

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
February 29, 2016

DRS Offices
107 Cambridge Place, Bridgeport, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul See• John Burdette• Annette Carey• Rachel Gill• Roy Forman• Pam Roush• Angela Wilson• Gloria Hollen• Christina Mullins (via phone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martin Keller• Marty Blakely• Tammy Phillips• Gwen Bryant• Karen McNealy• Susan White• Nancy Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earnest Covington• Sarah Lowther• Rachel Rajca	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Janelle St. Martin• Enis Schauffner• Jason Kapcala• Holly Fox• Roger Shahan• Earl Hollen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephenie Woodall• Jennifer Casto

I. Call to Order

Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Gloria Hollen read the Mission Statement.

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the November 13, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved.

V. Staff Report

Earnest Covington shared information from the written staff report.

- Highlights included:
 - a. Three Board member terms will expire in 2016: Marty Blakely, Gwen Bryant, and Karen McNealy. These members will receive letters and appropriate paperwork for renewal.
 - b. There will be letters sent to ENT doctors to recruit for the vacant seat on the Board.
 - c. Interpreter contracts will expire April 15, 2016. Staff is working with DHHR Purchasing to develop updated contracts.
 - d. Deaf Awareness Day will be held at the Capitol on March 8, 2016.

VI. Committee/Task Force Reports

1. Executive Committee: No report.
2. Interpreter Task Force:
 - The WVRI is regularly updated to reflect those newly qualified and those who have let their qualifications lapse.
 - Eight interpreters have upcoming expiring credentials. They were notified in December and January. All eight have submitted the required paperwork and have renewed membership with WVRI.
 - There are 90 registered interpreters on the WVRI. Sixty-two are West Virginia residents, and 28 are located out-of-state. There are no Certified Deaf Interpreters in the state.
3. Nominating Committee:
 - The board still needs an ENT member. No applications have been received.
 - Once the ENT position is filled, there will be a full board.

VII. Strategic Plan

- Many goals from the Strategic Plan have been met.
- The Strategic Plan needs to be updated to reflect the goals that have been met, then add and/or update it with new goals.
- Paul would like to use a Board retreat in the Fall to discuss and update the Strategic Plan.

VIII. Emergency Information/Notification for Deaf/HH

- WVCDHH has worked with Kanawha County emergency responders to learn more about the text-to-911 offered. Kanawha County is currently the only county that provides this service; WVCDHH would like to encourage other counties throughout the state to do the same.
- A signed video warning of Winter Storm Jonas was created and shared via social media. The Commission hopes to be able to continue to do this when/if the need arises.

IX. Board Member Reports

- Gloria Hollen
 - Along with the next board meeting on May 13, 2016, she would like to have a town hall meeting for interpreters and the public in Martinsburg, West Virginia.
 - Blue Ridge Community and Technical College may be a possible location for the meetings.
- Annette Carey
 - Educational interpreters – under WV Code, every school district has to be monitored. Beginning this year, ASL interpreters and Sign Support Specialists are included and can be asked for qualifications. It must also be shown that the Interpreter position was advertised if a Sign Support Specialist was used.
 - High schools are offering ASL as a language. As of 2016, there are 62 ASL classes offered in ten districts.
- John Burdette
 - After helping a friend in the hospital, he noticed that having a VRI service would improve communication access between family members and the person in the hospital.
 - WVAD wants to better collaborate with the Commission to host events for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

X. West Virginia Advocates

Regina Desmond shared information about the mission and goals of WV Advocates. One of the main goals is equal access for people with disabilities. She would like WV Advocates to collaborate with the Commission in the future to reach these goals.

XI. Future Meeting dates

- May 13, 2016 – Martinsburg, WV
- Upcoming meeting dates and locations will be decided at the next board meeting.

XII. Adjournment

Gloria Hollen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. John Burdette seconded. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.