

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
May 19, 2017

Ohio County Public Library
52 16th Street, Wheeling, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul See• John Burdette• Tammy Phillips• Roy Forman• Pam Roush• Susan White• Gwen Bryant <i>(via phone)</i>• Angela Wilson <i>(via phone)</i>• Crystal Miller <i>(proxy for R. Gill)</i>• Mekell Golden <i>(proxy for C. Mullins)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gloria Hollen• Nancy Sullivan• Karen McNealy• Annette Carey• David Blaine• Martin Keller	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earnest Covington• Sarah Lowther	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paula Forman• Gina Desmond• April Hottle• Holly Fox• Nicole Fuller• Enis Schauffner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephenie Woodall• Ashley Turley

I. Call to Order

Paul See called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

- Pam Roush read the Mission Statement.

III. Public Comments

- April Hottle
 - She is happy to be at the Board meeting and is appreciative of the work of the Commission.
 - She believes in the bill for LEAD-K. She says it is not about sign language, but is about acquiring language by kindergarten. She also thinks that monitoring language development is valuable for everyone.
- Gina Desmond
 - Disability Rights of West Virginia is asking for public comments on their priorities and objectives for the 2018 fiscal year.

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the February 3, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Tammy Phillips made the motion to approve the minutes. Pam Roush seconded. Minutes were approved.

V. Staff Report

Earnest Covington shared information from the written staff report.

- Highlights included:
 - a. Eleven bids for contractual interpreters were received in January. After bid review and processing, eight contracts were awarded on March 13, 2017.
 - b. Deaf Awareness Day was held at the Capitol on March 13, 2017. There were over 20 exhibit tables, along with many people and groups. We have also reserved next year's Deaf Awareness Day. It will be held on March 5, 2018.
 - c. Sarah's promotion to Project Director has been approved and processed. The effective date was March 15, 2017.
 - d. The Interpreter Coordinator position has been approved by the Division of Personnel. Two applicants were interviewed for the position on May 1, 2017. Unfortunately, a candidate was not found. The position will be posted publicly until it is filled.
 - e. WVCDHH has been working with Regal Cinemas in Nitro, WV to offer open captioned movies to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. There is no charge to set up open captioning; there is also no extra charge to attend the open captioned movie. The movies have been very successful.
 - f. CapTel 840Plus captioned telephones have been delivered and have been added to the Telephonic Communication Device Loan Program. The application has been updated to include current poverty rates and pictures/descriptions of the new devices that are offered. The captioned telephones are available for distribution.
 - g. WVCDHH, Disability Rights of WV, and WV Assistive Technology System are collaborating to develop training and reference materials for law enforcement and emergency responders when working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing community members.
 - h. WVCDHH would like to establish a bi-annual event for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. The event will be called "Deaf WestiVal," and will be tentatively held during the State Fair of WV on August 18, 2017.
 - i. An audit notification letter was sent by RID to all CMP Sponsors, including WVCDHH. The audit will be conducted on Sponsor Initiated Activities (SIA). Audit materials were submitted in March 2017. We are awaiting the results.
 - j. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 35 likes since February 4, 2017 for a total of 723. We have had thirteen posts gain over 500 "reaches." Our highest was 1,784 people reached from a single post.

VI. Committee/Task Force Reports

1. Executive Committee: No report.
2. Interpreter Task Force: No report.
3. Nominating Committee:
 - The D/HH position previously held by Marty Blakely is vacant. The Nominating Committee will meet at a later date to review applications and choose a new candidate for nomination to the Board
 - There are not enough board members present at the meeting to vote on the chairperson position. Susan White made a motion to postpone the vote. John Burdette seconded. The motion was approved.

VII. Board Member Reports

- Annette Carey
 - Earnest provided information about Annette's position at the Department of Education.
 - For the time being, Annette will stay as a contract employee. The position has been posted.
- Susan White
 - The Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children is wrapping up their annual report. The report recommends early childhood literacy.
- Crystal Miller
 - West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services has new color brochures that feature Cassie Heaster, a Deaf woman, on the cover.

VIII. Future Meeting dates

- August 3, 2017 – Beckley, WV
- November 3, 2017 – Charleston, WV
- February 23, 2018 – Clarksburg, WV
- May 11, 2018 – Martinsburg, WV

IX. Adjournment

John Burdette made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Tammy Phillips seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.