nebraska for students 5th grade through high school graduation.

Contact Us

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Diane Meyer, MRP Coordinator
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Jill Hoffart, NERP Coordinator
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Lindsey Hinzmann, SNRP Coordinator
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Statewide Professional Events

Regional Programs continues to support interpreters and teachers to attend the quarterly EIPA workshops through BTNRH.

CWNP hosts monthly statewide ASL Language Mentoring Workshops with Lindsay Darnall, Jr on Zoom. This year's topic is Deaf Community Cultural Wealth

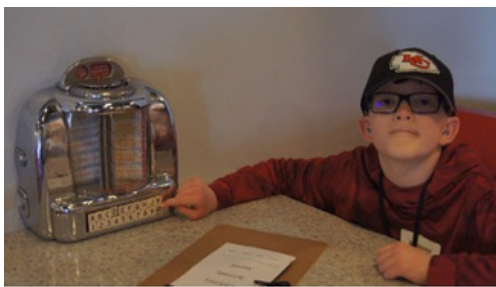
The NRP Statewide Skill Development Workshop will be held this summer in Lincoln. More details will be available later this spring.

March 28-30, 2025 Statewide DHH Language Conference in Kearney

NEBRASKA REGIONAL PROGRAMS STATEWIDE EVENTS

Kearney Archway

SNRP hosted a one day event for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade at the Kearney Archway on February 16. Due to weather and illness, we had several cancellations but we had 35 students who attended. The overall goal of this activity was to help students understand the history of how families traveled across the United States, including right where the Archway is, by covered wagon in hopes of finding a better life for their family. Through the tour as well as the activities, students learned that families had to leave a lot of their belongings behind because they couldn't fit it in their wagons or their wagons would become too heavy. This meant that children often had to create their own fun and games. Students learned about and made a common toy that pioneer children played with, a whirligig. Students also played a common game that pioneer children played on their travels called "Button, Button, Who Has the Button?". Through the tour students also learned how transportation has changed over the years to include railroads, the first cars, and interstates and how this has impacted people's lives.



NEBRASKA REGIONAL PROGRAMS TEAMS



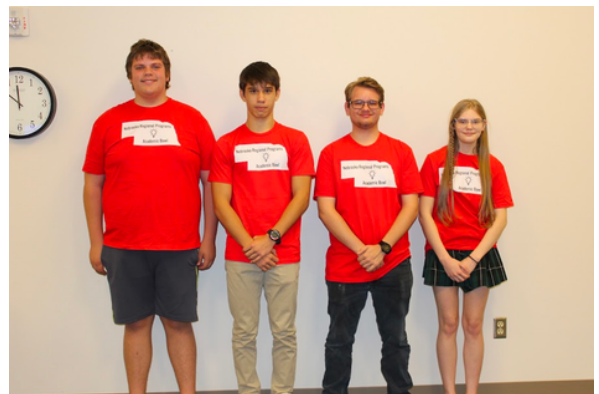
Battle of the Books: Nebraska Regional Programs participated once again in the Battle of the Books with Gallaudet University Youth Programs. This is a reading initiative for Deaf and hard of hearing kids in grades 5-8. Students read three books, then participated in zoom competitions in November in hopes to advance to the Nationals in Washington DC this April. The NRP team did make it as far as Playoff rounds, but didn't advance. Several members are still eligible to join again next year and are hoping for new members as well.. We are proud of them.

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Academic Bowl: The Nebraska Regional Program's Academic Bowl team is gearing up for the Regional Competition that will be held February 29-March 3 in Little Rock Arkansas.

Four students will be competing in this competition with hopes of making it to the National Competition



NEBRASKA REGIONAL PROGRAMS STATEWIDE EVENTS

Weekend to Sign

CWNP hosted Weekend to Sign at Camp Comeca in Cozad on January 27th and 28th. Eighteen families were able to attend, and we were thrilled that the weather cooperated!

Parents were immersed in two days of learning and practicing practical, everyday vocabulary with Colleen Richart and Cindy Koch. They learned signs to use for family craft time and board game time, and they developed new connections.

While parents were busy in their sessions, the children were too. The children were split up into groups, and Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing adults led them in fun activities, games, songs, plays, and crafts, all while learning to sign. It was a great opportunity for some of the children with hearing differences to help their siblings and other children learn their language!

Families had the opportunity to learn about Deaf culture and participate in a silent supper by wearing earplugs and signing without voicing. This was an eye-opening experience that families enjoyed. Following supper, Aaron Rothenberger from NCDHH, Jessica Hoss from Hands and Voices Guide by Your Side, and Jonathan Arteaga and Colleen Richart from NeAD and the Deaf Mentor Program shared information about their programs with families and then joined them for an evening of board games.

The weekend wrapped up with a performance in sign language for all! The 3-5-year-olds signed "5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed," the 6-9-year-olds performed "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," and the 10 and up group took the audience through a Zoo! The parents even surprised their children with a performance of their own!



NEBRASKA REGIONAL PROGRAMS CWNPN

CWNP Updates

Winter Local Family Activities: Three local Winter family activities were planned for ESU16 in Ogallala, ESU9 in Hastings, and ESU13 in Scottsbluff. Unfortunately, Mother Nature didn't cooperate, so ESU13 was the only one that was able to happen. Families engaged in crafts, pizza, and fun led by Deaf and hard-of-hearing adults.

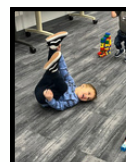
Future Local Family Events: Nebraska Hands & Voices Guide by Your Side and CWNP will be having a Spring Event in Kearney and an Egg Hunt in Scottsbluff in March. There are also plans in the works for family events to end the year in April at ESU9 and ESU13.

Virtual Sign Classes: CWNP hosts a virtual sign class for professionals and families on Tuesday evenings led by Deaf adults Cindy Koch, Tyler Wilson, and Adanijah Gonzales. Students are divided into beginner, intermediate and advanced signers.

Mentoring & Family Sign Classes: CWNP continues to offer mentoring to students, families, and professionals as well as family sign classes led by Deaf adults.

TODPLC: These PLCs happen quarterly and are always well attended. January's PLC had to be held via Zoom on a snow day for much of the CWNP area, and almost all attended even though they could have enjoyed a relaxing snow day. Proud of our dedicated TODs!

Conferences: CWNP is sending 6 professionals to EHDI this March in Denver, and planning on sending more to conferences this summer.



NEBRASKA REGIONAL PROGRAMS MRP

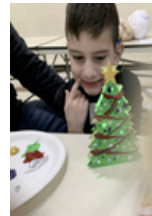


MRP Updates

Past Student and Professional Activities:

Secondary Outing: Who did it? How does that work?: The MRP hosted the secondary outing “Who Did It? How Does That Work?” activity in November. The students used forensic science to solve a crime and visited the new Kiewit Luminarium STEM center in Omaha.

Cookie Baking and Ornament Decorating: The MRP hosted a cookie making and ornament decorating activity in December. Students, siblings, and parents made Amish Sugar Cookies and painted a wooden light-up decoration. Students went home with their decoration, baked cookies, and cookie dough to bake at home.



Junior Nebraska Association for the Deaf (Jr. NAD): Diane is supporting students’ participation in the Jr. NAD program. The sponsors, Linsey Darnall Jr., Ashley Wolfe, Susan Trumble, and Briana Stradinger meet with the students every other week. The students are learning parliamentary proceedings and learning from DHH peers and adults.

“Don’t Be Mad If I Don’t Look: Interpreting for Hard of Hearing Students”: The MRP hosted a virtual workshop for interpreters and other related professionals on interpreting for hard of hearing students. The workshop was presented by Corey Axelrod.

Coordinator Involvement: Diane attended the NCDHH Mental Health Advisory committee as the education representative. Diane is accompanying Service Coordinators on home visits to introduce families to the NE Regional Programs and to begin building relationships. Diane continues to participate in the quarterly update meetings with the grant and contract coordinators at ESU 3. She presented to the Services Coordinators, Early Childhood Special Education teachers, Speech-Language Pathologists and School Psychologist from ESU 2 on the Language Assessment Program. Diane attended the Tri-State Law Conference and Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors annual Legislative Conference in Lincoln. The conference highlights current bills that would have an impact on education. Diane has participated in online trainings including Hearing Assistive Technology Systems, Theory of Mind Development in Children with Hearing Differences, Fundamentals to Cutting Edge Practice and a training webinar on the Test of Auditory Functioning to train and support professionals in using the tool for the annual Language Assessment Program.

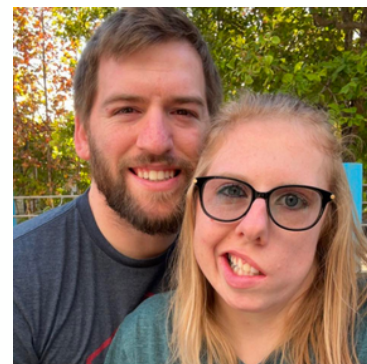
Student Activities at School: Diane continues to go to Western Hills Elementary, Beveridge Middle School, and Burke High School to provide activities during school hours. The activities focus on teacher and coordinator identified areas of needs such as understanding paychecks (transition skill), developing a budget (transition skill), problem solving (abstract language and thinking), self-advocacy and accommodations, and concept/directional vocabulary.

NEBRASKA REGIONAL PROGRAMS NERP



NERP Updates

Jill Hoffart, Coordinator for the NERP will be retiring in July after 32 years in Deaf Education. Abbey Andress has been hired as the NERP Coordinator for the 24-25 school year. She has her Masters Degree in Deaf Education from UNL and a Masters in Educational Administration from Lamar University. She is a proud NERP alumni.

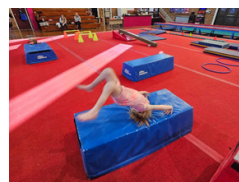


Recently held NERP events:

A second Visual Phonics training was held in January for 21 teachers, SLPs and paras. This was offered on Zoom.

Staff sign classes just finished up mid February. This was held on Zoom with Deaf instructors. A follow up course will be starting at the end of March.

A Little-Ones Play Date was held in Norfolk in November at the YMCA Gymnastics Center. 8 families were in attendance.



UPCOMING AND CONTINUING NERP EVENTS

Norfolk Fire and Police Safety Day: a follow up for students will be on May 10.

Sign Classes: Family, zoom sign classes with Deaf instructors.

Professional Development: American Sign Language Mentoring for interpreters and those working toward interpreting. TODs have been meeting on zoom to focus on technology, best practices and assessment training for the early language initiative in Nebraska. Educational Interpreters attend the EIPA video conferences as well as the Language Mentoring workshops with Linsay Darnall, Jr.

NEBRASKA REGIONAL PROGRAMS SNRP



SNRP Updates

Family Festival with Magic by Bruce: SNRP hosted a family event for all ages in November. Families were invited to create a Fall Candle Holder and enjoy a magic show. There were 10 families that attended this event.



Sign Classes: SNRP hosted a virtual sign class in the fall. This beginning sign class was taught by Vali Hitz over six weeks.

UPCOMING SNRP EVENTS

Juggling Fun: Due to weather conditions in January, our Juggling Fun activity was postponed until April 5th. Students in Kindergarten through seventh grade are invited for an activity in which they will learn about juggling, get the opportunity to try it themselves, and watch a juggling performance by our guest juggler Beau!

Sign Classes: SNRP is once again hosting virtual sign classes this spring. There will be two sections of class this semester, a beginning section taught by Lindsey Jelinek and an intermediate section taught by Vali Hitz. There will be six classes over the course of the next couple months. We also have sign classes for individual families being taught as requested.

Children's Museum: On April 19, SNRP families with children birth through 2nd grade are invited to a social gathering at the Lincoln Children's Museum. Families will get to explore the museum while meeting and connecting with other families and role models.



UNO UPDATES

Grant Update

UNO received a CSFRF grant to be used for mentoring for interpreting students. Once funds are released, interpreting students will complete a readiness survey and the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) to establish a baseline of existing ASL skills. Each month, UNO students will participate in one hour of mentoring with a trained mentor. At the end of the mentoring cycle, UNO students will complete the survey and the ASLPI again as a post-test. We believe that with this intentional mentoring, students may feel more confident to take the EIPA or NIC sooner than is currently happening which will ultimately address the interpreter shortage in Nebraska. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval has been granted so this project can also be used for research purposes.

Contact

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Other Updates

* D/HH undergraduate endorsement is being phased out due to the budget. Students already enrolled will be able to complete the program but no new students are being accepted.

*Beginning 2023-2024 UNO is using True+Way ASL curriculum this semester. The decision was made to move from Signing Naturally because True+Way ASL is a Deaf created, digital program embedded in the Canvas learning management system used at UNO. Lessons include more conversations with more inclusive videos from a wide variety of signers. There is also a searchable ASL-English dictionary that is also part of the Canvas course.

UNL

N

Contact

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UNL Update

- The UNL Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders is currently in the process of vetting recipients to be part of the second MPUP-SPADE cohort. Scholars will begin program activities this summer. We had over 40 applicants (7 for the AUD program, 11 for the TOD, and 23 for the SLP)! We anticipate funding a total of 12 scholars (2 AUD, 5 TOD, and 5 SLP) in this second cohort.
- The UNL Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders is actively recruiting for our third and final MPUP-SPADE cohort which will begin activities summer/fall 2025. Prospective students should contact the coordinator of the respective program before applying.

MPUP-SPADE Program Philosophy

Positive Attitudes/Beliefs:

- All children can achieve
- Families are integral to child success
- Difference not deficit
- Interdisciplinary/interprofessional power

Attitudes/Beliefs

Exemplary Skills (in):

- Assessment
- Intervention
- Counseling/student-family education
- Collaborative decision making
- Consultation
- Leadership

Skills

MPUP-SPADE Scholar

Evidence-Based Practice

Evidence-Based Practice:

- Provider expertise paired with internal evidence
- Best available external evidence
- Student/family preferences

Communication

Communication:

- Between educational professionals
- With families
- With related services

Updates

- Development and submission of WIOA state plan: <http://www.vr.nebraska.gov/>
 - Public comment period closed on 2/16.
 - Nebraska Dept. of Labor will submit the entire WIOA state plan on March 4, 2024.
- There are 13 summer programs for youth and details about each of those programs will be on our external website after April 1st. Some of the programs focus on Work Based Learning Experience (WBLE), and others programs focus on Workplace Readiness and Counseling in post-secondary.
- Upcoming Job Expo sponsored by Nebraska VR:
 - ESU 8--O'Neill Community Center March 13
 - ESU 7 Central Community College March 13th
 - ESU 13 on April 23rd
 - ESU 3 LaVista-Nov 7th
 - ESU 2 March 4th at Metro College in Fremont
 - ESU's should have reached out to schools, if not and a student is interested (and working with VR). They can contact their local ESU to see if they are still registering individuals.
- Recent completion of comprehensive statewide needs assessment. Survey responses were collected from the following populations. The results were used to help develop WIOA state plan goals and priorities.
 - VR clients
 - Businesses
 - Stakeholders
 - Students/families
 - VR staff

Contact

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Lupe Stevens, Program Director
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NERID

UPDATES

- We continue to focus on increasing our membership and reestablishing our presence in the community.
- NeRID is in search of members willing to serve on the board, specifically as treasurer and vice president.
- We are putting together a committee to try and host a workshop this year.
- We have a new website. www.nebraskarid.org. We will house an Interpreter List' with contact information for interpreters who want to be included. This list can be shared with anyone who may need interpreting services. Currently, NCDHH has a list, but it does not have contact information. We hope to have this up and available in early 2024.

Contact

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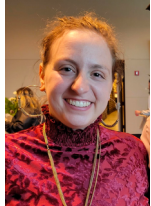
NEBRASKA EHDI

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
EARLY HEARING DETECTION & INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Welcome to the EHDI Team



Hello! My name is Clare Koneck-Wilcox, and I'm the new Business Analyst for the Nebraska EHDI program. Before joining the state, I worked for an agriculture application as their business analyst and in the travel space in business development. A fun fact about me is that I decided to learn to roller skate this past year by practicing with the Omaha Roller Derby team. I am so happy to join the state and looking forward to improving the EHDI program together.

Hello! My name is Mujtaba Ebrahim, but everybody knows me as Shabba. I am the new Senior Community Health Educator on the EHDI team and I am excited to work with you all. Before joining the EHDI team, I had worked at Zoetis as a monoclonal Antibody scientist, where I aided in producing cells and pulling proteins from the cell for arthritis medication. Before that I worked in a hospital as a phlebotomist where I had years of patient care experience. A few fun facts about me. I speak Arabic fluently, I have a dog who is 4 years old named Zoey, and I am a huge fan of the 49ers!



Contact Us

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FAMILY SUPPORT

- NeAD Deaf Mentor Program
- Nebraska H&V Guide By Your Side
- NCDHH
- EDN- Early Development Network
- HEAR-U- Nebraska Hearing Aid Banks-UNL



NCDHH

Mental Health Advisory Team

The Mental Health Advisory Committee has two openings for a counselor related to mental health, alcoholism and drug abuse.

The committee consists of five members, three counselors familiar with mental health, alcoholism, and drug abuse disorders in deaf and hard of hearing people and two human services professionals. Health and Human Services and NCDHH shall each have a representative who serves on the committee in a nonvoting technical capacity. Members are appointed by the Commission Board Members.

The committee meets quarterly, alternating between Lincoln and Omaha work sites. More information, including an application, can be found about the Mental Health Advisory Committee page on the NCDHH website:
<https://ncdhh.nebraska.gov/meet-the-team/mental-health-advisory-committee>

Contact Us

www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov

Current legislation NCDHH is advocating for is LB1180: to change provisions to the NSTEP program, most notably to allow two cell phones per household and changing the re-application period from every 5 years, to every 3 years.

A copy of the bill can be found here:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=55473



NEAD

Deaf Mentor Program

November: ASL @ Home Curriculum training was completed in Nov with NCDHH.

Our interview panel has hired 5 Deaf mentors effective Feb 1st: 2 in Scottsbluff, 1 in Lincoln, and 2 in Omaha

Colleen Richart and the Deaf mentors completed 3-day weekend SKI HI Curriculum training (Feb 16-20) provided by Paula Pittman and Danelle Gournaris. It was very intense but valuable information. We, the NeAD board, and advisory committee are appreciative for the support from NE EHDI (Early Hearing & Detection Intervention), Nebraska Dept of Special Education, NeAD Advisory Committee for the Mentor program, Hamilton Relay, NCDHH, LAD, NE H&V, and interpreters to make this workshop successful.

Future training will contain mini sessions with SKI HI, HIPPA/FERPA, Home Visit Safety and many more. We are currently looking into developing a web page under NeAD's website to promote our program and to share our mentors' background to help families know who we are. NeAD's Parent Liason, Cody McEvoy and Colleen Richart will develop/strategize future events to welcome families state-wide with our mentors.

Colleen Richart and the Deaf mentors will plan to attend the 2024 EHDI Conference in Denver as it would provide valuable information for our program. We will be meeting up with other mentors and gain more networking opportunities.

Contact Us

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Vicki. Steinhauer-Campbell, NeAD Vice President
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Colleen Richart, Deaf Mentor Coordinator
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Events

Event Information is available on NeAD's Facebook Page

- NeAD's focus primary is Website/Collaborate/Legislative
- 1 NeAD Board Meeting Feb 10 at Lincoln, was success
- 2nd Annual Sign Camp fundraiser Feb 17, was success (around 50 people attended)
- Spring Gathering: NeAD/LAD TownHall Meeting in Lincoln Saturday March 9th 9-10:30am
- NeAD Board Meeting April 6 in Omaha - TBD on Location
- Deaf Mom & Dad Day - April TBD
- Community Partnership Kick-off June 22 Chalco
- Sign Camp: Fremont Family YMCA, Camp Christensen - Saturday, July 27th 10am-8pm for students in K-12 who are Fluent in ASL - Deadline to Register: July 13th

NEBRASKA ATP

UPDATES

Contact

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NAIE

UPDATES

Contact Us

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HANDS &
VOICES™

HANDS & VOICES

H&V

We continue to build out the Board, adding two new members in December and establishing committees to manage events, fundraising, and membership. We are collaborating with NeAD as they build out their Deaf Mentor program, and with the NeAD parent liaison on how we can work together to best serve parents. We are also collaborating with NCDHH on a fire safety event in Omaha.

Contact Us

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GBYS Program Coordinator
& ASTra Advocate
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ADVOCACY
SUPPORT &
TRAINING™

ASTra

- We currently have 5 trained advocates across the state.
- We have directly served 2 families since Oct of 2023.
- Monthly tips are sent out via social media and all on the H&V distribution list.
- We are funded through donations.
- 3 of the ASTra Advocates attended the Tri-state Regional SPED Law conference in Omaha.
- 4 ASTra Advocates attended a Rule 51 training in Kearney led by Jean Anderson of ESU 10.
- Jennifer presented at MNI in Lincoln on "Conquering the Chaos - Organizing information for raising a child who is D/HH". We received very positive feedback and appreciation for this information. This was for 27 moms.
- Events: Zoom series:
 - ASTRA-11/21- How to use an interpreter (8 people attended)
 - ASTRA-1/23- Accommodations (10 people attended)
 - Future- 3/26- Transitioning from an IFSP to an IEP



HANDS AND VOICES GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE

- We are currently serving 167 families and have 15 parent guides (full team).
- We continue to struggle with a low number of referrals.
- We will be sending 2 people for the EHDI conference in March - Shelli and Jessica, Jessica will be presenting.
- Outreach - we have presented to a few planning region teams (Bellevue, Chadron and ESU2).
- We continue to provide various trainings to our Parent Guides and families.
- We get funding for this through NDE and a small amount for family support through EHDI.
- Annual meeting- Feb 24 & 25. We will complete training, review the current year and plan for the next year.

- EVENTS
 - Moms Night Inn - Scottsbluff/November was canceled due to low registrations.
 - Moms Night Inn - Lincoln/ February, 23 rd . We had 27 moms attend; ages of children represented was 4 months to 18 years. We received very positive feedback. Topics includes Organizing the Chaos and Tracking progress and when to worry. We completed a Parent Café. We discussed various resources and had a panel of D/HH individuals who used different devices and modes of communication.
- Zoom training
 - 10/24-How to know what you don't know (11 people attended)
 - 12/19-Social skills (7 people attended)
- Zoom- upcoming training
 - 2/20-Amplification options and ways to keep devices on.
 - 4/23- Transitions and Activities.

DEAF-BLIND PROJECT

Nebraska
DEAF-BLIND
Project

Contact Us

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Project Coordinator
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DEAFBLIND CHILD COUNT

The Deafblind Child Count is a separate reporting system from any other state data that specifically looks at the number of students who have a combined vision and hearing loss. This is required by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Programs, through a federal state grant.

You will find the Deafblind Child Count form online:
<https://cehs.unl.edu/nedeafblind/child-count-0/>

This form should be completed for any student on your caseload with a combined hearing and vision loss, regardless of whether they were determined eligible under the deafblind category. Any degree of severity of vision loss and any degree of severity of hearing loss can be combined for a student to have a dual sensory loss. If you cannot remember if a child has already been registered with deafblind project, please contact Mackenzie to ask: msavaiano2@unl.edu. If a child you work with graduated, moved, or is no longer receiving services, please complete a form online.

By completing the Deafblind Child Count form, you help Nebraska to have an accurate count of students with a dual sensory loss. You can also help the student's team to access resource materials, receive technical assistance from the Nebraska Deafblind Project, participate in professional development opportunities, and assist parents with networking. Please know that all information collected on the Deafblind Child Count form is kept confidential. No student names are shared. We also request that you inform parents/guardians whenever completing a form about their child and document that conversation for your files.

Amy Tyler Krings
(amy.tylerkrings@
boystown.org)

Teresa McEvoy
(teresa.mcevoy@
boystown.org)

Clinical Programs

UPDATES

- **Speech-Language Department:** In 2023, we saw 142 youth with hearing loss that are ages 19 and under for SLP services. So far for 2024, we have seen 43 youth with hearing loss for SLP clinic services. We now have our third location open on 168th & Maple Street, in addition to the LLTC (30th St Hospital Campus) and West Speech-Language Clinic (Home Campus near 144th & Dodge).
- **Cochlear Implant Team:** As a result of innovations and improvements that the CI manufacturers have made in their cochlear implant clinical programming software and in smartphone apps that can communicate with cochlear implant equipment through Bluetooth, we now have the capability to do remote testing and adjustment of cochlear implant equipment. Recipients can now receive at least some CI services via telehealth without needing to physically be present in the clinic. The CI Team is in the process of developing protocols, documentation, and infrastructure that will allow us to begin routinely using the remote programming option with some patients for some types of procedures.

Upcoming Vision and Deaf/Blind Events:

- Beeping Egg Hunt: March 23, 2024 –
 - Daisy.Corona@boystown.org ([Register Here](#))



[Research Opportunities for D/HH](#) – [Click for a list of research details.](#)

EIPA Updates

- [EIPA Workshop](#): Deaf Interpreters in K-12 and Administrator Perspectives on Deaf Learners, 4/6/2024, Rosemary Wanis, Ed.D.
- [Mentoring with the EIPA Report: Skill Development Planning](#), March 2 and 9, 2024
- WT Reversion – Pilot test is being offered at Boys Town Hospital on Saturday, March 23, 2024
- [Student Signer Project](#): EIPA is searching for students to record while using sign language. The recordings will be used to create new training and testing material to support the skill development of educational interpreters.

Educational Programs

- **Parent Infant:** We currently have 16 families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, with 2 additional families starting this month.
 - Although the majority of these families are from OPS contracts, Boys Town continues to be available to other school-district contracts. Those who might be interested in contracting for 0-3 services should contact Amy Tyler Krings.
- **Preschool:** We are going into our second year as a full day program and continue to offer rolling enrollment, meaning preschoolers can enter as soon as they turn 3 years old. We have 4 classrooms this year. Currently have 21 students, with 1 additional student starting in a few weeks. Student placements are IEP-driven and facilitated by a student's local school district. School districts and families are welcome for tours. Tours and preschool inquiries can be made by contacting Amy Tyler Krings at Boys Town (amy.tylerkrings@boystown.org).
- **School-based Counseling:** Boy's Town Counseling team consists of two therapists that are contracted with the Metro Regional Program (MRP) to provide counseling support for DHH students in the Metro region schools. Currently, they are seeing 52 students spread across 15 different schools. Referrals can be made by teachers contacting Diane Meyer and/or families can also reach out to Diane Meyer.

JOB POSTINGS

Interpreter Positions

Grand Island Public Schools is looking for qualified Sign Language Interpreters and are accepting applications for both in-person and/or remote positions. The flyer for this position can be found on the next page of this handout. Questions can be directed to Penny L. Brown, Special Education Supervisor (plbrown@gips.org) 308-385-5900, ext. 201224)

Lincoln Public Schools is seeking an Educational Sign Language Interpreter for the 2024-2025 school year. More information about this position as well as a link to apply can be found [here](#). If you have questions about this position, please contact Special Education Supervisor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, Melissa Weber-Arnold (mweber2@lps.org)

Teacher of the Deaf

Lincoln Public Schools is seeking a Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have questions about this position, please contact Special Education Supervisor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, Melissa Weber-Arnold (mweber2@lps.org)

NCDHH Open Positions

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is hiring a [Behavioral Health Coordinator!](#)

DeafBlind Project

Project Manager/Coordinator position posted for hiring: <https://employment.unl.edu/postings/90029>



Every Student, Every Day, A Success!

Grand Island Public Schools

123 South Webb Road
Grand Island, NE 68802
308-385-5900

Hiring for the 2024-2025 School Year! Sign Language Interpreters & Interns

In-Person and/or Remote Applicants Welcome!

Join our team!

- Team with 3 Teachers of the Deaf and 13 Sign Language Interpreters serving Preschool-12th grades
- Receive supportive mentoring and coaching by experienced licensed interpreters through Grand Island Public Schools and Central Nebraska Western Partnership
- Collaborate with interpreters during monthly team meetings to stay informed, offer input, improve practices and have a little fun!
- Facilitate communication and language with students in one-on-one, small- and large-group school settings
- Access curriculum and content to prepare for serving students through partnerships with general education teachers and specialists (i.e., PT, OT, SLPs, etc.)
- Be a part of a district that provides personalized educational experiences to meet the individual needs of students, staff and families

GIPS by the Numbers

9,990 Students

26 preschool classrooms across 4 campuses 14 elementary schools ● 3 middle schools
1 alternative middle school ● 1 high school ● 1 alternative high school

21% English Learners 72% Free/Reduced Lunch 17% Special Education 56% Hispanic/35%
White/9% Other

Accepting Applications at gips.org

Click [Join GIPS](#) > [Employment Opportunities](#) > [Support Staff](#) > scroll down and click [Certified Interpreters for the Deaf](#) > click [Apply](#) (the box on the right, next to JobID: 498) to launch the Grand Island Public Schools Employment Application.

Contact:

Penny L. Brown, Special Education Supervisor
plbrown@gips.org
308-385-5900, ext. 201224

Wear purple. Be gold.