

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
May 11, 2012

Wood Co. DHHR Office
Parkersburg, WV

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marty Blakely• Pierre Sevigny• Paul See• Jamie Mallory• Christina Mullins• Angela Wilson• Tammy Phillips• Rachel Gill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Charles Abraham• James Ennis• Marsha Dadisman• Annette Carey• Pam Roush• Mike Sullivan• Lynn Boyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marissa Sanders• Kari Preslar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liz Leisure• Donna Williams• Roy Forman• Roger Shahan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connie Pitman• Stephenie Jaggie

I. Call to Order

Marty Blakely called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Tammy Phillips read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

Minutes from the February 6, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Paul See made a motion to approve the minutes. Christina Mullins seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Report

Marissa shared highlights from the written report.

- Request for Quotations for a town hall facilitator have been mailed. The anticipated start date for a facilitator is July 1.

- Interpreter Task Force: has not met. Still working on the grant application. Interpreters are encouraged to take the test now at \$100. Virginia is willing to work with us to offer it in WV.
- Smoke alarm project: The request to hire Barb King as a temporary employee was denied by DHHR. RFQs for this position have been mailed. Interviews will happen in a couple of weeks.
- Nominations: Nomination committee has not taken any action. An application was received from Doug Evans.
- Personnel: Marissa received sample position descriptions from the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities and is working on a description for Roy's former position.
- State Code Committee: Marissa recommends that we extend this process for another year and hold public forums specifically to gather input about board structure and commission activities.
- EIPA testing: Janelle St. Martin will be the facilitator for the EIPA performance test. Tests are scheduled for June 16 in Fairmont and September 29 in Charleston.

V. Legislative Update

Marissa shared an update on bills that especially effected the deaf and hard of hearing community during the legislative session.

- HB 4122: creates an alternative route to certification for teachers of ASL. This bill allows ASL teachers to have a bachelor's degree in any field and requires them to pass a state board approved test or tests showing ASL proficiency. Bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.
- HB 4572: This bill redefined educational interpreters by creating the titles Educational Sign Language Interpreter I and II. It died in the Senate Education Committee because of the cost. The plan for next year is to try again and try to have a separate bill just for interpreters.
- SB 531 and HB 2941: These bills allowed the DMV to create a special license plate that says "hearing impaired." This bill died in both houses.
- SB 501: requiring health insurers to cover hearing aids for children (birth to 18 years). The bill died on the last night of the session because the House and Senate couldn't agree on whether a child had to see a doctor to prescribe a hearing aid or whether they could see either a doctor or an audiologist. This bill may be added to a special session later in the year.
- SB 211: prohibiting drivers in West Virginia from using wireless communication devices without hands-free equipment including texting and cell phone calls. Texting while driving will be a primary offense as of July 1, 2012. Talking on a cell phone without a hands free device will be a secondary offense July 1, 2012 and a primary offense July 1, 2013. This bill passed both houses and was accepted by the Governor.
- SB 245: This was a bundled bill with all of DHHR's legislative rules, including WVCDHH's rules:
 - 192 CSR 01: Fees for Qualified Interpreters – updated the pay scale for community interpreters hired by state agencies in certain situations. Unscreened interpreters pay was raised from \$7/hour to \$15/hour. NAD V/NIC Master interpreter pay was raised from \$35/hour to \$50/hour.
 - 192 CSR 03: Establishment of Required Qualifications and Ethical Standards for Interpreters – removed the word "transliterator" from the rule but included individuals holding a Certificate of Transliteration in the definition of interpreters. Increased the period of registration from 2 years to 3 years.

Both rules passed both houses and were accepted by the Governor.
- SCR 70: This resolution asks the legislature to study access to hearing aids. Passed by the Senate. A similar resolution was not voted on in the House. The Fair Shake Network plans to send a letter requesting that this study be taken up during the 2012 interim sessions.

- SCR 96 and HCR 104: Deaf Child's Bill of Rights – These resolutions express the Legislature's support for the items listed in the Deaf Child's Bill of Rights. They state that the Legislature agrees that the items listed are necessary for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. Both resolutions passed.

Marissa said overall the legislative session was very successful. She thanked the Fair Shake Network for all of its help.

VI. Org Chart and Process Discussion

Marissa shared a draft of an organization chart. Marissa said there are four things WVCDHH can do with this org chart:

- 1) Leave it as it is
- 2) Clarify the role of DHHR in our state code. Marissa said this would be difficult to do.
- 3) Explore if there is another agency that the WVCDHH would fit better under. Marissa reminded the board that no matter where WVCDHH lies, it is still a state agency and will be subject to many of the same restrictions. The WVCDHH is limited to what it has the power to do; it is not an advocacy or grassroots organization. Marissa said that she received a draft memo that the legislative intended for DHHR to take a high degree of control over the WVCDHH, but she never received a finalized copy.
- 4) Explore the possibility of becoming more independent.

The commission agrees that we need more clarification as to the role of board members. How much can the board members dictate what the commission does? Christina Mullins suggested that Marissa create a couple of different drafts of the org chart and present them to DHHR and ask which looks more correct. She suggested Marissa have some meetings with key people and then invite them to a Commission meeting to discuss with the board. Christina volunteered to assist Marissa.

The discussion on the org chart will be postponed until the November meeting. Marissa will inform the board through emails of the progress.

VII. Strategic Plan Framework

Marissa said the strategic plan needs to be more realistic due to the small staff of the Commission. She asked the board to decide on the top two ideas for each category.

Commission Capacity: Board and Staff Development

- 1) Orientation for new board members
Marty shared his outline for New Board Member Orientation. The outline was unanimously approved with the addition of the History of the Commission. Outline is attached.

Public Engagement and Awareness

- 1) Board meetings will be held on Fridays in different parts of the state and will include a Town Hall meeting either on that Friday evening or Saturday morning. There will be four board meetings a year.
- 2) Establish a Facebook page: Marty will write a letter to DHHR requesting the Commission to establish a Facebook page.

Regarding an Interpreter Licensure Board: Marissa did some research and this would be very difficult to do. Under state code, every licensing board must be self-sustaining. They do not receive any funding from the state. The fees would be too high for the limited number of interpreters in the state. The only option would be to add them to another licensure board.

Tammy Phillips said that WVSD has created a team to evaluate teachers. She said there may be a possibility of partnering with the school to evaluate interpreters.

Regarding an Annual Conference: Marissa suggested that this be postponed for two years (WVAD conference is next year). Instead, the Commission will work with WVAD and WVSD and plan some activities at the School during Deaf Awareness Week (September 23-29).

Program Development

- 1) Registry for Interpreters: the Task Force is working on this.
- 2) Develop a clearinghouse and outreach program for deaf and hard of hearing, their families and the public – include workshops.
 Jamie Mallory, Marty Blakely and Marissa will work on goals.
- 3) Website update: Marissa asked all board members to research other agency websites and let Marissa know what they like and would like to see included on a new website design.

Resource Development

- 1) Board to become more involved, learn the process & develop plan for increasing resources.
 Marissa will invite DHHR staff to attend the November meeting to help Board know their roles.
- 2) Increase infrastructure by increasing budget: Marissa will discuss this with Marsha.

Paul See made the motion to approve these goals. Pierre Sevigny seconded. Motion approved.

VIII. Board meeting dates

- August 3 in Romney (if available) include a Town Hall meeting
- November 2 in Charleston with a Town Hall meeting

Other Business

IX. Driver's Education at WVSD

- Paul See brought up a concern about students from WVSD not being able to pass the driver's education test. Students have trouble understanding the questions. They have asked to have an interpreter with them, but it is not allowed. Paul said it is okay to have other foreign language interpreters but not sign language. The DMV seems to think that the "hearing impaired" test is sufficient however students are having to re-take the test four or five times before passing. Paul will have his father (the driver's ed teacher at WVSD) email Marissa and Marissa will contact the DMV Commissioner. Rachel Gill said she will contact the DRS offices and see if they can help as well.

X. Beliefs of the Commission

Following the board retreat, Angie Wilson, Paul See, Rachel Gill and Christina Mullins were tasked to determine the beliefs of the commission from the list of words members listed. This was the final list:

Belief	Behavior
Empowerment	Honesty
Equality	Knowledge
Perseverance	Cooperation
Perspective	
Voice	
Independence	

Question as to what “perspective” means. The committee said, keeping things in perspective, focus, not get off track. Honoring everyone’s perspective.

Question as to what “voice” means. Allowing everyone to have a voice and have the opportunity to voice concerns. The public will have a voice as well. Also assisting those who have a harder time voicing their concerns, for example children.

Jamie Mallory made the motion to accept these beliefs/behaviors. Rachel Gill seconded. Motion approved. The committee will now work on statements for each one and bring it back to the board.

XI. Public Comments

XII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Next meeting: August 3 in Romney (tentative). 10 a.m. start time.

Outline for New Board Member Orientation

Purpose: To provide new board members with sufficient information regarding the Commission so that he/she can function effectively as a member of the board within six months of the beginning of his/her term.

Goals: After completing this orientation, the new member will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the board and general issues of the Commission;
- Participate in board discussions regarding the mission, vision, values and strategic plan of the Commission;
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, the structure of the Board and the purpose of each Board committee;
- Demonstrate knowledge regarding the current issues specifically facing the Commission; and
- Demonstrate understanding, albeit limited, of the Commission's programs and services.

Topics:

- History of the Commission (added at the May 11, 2012 board meeting)
- State-of-the-Commission, including general issues
- Roles/responsibilities of a member
- Structure of the board, by-laws and purpose of board committees
- Mission, vision, values, and strategic plan of the Commission
- Organization structure and roles of the executive staff
- Programs and services offered by the Commission
- Tour of the Commission

Mentor's Guide

Communication: The mentor and Board member may want to communicate accordingly:

- After the new Board member's orientation;
- After Board and Committee meetings;
- Sitting together during meetings;
- Regularly scheduled lunch meetings.

Information: The mentor and new Board member may want to address the following:

- New Board member's questions regarding how the Board works, about individuals or about Board actions;
- Any problems with the new Board member's conduct that do not meet Board expectations;
- Goals and major areas of interest as a new Board member;
- New Board member's satisfaction with the orientation as well as his or her ability to participate at Board and Committee meetings.

