

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Minutes
November 7, 2007

John XXIII Pastoral Center
Charleston, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Visitors:
Doug Godfrey	Molly Simonton	Terry Withrow, Jr.
Pierre Sevigny	Melinda Siler	Rachel Hanshaw
Gary Vandevander	Emily Hopta	Hannah Pauley
John Knisely	Jennifer Burgess	Connie Pitman
Dr. Charles Abraham	Annette Carey	Donna Whittington
Marty Blakely	Pat Moss	Jeanann Leone
James Ennis	Pam Roush	
Barbara King	Mike Sullivan	Interpreters:
Patsy Shank (proxy for JD Corbin)		Teresa McGonigle
		Jennifer Casto

Staff:

Deanna Stone, Executive Director
Roy Forman, Deputy Director
Kari Preslar, Secretary

I. Call to Order

Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

II. Reading of the Mission Statement and Introductions

James Ennis read the WVCDHH Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

The minutes from the August 16, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Dr. Abraham made the motion to approve the minutes. Pierre Sevigny seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Stone's report was reviewed.

Old Business

V. Parents' Guide Update

Several problems have surfaced in using parts of the North Carolina guide. Deanna said that in the next year, we will develop our own guide. Several agencies including Birth-to-Three, Ski*Hi, Department of Education, etc. will contribute to the guide.

VI. Deaf Awareness Week

Deaf Awareness Week activities took place in Romney, September 24-28. Deanna Stone attended on Monday. A representative from the Governor's office read a proclamation.

Roy Forman attended on Tuesday and did a presentation on “Rights in a Medical Setting”. Marty Blakely shared some of the other activities that took place during the week. He said all were very positive. It was a good week.

VII. Empowerment Cards

Roy Forman met with DHHR and the cards are in the process of being reviewed.

VIII. Workshops and EIPA updates

Deanna Stone reported that the workshops this fall were very well received. Roy has given 39 EIPA tests and 33 interpreters are pre-registered.

IX. Mentor Program

Jennifer Casto, lead mentor, said that the mentoring program is going very well.

X. Civil Service Tests

At the August meeting, James Ennis shared a concern about accommodations that are allowed for deaf or hard of hearing persons when taking a civil service exam. James, Pierre Sevigny and Doug Godfrey agreed to investigate. Doug said that James did all the research. James said that people can request an interpreter for the test. Doug suggested that it would be a good idea to put information in the newsletter concerning civil service exams and the accommodations that are available.

New Business

XI. ASL as a Foreign Language meeting

A group of people representing the Commission, the Department of Education, Marshall University and the Community and Technical College at Marshall met on October 24. Deanna said the goal is for the Community College will teach the ASL classes and then students will transfer to the Department of Education at Marshall to complete the education degree. The group will meet again in January.

XII. Deaf Tech Fair 2008

A date is needed. Deanna will send out an email with some possible dates for feedback.

XIII. WVRID Conference

The Conference will be held in Fairmont on December 7-8, 2007. Deanna said that the Commission will do what we can to help WVRID with the conference.

XIV. Board meeting dates

The next meeting will be on March 27, 2008 at John XXIII Center. Deanna will send out an email with the dates for the other meetings.

XV. Marty Blakely reported that the School for the Deaf will host the Mid-Atlantic Regional Academic Bowl on March 6-9, 2008. There will be 16 teams competing.

XVI. Barbara King introduced the visitors to today's meeting. They are students in the Vocational Rehab program at Institute.

XVII. Adjournment

Pierre made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Marty seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.