

# West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

## Minutes

March 8, 2023

West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services  
10 McJunkin Road, Nitro, West Virginia

| Commission Members Present:  | Commission Members Absent:   | Commission Staff Present:  | Public Visitors:   | Interpreters:  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paul See</li><li>• John Burdette</li><li>• Nancy Gillispie</li><li>• Gloria Hollen</li><li>• Roy Forman</li><li>• Rachel Gill</li><li>• Cyndi Shaver</li><li>• Angela Wilson</li><li>• Dawn Embrey-King</li><li>• W. Clayton Burch</li><li>• Mary Anne Clendenin</li><li>• Rae Bates<br/>(<i>proxy for E. Hopta</i>)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gwen Bryant</li><li>• David Blaine</li><li>• Pam Roush</li><li>• Mekell Golden</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sarah Lowther</li><li>• Erik Essington</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Earl Hollen</li><li>• Paula Forman</li><li>• Karen Kingrey</li><li>• Crystal Law</li><li>• JoAnne Hirsch</li><li>• Keith Simmerman</li><li>• Dennis Selznick</li><li>• Mary Beth Mothersell</li><li>• Hal Suddreth</li><li>• Jean Marie Suddreth</li><li>• Christina Vorreyer Davis</li><li>• Mary Ann Jividen</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ashley Turley</li><li>• Tricia Kestner</li></ul> |

### I. Call to Order

- Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

- John Burdette read the Mission Statement.

### III. Public Comments

- Mary Ann Jividen
  - She helped to create the Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliance (EPDA) in 2017 because needs were not being met in the area. The staff are all volunteers.
  - EPDA needs more support for the growing community.
- Dennis Selznick and Mary Beth Mothersell (CapTel)
  - CapTel analog services are ending on March 28, 2023, because the technology is older.
  - Newer technology through internet connections will provide better access.
- Keith Simmerman
  - He wanted to attend the meeting to get updates about WVCDHH. He is also thankful for the support.

#### **IV. Minutes**

The minutes from the November 4, 2022, meeting were reviewed. John Burdette made the motion to approve the minutes. Gloria Hollen seconded. Minutes were approved.

#### **V. Staff Reports**

Erik Essington and Sarah Lowther shared information from the written board report.

- Highlights included:
  - a. Renewal paperwork was submitted to the Governor's Office at the end of May 2022 for two expired board positions - Parent of a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child (Gwen Bryant) and Audiologist (Nancy Gillispie). The Governor made the appointments on November 14, 2022. The two terms were renewed until June 30, 2025.
  - b. WVCDHH staff attended Fundamentals of Grant Writing, a course through the University of Georgia from January 18, 2023, through February 24, 2023. The skills learned in the course will be used to secure grant funding for future projects.
  - c. New computers were ordered in February 2023. The current office computers are no longer under warranty and cannot be repaired.
  - d. The WVCDHH website and social media are updated on a regular basis.
  - e. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 45 likes since November 2022 for a total of 1,511. The average post reach is 350 people. Audience statistics - Men - 23.6% / Women - 76.4%.
  - f. Deaf Awareness Day 2023 was held as an in-person event on March 7, 2023. The event took place on both the Senate and House sides of the Upper Rotunda at the Capitol in Charleston. There were 19 confirmations for exhibit tables for the event. Students from both WVSD and Shoals Elementary performed on the floor of the House of Delegates after a Citation was presented for the day.
  - g. WVCDHH hopes to work with universities in the state to start a new Deaf Studies program, which will focus on deaf education and interpreting.
  - h. WVCDHH will be sponsoring a two-part virtual workshop presented by Allisun Kale. The workshop is free to interpreters and will award 0.6 CEUs upon completion. To date, there are 97 RSVPs for the workshop. The majority of responses have been from interpreters from states outside of WV.
  - i. WVCDHH hopes to sponsor, organize, and provide more workshops for interpreters and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community throughout the state in the near future.

#### **VI. Committee/Task Force Reports**

- Executive Committee: No report.
- Nominating Committee: No report.

#### **VII. Board Member Reports**

- Mary Anne Clendenin
  - She provided updates from the Board of Education.
  - There are monthly workshops, statewide ASL classes, and K-12 support for teachers throughout the state.
  - There are 369 D/HH students with IEPs in the state.

- Clayton Burch
  - He provided updates from WVSDDB.
  - Money has been invested to improve school buildings.
  - ASL classes will be provided again through Marshall University during the summer.
- Rachel Gill
  - DRS is partnering with local community groups to have pre-employment transition camps for youth during the summer.
- Dawn Embrey-King
  - She is focusing on awareness of the Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children and their meetings. Attendance at the meetings is encouraged to discuss the unmet needs of students throughout the state.
- Nancy Gillispie
  - She requested more information on helping with legislation to pass bills that impact Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in WV.

### **VIII. Future Meeting dates**

- May 19, 2023 – Beckley, WV
- August 10, 2023 – Charleston, WV

### **IX. Adjournment**

Gloria Hollen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Rachel Gill seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:38 a.m.