

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Minutes
February 10, 2011

Capitol Complex
Building 7, Regent's Room

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug Godfrey • Dr. Charles Abraham • Marty Blakely • Jamie Mallory • Tammy Phillips • Marsha Dadisman • Angela Wilson • Carla Cleek • Pam Roush • Robin Simmons (representing Christina Mullins) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pierre Sevigny • James Ennis • Annette Carey • Michael Sullivan • Dr. Patsy Shank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marissa Sanders • Roy Forman • Kari Preslar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Leisure • Caryn Keller 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connie Pitman • Janelle St. Martin

I. Call to Order

Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Angela Wilson read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

Minutes from the November 4, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Marty Blakely made a motion to approve the minutes. Jamie Mallory seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Report

Marissa shared highlights from the written report:

- Marissa was invited by several groups to meet with legislatures.
- Marissa is planning to meet with WV School Service Personnel.
- Marissa has been attending the Fair Shake meetings that are held each Wednesday during the Legislative session.
- The Interpreter Task Force will meet on Feb. 15.
- Roy has been attending the WV Hands & Voices meetings.
- A Policy & Advocacy workshop will be held in March. The next Town Hall meeting will be in May.
- Marissa will have a final survey report soon.

- Board appointments: Marissa delivered the nominations to the Governor's office. They were impressed with the organization of the materials. Those nominations will be moving through their process. Paul See was nominated and Marty Blakely, Pierre Sevigny, and Jamie Mallory were all re-nominated. Hopefully we will know something by the June board meeting. Marissa is planning on meeting with the Governor's office again in April to submit nominations for the positions that expire on June 30, 2011 (Dr. Abraham, Jim Ennis, Doug Godfrey, Paul See [assuming he is appointed], and Pierre Sevigny). WVAD will be contacted regarding new deaf/hard of hearing nominations in the future.
- Directory: draft is completed. All of the information from the previous directory is included plus some added information.
- Task forces are in the process of being formed. Marissa is working on recruiting for the mental health task force and Roy is working on the awareness task force.
- Marissa shared a summary of our budget. There are a couple places where it looks like we are over-budget, however those are old contracts that need to be deleted. We received a \$5000 increase for the 2012 budget, if the legislature approves it.
- Medical appointment cards are ready to be printed. They are included in the packet.

OLD BUSINESS

V. Interpreter Registry

Marissa reported that the task force has been on hiatus because they were waiting on more information from Virginia. They will be meeting next week.

VI. Hands & Voices

Jamie Mallory announced that they have received official approval as a national chapter. They are working with a lawyer to get 501(c)3 status.

VII. Strategic Plan & Operational Plan

Marissa shared an update of the plans. Almost everything has been started. Marissa has been meeting about the website. The Directory is just about ready to be printed. The Parent book was taken off the plan. We are hoping that we can work with Hands & Voices to create one.

VIII. DHHR Relationship to WVCDHH

Marsha Dadisman responded to an email from Doug Godfrey with answers to some questions the board had. This email is included in the Board packet. Marty Blakely made a motion to ask Doug Godfrey to request a meeting with Secretary Lewis following the legislative session. Tammy Phillips seconded. Motion approved.

<p>The Board recessed at 1:45 p.m. to allow some members to attend the Senate Education Committee meeting where they were discussing SB434 regarding school interpreters..</p>
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<p>Meeting reconvened at 3:00 p.m.</p>
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Jamie Mallory asked how task force membership is determined and whether any guidelines exist for including or excluding members. Marissa indicated that to date there has not been a need to turn away anyone indicating interest in serving on a task force, however, guidelines would be useful in the future. Guidelines will be written to aid in determining how many task force members are needed and criteria for selecting members.

X. Public Policy Committee

Marissa shared with the board that with there is really no need to have both an Advocacy task force and a public policy committee. Both groups would have the same purpose. A motion was made by Tammy Phillips to expand the purpose of the advocacy task force to include public policy and to remove the public policy committee from the strategic plan. Jamie Mallory seconded. Motion approved.

XI. Deaf Child's Bill of Rights (DCBR)

Marissa gave an update as to where the DCBR is in this year's session. Last year the study resolution was introduced in the senate and died in committee. This year Fair Shake Network was interested in the resolution. They set up meetings with Delegate Poling and Senator Plymale (chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees) and invited Marissa to attend with them. Both were very interested in the resolution – Delegate Poling stated her desire to have the resolution originate in her committee; Senator Plymale indicated that he would request that the resolution be single-referenced to his committee. The House committee worked with last year's resolution and made some updates to it, then the committee passed it unanimously with all members signing on as sponsors. The resolution was introduced in the House and has been sent to the rules committee. It should be sent back to the House for 3 readings and a vote soon. The Senate is using the House language and it should be introduced soon.

NEW BUSINESS

XII. Legislative Update

Marissa has been attending the Fair Shake Network's weekly meetings held during the Legislative session in order to keep informed on relevant bills. She created a summary of bills that are of particular interest to our constituents which is included in your packet.

XIII. Hearing Impaired License Plate

A bill has been introduced that would allow the DMV to create a license plate that says "hearing impaired" for qualified individuals who would like to purchase them. However, there is concern about opening this code in the House because other license plates would be requested. Instead, Delegate Smith (primary sponsor of the bill) and Delegate Martin (Chair of House Roads and Transportation Committee) have requested that the Commission work with the DMV to design a decal that could be placed on a license plate to indicate that the driver is deaf (the decal would probably be the symbol that can currently be put on driver's licenses – an ear with a line through it). Placing this decal on a license plate is voluntary. These legislators are requesting also that the Commission also purchase the decals and distribute them to constituents upon request when appropriate.. Several concerns were brought up by the board:

- What would the commission's part be in any lawsuits that may happen if the driver were victimized as a result of having this decal on their license plate?
- What would the symbol be? [It would probably be the same as on the driver's license.]
- Is this part of the commission's state code? It doesn't fall under our code unless it was considered part of the clearinghouse. However, it was pointed out that lending TTYs and amplified phones is not in our state code either.
- There were several concerns about the extra duties and responsibilities on the staff. The legislative response is that there probably will not be that many requests. DMV doesn't want

to take it on because they believe there will be so few requests that they will have a difficult time having someone trained.

Jamie Mallory made the motion for Marissa to track the bill and respond appropriately. Marissa will keep the board informed on its movement. Marty Blakely seconded. Motion approved.

XIV. Moving WVCDHH office

Marissa reported that in November she and Roy had a meeting with the chief of operations for DHHR who informed them of the plan to move the Commission offices to a space across the hall. They provided a drawing which was then modified according to some of the issues raised (the most current drawing is included in the Board packet). The plan is to move three agencies (WVCDHH, Office of the Court Monitor and the Women's Commission) into a 1200 square foot space. The offices will be work stations and it will require purchasing all new furniture. We're not sure who will pay for the furniture. There will be one work space and conference room that all three agencies will share. We also have not heard whether the rent will be decreased. Currently, the commission pays \$22,000 a year for rent and occupies approximately 1500 square feet. There are definite privacy concerns with this arrangement as well as space issues. Marty Blakely made a motion to request Marissa to talk with Greg Nicholson about the concerns expressed by the board and to start checking into the possibility of moving off of the Capitol complex. Some considerations for a new space include: ample office space and storage space; break space; proximity to DHHR, the Capitol, and other key locations; parking availability and cost; meeting space for Commission meetings; physical accessibility; convenience for constituents and board members; and rent. Jamie seconded. Motion approved.

XV. Commission State Code Committee

Marissa suggested that since our state code is more than 20 years old it may be time to revisit it and make updates. Doug asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to review the code and make recommendations to the full Board. Doug Godfrey, Tammy Phillips and Marty Blakely agreed to serve. Doug will be requesting two more volunteers from Board members not at the meeting; Doug has asked Marissa to serve as the staff member on the committee. Because this is a committee of the Board, staff will not have a vote but will be present to assist with administrative duties and to provide suggestions and feedback. A motion was made by Jamie Mallory and seconded by Pam Roush for the committee to begin reviewing the state code. Motion approved.

XVI. Directory

A draft of a new Directory was at the meeting for Board members to review. There are still some documents that must be completed, but it is nearly a completed first draft. Jamie Mallory suggested that parent information be added as part of the resource section. When this draft is complete, Marissa will send out cd's of the directory to board members to review and provide feedback.

XVII. VRI at hospitals

Marissa received word that a hospital in Morgantown is offering VRI services exclusively. There are no interpreters on site. The concern is that communication may not be as effective. This is a good case for the advocacy task force to review.

XVIII. Division of Rehabilitation Services - Deaf Services

The Commission has received some complaints from constituents about the lack of deaf services through Rehab. Tammy Phillips made a motion to request Marissa to meet with Deborah Lovely to discuss these concerns and find out how we can work with DRS to get the word out about the services that Rehab offers. Dr. Abraham seconded. Motion approved.

XIX. Deaf Child Road Signs

Jamie Mallory reported that she has gotten a lot of requests from parents asking about whose responsibility it is to put signs up especially in rural areas. Marissa will send an email to the Deputy Commissioner for Motor Vehicles and find out who to ask.

XX. Additional information from Marsha Dadisman

The Executive Director does have permission to go to the Governor's office and meet with Legislative members. The Secretary asks for a legislative contact form to be completed and submitted to the Secretary's office. It is a way for Dr. Lewis to be informed of what the office directors are doing. Marsha also said that the board may want to review whether WVCDHH is a good fit under DHHR.

XXI. Adjournment

Marty Blakely made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jamie Mallory seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.