

**West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**  
**Minutes**  
 May 3, 2019

WVSDB – IRC Conference Room  
 301 East Main Street, Romney, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul See</li> <li>• John Burdette</li> <li>• Gwen Bryant</li> <li>• Emily Hopta</li> <li>• Pam Roush</li> <li>• Gloria Hollen</li> <li>• Mary Anne Clendenin</li> <li>• Rachel Gill <i>(via phone)</i></li> <li>• Angela Wilson <i>(via phone)</i></li> <li>• Mekell Golden <i>(proxy for C. Mullins)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roy Forman</li> <li>• David Blaine</li> <li>• Susan White</li> <li>• Mark Gandolfi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earnest Covington</li> <li>• Sarah Lowther</li> <li>• Barbara Calhoun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gina Desmond</li> <li>• Earl Hollen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josh Reaser</li> <li>• Stephenie Woodall</li> </ul>

**I. Call to Order**

Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions**

- Gloria Hollen read the Mission Statement.

**III. Public Comments**

- Gina Desmond
  - Disability Rights of WV will continue the collaborative mailings to law enforcement offices throughout the state, which includes the D/HH Visor Cards and other information. This year will focus on mailings to city police. Information will be sent to 143 offices. After this year, all law enforcement offices in the state will have received the information.
  - Disability Rights of WV has received requests for assistance from D/HH individuals. Since October 2018, there have been 47 service requests. Of the 47 requests, an attorney or advocate has been assigned to 19 cases.

**IV. Minutes**

The minutes from the February 28, 2019 meeting were reviewed. John Burdette made the motion to approve the minutes. Gloria Hollen seconded. Minutes were approved.

## V. Staff Report

Earnest Covington shared information from the written staff report.

- Highlights included:
  - a. The budget proposal for fiscal year 2020 was received and approved.
  - b. The first proposal for updating legislative rule was submitted to the DHHR legislative liaison on April 17, 2019. The proposal suggested the removal of outdated information and the update of relevant information in our state code.
  - c. WV House Bill 2816: a bill to remove the terms “hearing impaired,” “hearing impairment,” and “deaf mute” from the West Virginia Code and substituting the terms “deaf or hard of hearing,” “hard of hearing,” “hearing difficulties,” or “difficulties in hearing” according to context. The bill was passed and signed by the Governor on March 26, 2019. It will be effective ninety days from passage - June 6, 2019.
  - d. The WVCDHH website will be updated, redesigned, and moved to a new address later this year. The state-contracted website company, WV Interactive, is currently working to design and build the new site.
  - e. There are still three vacant positions on the Board: D/HH Community Representative, Audiologist, and Teacher of the D/HH. When received, applications for these positions will be collected and brought to the Board for review.
  - f. The Board term for Parent of a D/HH Child will expire on June 30, 2019. A letter was sent to Gwen Bryant inviting her to reapply for a consecutive term by filling out the required Board Assurances form. With receipt of the completed form and Board approval, a letter will be sent to the Governor recommending the renewal.
  - g. WVCDHH worked with Janelle St. Martin to set up three EIPA testing dates in Spring. The tests were held on March 30, 2019 in Parkersburg and on April 12, 2019 in Fairmont. The final test will be held on May 11, 2019 in Charleston at the WVCDHH office.
  - h. WVCDHH has continued to work with Regal Cinemas in Nitro, WV to offer open captioned movies to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Four movies were shown throughout the months of March and April. Two more movies will be shown in May.
  - i. “Deaf Night at the Power” will be held on August 30, 2019. The night will include: five videos in ASL shown on the videoboards, live interpreters for the National Anthem and during the game, the opportunity to throw the pre-game first pitch, educational tables for WVCDHH and other organizations, fireworks shown at the end of the night, and two-hundred tickets for the community. There will also be team jerseys with ASL letters that will be worn during the game, and then auctioned off; the proceeds will go to a local Deaf organization of our choice. Contracts, along with other required paperwork, have been submitted to DHHR Purchasing for review and approval.
  - j. Planning for next year’s Deaf Awareness Day has begun. The contract has been signed and approved. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Due to dome construction, the event will only be held on the Senate side of the Upper Rotunda in the State Capitol.
  - k. WVCDHH will be collaborating with EPDA to host Deaf WestiVal 2020 in Martinsburg. The tentative date will be November 7, 2020. EPDA will help to plan the event, while WVCDHH will sponsor the workshops and location. More plans will be made as the date approaches.
  - l. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 28 likes since March 1, 2019 for a total of 1,101. We have had eighteen posts gain over 500 “reaches.” Our highest was 1,801 people reached from a single post.

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

- Executive Committee: No report.
- Nominating Committee: There are three total vacant positions on the Board.
  - The Committee met before the Board Meeting to discuss the vacancies and the received applications.
  - A candidate was chosen for the Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing position. Gloria Hollen made the motion to recommend the candidate to the Governor. Pam Roush seconded. The motion was approved.
  - A letter will be sent to the candidate to request the required Board Assurances form be completed. With receipt of the completed form, a letter will be sent to the Governor recommending the appointment.
  - For both the Audiologist and D/HH positions, a decision will be made after more applications are received.

## **VII. Board Member Reports**

- No reports.

## **VIII. Future Meeting dates**

- August 8, 2019 – Morgantown, WV
- November 15, 2019 – Huntington, WV
- February 13, 2020 – Charleston, WV
- May 1, 2020 – Parkersburg, WV

## **IX. Executive Session**

Paul See made the motion to go into Executive Session at 1:21 p.m. John Burdette seconded. The motion was approved.

John Burdette made the motion to go out of Executive Session at 1:40 p.m. Gloria Hollen seconded. The motion was approved.

## **X. Adjournment**

John Burdette made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Gloria Hollen seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.