

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Minutes  
November 6, 2008

John XXIII Center  
100 Hodges Road, Charleston, WV

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Interpreters:
Doug Godfrey	Gary Vandevander	Eileen Brown
Pierre Sevigny	John Knisely	Jasmin Campbell
Dr. Charles Abraham	Melinda Siler	
Molly Simonton	Marty Blakely	Staff:
James Ennis	Martha Y. Walker	Roy Forman,
Annette Carey	Jennifer Burgess	Deputy Director
Pat Moss	Pam Roush	Kari Preslar, Secretary
Barbara King	Dr. Michael Sullivan	
Dr. Patsy Shank		

I. Call to Order

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

II. Reading of the Mission Statement and Introductions

Dr. Abraham read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

The minutes from the August 14, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Barbara King made the motion to approve the minutes. Molly Simonton seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Report

Staff Report was reviewed.

Old Business

V. Deaf Child's Bill of Rights

Following discussion, Molly Simonton made the motion, Dr. Abraham seconded, for the following to happen:

- Doug will send the draft to the parents (who presented the original document to the board) in January and give them a 30 day comment period.
- Comments from the parents (in writing) will be discussed by the sub-committee at their meeting in February.
- The parents will be invited to attend the February 12 Commission meeting. Any additional action by the board will be decided on at that meeting.

Motion approved.

## VI. Legislative Rule

Roy reported that the rule should be read during the next legislative session. Doug contacted RID, the Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Michigan Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing regarding their grievance procedures. He received a reply from Virginia. They have no formal grievance policy. When they receive a complaint against an interpreter, they provide a counseling session with the program manager. If the complaint is against a certified interpreter, then they refer the complainant to the appropriate certifying organization. Doug will continue to research grievance procedures.

## VII. Executive Director Update

Doug gave an update on the position. The position was offered to a candidate however that person turned it down. The position will be advertised again through WV Press Services and several websites.

## New Business

## VIII. 2009 Board Meeting Dates

- February 12
- May 14
- July 30
- November 5

## IX. Cochlear Implant Issue

Roy and Annette both received a phone call from an audiologist in Mercer County looking for assistance regarding a Medicaid issue with a child with a Cochlear Implant. Pat Moss will follow-up with Annette to see if she can help.

## X. DRS Deaf Unit Closure

Barbara King reported that the Deaf Unit will no longer operate out of the Institute campus as of January 31, 2009. Those needing services will be referred to the field offices. The Blind Unit will be the only training program left at the Institute campus. Annette Carey made the motion to write a letter to the Governor and other legislative leaders expressing the Commission's concern regarding the lack of services that will be available once the closing happens. Molly Simonton volunteered to draft a letter. Pat Moss seconded. Motion approved with Barbara King abstaining.

## XI. Adjournment

Dr. Abraham made the motion to adjourn the meeting. James Ennis seconded. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.