

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
August 4, 2011

Ramada Inn Downtown
Charleston, WV

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marty Blakely• Pierre Sevigny • Paul See• James Ennis• Jamie Mallory • Dr. Lynn Boyer• Angela Wilson• Pam Roush • Annette Carey • Christina Mullins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Charles Abraham• Marsha Dadisman • Tammy Phillips• Mike Sullivan• Carla Cleek	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marissa Sanders• Roy Forman • Kari Preslar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liz Leisure• Christina Payne • Gwen Bryant• Lois Devericks• Worthy Devericks• Jeremy Stiles• Donna Williams• Emmanuel Robinson• Jackie Robinson• Erin Fulton• John Burdette• Veronda Harrison• Linda Phillips• Bill Cash• Jimmy Harrison• Teresa Swecker• Robyn Evans• Pat Moss• Doug Evans• Scott Hottle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connie Pitman • Teresa McGonigle

I. Call to Order

Marty Blakely called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Roy Forman read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

Minutes from the May 12, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Jamie Mallory made the motion to approve the minutes. James Ennis seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Report

Marissa shared highlights from the written report:

- **Contacts:**
 - Marissa attended a meeting with Michael Milcinzki from PEPNET to discuss interpreter training.
 - Marissa, Roy and Kari attended the third Policy & Advocacy Training in Martinsburg on June 4.
 - Marissa attended training on the new ADA regulations in Bridgeport on July 15.
 - Roy attended the RID conference in Atlanta on July 17-22.
 - Marissa met with Rebecca Berger, Assistant Director of WVU Disability Services in Morgantown on July 27. They may become a testing site for interpreters
 - Marissa received text messages asking WVCDHH to contact Sorenson for a constituent whose VP was not working and they had no way to contact tech support. Roy contacted tech support and passed on the information to reset the VP. Marissa contacted Sorenson encouraging them to provide one or more techs with a cell phone so they can receive text messages.
- Budget update: WVCDHH had \$48,526.70 remaining in our general revenue account at the end of FY11. The money rolled over into FY12. Marissa has some ideas for the money.
- Task Forces: Marissa drafted an application for people to submit who are interested in serving on a task force. That application needs approval.
- **Smoke alarms update:** When Marissa met with Debbie Lovely with DRS she offered to purchase a variety of smoke alarms. Marissa contacted WVATS and they are willing to provide technical assistance and information. A meeting will be scheduled between Marissa, WVAD representatives, DRS, WVATS, and the State Fire Marshall's office to discuss the project further.
- **Interpreter Trainings:** WVCDHH is co-sponsoring a training hosted by Tri-State Interpreter Referral in Huntington on August 13.
- **Website:** Marissa has requested MIS to create the new homepage and link it to the existing website until new content is developed. This will allow us to begin improving and updating the site over time.
- **WVAD Grant Application:** Marissa assisted WVAD President Linda Phillips and Secretary Liz Leisure in writing a grant proposal for support from BB&T for the WVAD conference.
- **Interpreter Stakeholder Group:** Marissa requested more clarification on the purpose of this group. The staff drafted a list of potential stakeholders. Annette Carey said she believes that this group will assist to clarify the issues involved with interpreters. It is a fact-finding mission.

OLD BUSINESS

V. Interpreter Registry

- Roy shared a summary of the Interpreter Task Force meetings.
- Everything is on hold right now because they are waiting to receive the signed Memorandum of Agreement from Virginia.

- The brochures were reviewed. Christina Mullens made the motion to approve the content of all the brochures and the application and to give the ITF approval to make minor adjustments without board approval. Jamie seconded. Motion approved.

VI. Strategic Plan & Operational Plan

- The staff updates were reviewed.

VII. Legislative Update

- Marissa reported that the study resolution will be discussed in September. The Joint Committee on Education has requested someone to come and discuss the challenges deaf have in getting a driver's license; they will be inviting Dr. Boyer to speak; and they are requesting a report on issues with services, including education, in the state. Marissa is compiling information to share with the committee.
- Marissa submitted amendments to the two legislative rules
 - Fees for Qualified Interpreters: The changes would increase the pay scale by about \$20 per hour.
 - Required Qualifications and Ethical Standards for Interpreters and Transliterators: The change increases the length of time an interpreter's registration is valid from two years to three years to match the Virginia requirement for when interpreters must retake the QAS test.

VIII. Moving WVCDHH Office Update

- The Real Estate Division was not satisfied with the office space we looked at on Virginia Street because the offices were not accessible. Marissa received an email from Tom Barton with the Real Estate Division saying that there will be space available in the Litton Building, 1500 square feet at \$12 per square feet. Marissa was concerned because there is no reduction in the rent. We will wait to receive more information from the Real Estate Division.

NEW BUSINESS

IX. Nominating Committee

- Marissa reported that the nominating committee (Annette Carey, Marty Blakely, Pierre Sevigny, and Tammy Phillips) submitted the board appointments. Those appointments were confirmed August 2. The Governor's office has received a couple of nomination forms from audiologists however the nominating committee has not had an opportunity to review those applications, yet.

X. State Code Committee

- Annette Carey reported on the meetings of the committee. Committee members include: Tammy Phillips, Marty Blakely and Annette. She said the purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to the board. The board is the body that make the final decisions.
 - The board reviewed the WVCDHH purpose statements that were submitted.
 - The committee has carefully reviewed the current code in order to discover what needs to be updated and what are the identifiable concerns.
 - They looked at commissions from 20 different states including board membership, staff responsibilities and the duties of the commission. They identified several issues to bring to the board.

- Some of what the committee is hoping to accomplish include:
 - Increasing the number of deaf representatives on the board to 51%
 - Reviewing the voting rights of ex-officio members
 - Define what a quorum is: should a quorum require a certain number of deaf members?
 - Adding others to the board, e.g. interpreter.
 - Clarifying the role of DHHR.
- The board will review the committee's work at the Retreat.

XI. 2012 Legislative Priorities

- Pierre Sevigny made a motion to table this item until the retreat. Paul See seconded. Motion approved.

XII. State Code Requirements Graphic

- Marissa shared a graphic that she created which shows the items that are required through state code for the commission. Annette Carey made the motion to approve the graphic. Jamie Mallory seconded. Motion approved.

XIII. Board Retreat and Future Meetings

- The board discussed whether to have a quarterly meeting at the retreat that is scheduled for October 13-14 at Stonewall Resort. Jamie Mallory made the motion to not have a meeting during the retreat. Pierre Sevigny seconded. Motion approved. The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled for November.
- The board discussed the time to begin quarterly meetings. Since the meetings are regularly going longer than three hours, the board agreed that starting earlier in the day would be a good idea.

XIV. Public Forums

- Marissa requested thoughts from the board as to a format and purpose for future Public Forums. Following discussion the board suggested:
 - The Public Forums should be a time to update the public on what the board is currently working on.
 - Use a public hearing model for the Public Forums – it would be a time to hear the issues and concerns but to not provide answers. It would be a time to collect information. The board would discuss the issues and then would respond at the next public forum.
 - Partnering with WVAD may increase attendance.

XV. Public Comments

The board heard comments from several of the visitors.

XVI. Executive Session

Annette Carey made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Marissa's EPA. Jamie Mallory seconded. Motion approved.

Pam Roush made the motion to go out of Executive Session. Angela Wilson seconded. Motion approved.

XVII. WVCDHH Projects Update

The board made some revisions to the projects and which staff will be lead.

- Advocacy Task Force – MJS
 - Legislative Advocacy will be put into this task force.
- Awareness Task Force – RF
 - Will also include Public Forums and Video Blog
- Business & Organization Trainings – postponed
- Interpreters Stakeholders Group – RF
- Mental Health Task Force – postponed
- Nominating Committee – no staff needed
- State Code Committee – no staff needed
- Youth Task Force – postponed
- Smoke Alarms & Equipment Distribution – MJS & RF
- Mentorship Program – postponed
- Kari will compile a monthly report of all activities, categorized as to who is responsible.

XVIII. Adjournment

James Ennis made the motion to adjourn. Pierre Sevigny seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.