

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Minutes
November 2, 2006

John XXIII Pastoral Center
100 Hodges Road
Charleston, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Visitors:
Doug Godfrey	Molly Simonton	Jeannie Keener
Pierre Sevigny	Barbara King	Dana Donahue
Gary Vandevander		Jeanann Leone
John Knisely	Staff:	Connie Pitman
Emily Hopta	Deanna Stone, Executive Director	Sherri Thompson
Jennifer Burgess	Roy Forman, Deputy Director	Donna Whittington
Dr. Charles Abraham	Kari Preslar, Secretary	Liz Leisure
Melinda Siler		Mike Leisure
Marty Blakely	Interpreters:	John Burdette
James Ennis	Teresa McGonigle	Douglas Evans
Annette Carey	April Starks	Carol Byrge
Pat Moss		Tyler Labin
Pam Roush		Christie Sevigny
Dr. Michael Sullivan		Brian Stacy
Patsy Shank (proxy: WVSD)		Jason Wilson
		Bradley Grey
		April Hottle
		Shannon Evett
		Megan Harpold
		Emily Phillips

I. Call to Order

Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

II. Reading of the Mission Statement and Introductions

Doug read the WVCDHH Mission Statement.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 10, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Emily Hopta requested an amendment to the name of the Office of Personnel. The correct name is "Office of Personnel Services of the Department of Health and Human Resources." Minutes were approved with the amendment.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Stone shared a written report.

Old Business

V. Retreat Summary

The board reviewed Dolly Ford's summary of the retreat in August 2006. Deanna presented a draft action plan for review. The board is requested to review the documents and they will discuss at the next meeting.

VI. ASL as a Foreign Language

Annette Carey reported that the content standards and objectives are being re-written. It is scheduled to go to the state board in December.

VII. TRS Contract

Roy Forman reported on the progress with the Public Service Commission's finding a new TRS provider for the state. The final decision is planned for November 27.

New Business

VIII. Driver is Deaf

Roy Forman distributed a sign that the state of Virginia uses to inform law enforcement agencies when the driver is deaf. WVAD is coordinating this project with the Commission.

IX. Emergency Preparedness

Roy shared an emergency preparedness brochure that is from Homeland Security. Roy met with the 911 center in Kanawha County and will continue to work with them on emergency issues for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

X. Mentoring Training

Deanna reported on this new project that she is working on with Annette Carey. This program will match highly skilled educational interpreters with educational interpreters needing to improve their skills in order to take the EIPA. A training will be provided in March or April to train the mentors; then the mentors will provide regional trainings several times a year. The project is on-going.

XI. Parents' Guide

Molly Simonton is reviewing a guide that we received from North Carolina and will report on it at a future meeting.

XII. Deaf Tech Fair 2007

The 2007 Deaf Tech Fair is tentatively scheduled for May 19 in Charleston. Anyone with ideas for presenters or presentations should contact Roy Forman. Marty Blakely volunteered to organize a fingerspelling competition. Doug Evans said that WVAD will provide prizes. Gary Vandevander and Dr. Abraham volunteered to provide funds for prizes as well.

XIII. Deaf Awareness Week

Deaf Awareness Week takes place annually on the last week of September. Marty Blakely suggested that it would be nice if the Governor was invited to participate. The mayor of Romney has been a part of the celebrations at the School for the Deaf for the last three years.

XIV. Letter from a Constituent

James Ennis shared a letter he received from a constituent regarding sign language and children with Cochlear Implants. Annette Carey will share the letter with the Cochlear Implant Task Force that she, Deanna and Pam Roush serve on when it meets on December 1.

James made a motion and Marty seconded for Deanna and Doug Godfrey to ask the family for permission to share this information if they would like WVCDHH to further pursue it.

XV. Policy 2419

Annette said that that draft of Policy 2419 (special education in West Virginia) is scheduled to go the state board and is anticipated to go into the public comment period beginning November 13. Board members are requested to look in the Department of Education website in order to make comments on the policy.

XVI. Public Comments

April Hottle shared concerns regarding education and deaf children.

Doug Evans from WVAD

- 1) shared a letter he sent to the Public Service Commission regarding the TRS issue.
- 2) He said that WVAD would like to assist with the mentoring program.
- 3) The WVAD Conference is scheduled for August 2, 3, and 4, 2007 in Charleston.

John Burdette from WVAD shared a rough draft of the Driver is Deaf sign. A letter from Doug Evans and Deanna will go to law enforcement asking them to support the project.

XVII. Adjournment

Jim Ennis made the motion to adjourn. Pierre Sevigny seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.