

## 1. Welcome Remarks by Meena Mann, President

- a. Called this meeting because many in the community are curious about the future of SSPs and for the National Leadership Training Conference hosted in ABQ in September.
- b. Also, called this meeting for a special guest speaker Nathan Gomme from NMCDHH.

## 2. Nathan Gomme

- a. Every year NMCDHH gets money from the state. Money is for SSP, not just for deaf-blind but deaf plus, etc.
  - b. House bill 2- helps us know how much money we will work with. At the time they did not know. Historically always has the same amount or similar. Contracts can be 1-4 years, depending . Every year there's a process where they have to list our rules to follow, and if the state says no to anything, time is important to resolve it somehow with sole source or other options.
  - c. Wants this to continue, they want to agree to continue service and keep SSPs jobs. Nathan wants 100% services to continue
  - d. RFP: request for proposal- means companies can submit proposals explaining why they are the best. It's easy to get disqualified. They have strict rules, for ex: if you don't have a curriculum, or rules, you're out. It takes 30 days to process. The modifications to rules aren't a part of the process.
  - e. Found one company that meets all their criteria, will post on the website, but not yet. Waiting for state's approval first.
  - f. Every company that competes must meet every requirement that we need. If they cannot meet one, and there is no way around it, we will not take on that company.
  - g. Is there a plan if no luck- cant do anything until the state approves or not.
- Richard Cole has a concern about his medicare, nothing is working and they are not providing support service when he had to go to the hospital, cab lost him and his son had to find him and bring him home. Nathan says: part of his argument with state is this service. Uber, Lyft, cabs, you can't communicate in ASL w the driver. Wants services to include travel with an SSP that can communicate, understand and support efficiently. Nathan's hope is that SSP services will help with Richard's transportation.
  - Joyce- SSP asked if the vendor accepts and all works out. Does every staff transfer over to that new vendor? Nathan says yes, that is the expectation
  - Chad LeBlanc asked will the COPD building stay the same, or will they have to transfer offices? Nathan can talk about Service and SSPs but cant confirm for COPD.
  - Cindy Welch from COPD worked for AZ and NM for 35 years. She's here for this meeting to be available for everyone. COPD and NMCDHH are separate with emphasis. COPD plans and hopes to discuss with the commission on providing temporary services if it goes past the June 30th deadline. COPD's commitment is to make sure the community has support, they are here and available but so far there's no confirmation yet.

- Eli Gavnen. Wants to ask the scheduler for SSP, if he can contact them through VP, or is there a specific way to contact them for services?
- Deaf Centered- is willing to provide services, willing to hire deaf blind, wants it run by people within the deaf community. That means the people taking calls should be able to understand what your request is, they will have background knowledge of the deaf blind, plus and senior citizen community.
- Faye on behalf of the SC community. If they need a ride do they have a right to call that agency for support?
- Dorthy Otero: What if deaf client doesn't have a cell phone? NMCDHH is doing a pilot program for iphone 14 to help lessen barriers within the community.
- Jenny: I remember volunteering for Sunvan and I had a problem of waiting too long, wasting my time. Prefers to have SSPs who can drive ehr anywhere, anytime.
- James asked if clients can contact SSps directly, not needing to go through a scheduler. NAtan: Schedulers still are essential, they schedule SSPs and make sure SSPs get paid. They also help assign the best SSP to the client.
- Johnny robertson: Is interpreting services provided under this? Nathan: no, they are separate things. SSP is not the same as interpreters. Will they use interpreters as SSPs? NO. Interpreters are not responsible for helping clients grocery shop, SSps are not responsible to interpret.
- Richard: Wanted to clarify the previous question and make sure that its correct- SSps are not interpreters! Nathan says yes he is right. And we do not expect VRI to be used for deaf blind community. It's already difficult
- Dory: What is CPC? Code of conduct, or ethics for interpreters to make sure personal information isn't shared. Who do they appeal to if not receiving interpreters in the ER? Present concerns to Presbyterian hospital's town hall.
- Barb: In the future I want a meeting where SSPs can participate and not have to attend and be working at the same time.
- CAF funding- open to that idea. Problem is how to convince people to chip in. Nathan thinks NMAD should set a task force on how to take on CAF funding. CAF: communication access fund - SSPs deserve to get paid for their work!
- Bud: frustrated at dr appointment. Dr always forces her to make an appointment and request for an interpreter 3 weeks before. But when appointment time comes and the interpreter is late- dr urges her to go ahead and write. Is that ok? Nathan: ADA does not require terps. ADA requires effective communication. So if it's not working, Call NMCDHH and they will assign someone to work with you.
- Roy DeHaven: is there a national level SSP? Nathan: No, mp they have 3 different conavigators?, SSP, and youth
- Trevor Brennan: 1- need NMAD to send out an agenda for meeting to lessen going off the point! And you need clear explanation of the difference between special meeting and regular meetings. NMAD's response: we did send out an agenda for this meeting, please let us know if you did not receive anything from us.
- Dorothy: does the state have a time frame of when they will approve? No. But as soon as we know, NMCDHH will announce it.
- Joyce- SSPs should be serving all around the state, not just ABQ, correct? Yes

- Roy: concern is people- hearing people don't understand SSPs, we need a description of what SSPs are. Nathan: in SOW: Scope of work, there is a listed description of SSP's duties. Nathan does not decide definitions. Its important that each community has people who speak for them and decide what they need. We do not make that decision.
- Tristan: if sole source works out, will RFP be available? We already h
- Amy Gomme: seems to her that there might be a need for vendors to provide system awareness, someone to explain to offices, hospitals etc what the roles of SSPs are and what types of services they provide. Is there a list people can use to show others what the job/role of SSps are? Nathan: yes, its there in outreach/sources
- Clarification and emphasis: COPD & NMCDHH are 2 separate things.

Meena would like to briefly introduce founder of Bilingual multicultural services

Mark explains how he got in touch with her, Chad LeBlanc helped with the connection- many thanks! Her name is Rosario, she has a sign name too! She welcomed us all here. She founded this company from infant to adults. Serving people with different disabilities. Herself, she is a SLP, and her daughter is as well! Her daughter can sign ASL. She has buildings in ABQ, Santa Fe and Cleveland, she serves various schools with early intervention, and works with different counties across the state. She helps people when they leave HS to find work etc. her heart is really connected to the deaf community, thrilled to have us all here. We are always welcome to use this space!

### **3. Ryan- Vice-President: Bylaws Committee Search**

- a. Some probably have seen his vlog, we are searching for people to serve on the bylaws committee. Our bylaws need revising and we had feedback from the community in February, we decided we want 3 NMAD members who are interested, have experience with bylaws, and want to join on the committee. We would love your feedback, inputs etc to help us modify and present our bylaws to the community. We have posted the link to apply on facebook, email, and instagram. Once we pick 3, we will meet next month to discuss further.
  - i. Would love the bylaws committee to have the opportunity to participate in NLTC as a volunteer! Volunteering means free/discounted registration fee for NLTC.
  - ii. Please see Skye if you need to update your membership, email etc.

### **4. Announcements**

- a. National Leadership Training Conference September 21-23 @ Old Town Hotel Albuquerque
  - i. NMAD will host an event on Saturday 23rd
  - ii. NAD needs 15 volunteers from NM community
  - iii. 1-2 volunteers per workshop
  - iv. 2-3 volunteers for registration

- v. Have website for NLTC if you want to look for more information, presenters etc
  - vi. NLTC has a registration fee, it is expensive- they have an early bird fee and such.
  - vii. If you volunteer specific hours, you can be waived of the registration fee
  - viii. Skye will send out a google form for everyone to fill out if interested in volunteering. Send interest by august 15th
  - ix. NAD is expecting to have 400 people attending from all over
- b. ABQ DNO: Skye calls Jesus Sanchez to make announcement
    - i. DNO location has changed to High & Dry Brewery: 529 Adams St NE, ABQ NM 87108
    - ii. See you there after this meeting!
  - c. Future Events/ Fundraising- Dominic
    - i. NMAD wants to host fundraising events such as pickleball, volleyball, social events, etc in the future

5. Closing Remarks

- a. Meena: Thank you all for coming!!
  - i. We hope to host our next meeting in Las Cruces! Keep an eye out!

Special Meeting ends 3:13 pm