

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Minutes

November 15, 2019

Marshall University
Drinko Library, Room 138
1 John Marshall Drive, Huntington, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul See • John Burdette • Gwen Bryant • Mark Gandolfi • Rachel Gill • Pam Roush • Mary Anne Clendenin • Cyndi Shaver • Angela Wilson • Roy Forman • Mekell Golden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily Hopta • David Blaine • Gloria Hollen • Susan White 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Lowther • Bailey Davis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gina Desmond • Crystal Miller • Josh Reaser • Scott Hottle • Luke Hottle • Amy Clendenin • Tom Jividen • Mary Ann Jividen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Turley • Kelly Golightly

I. Call to Order

- Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

- Paul See read the Mission Statement.

III. Public Comments

- Gina Desmond
 - From August to October 2019, Disability Rights of WV has assigned three service requests for assistance from D/HH individuals.
 - The EMT Communication Card, made in collaboration with WVCDHH and other agencies, is nearly complete. A first draft of the card was shared with the board.
- Mary Ann Jividen
 - A presentation provided statistics regarding Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliances' (EPDA) requests for assistance for years 2017, 2018, and 2019. The requests for assistance are from the D/HH community in eight counties of the eastern panhandle of WV. The requests are growing each year, so EPDA needs more assistance to continue to serve this community.
 - EPDA and WVCDHH will host Deaf WestiVal on November 7, 2020 in Martinsburg. The theme of the event is "Clear Communication in Your Community."

- Scott Hottle
 - DSC (Deaf Service Center) has been in operation for one year. They hope to improve the skills of interpreters in the state and get the younger deaf community more involved with events, advocacy, and education.

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the August 8, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Mark Gandolfi made the motion to approve the minutes. Cyndi Shaver seconded. Minutes were approved.

V. Staff Report

Sarah Lowther shared information from the written staff report.

- Highlights included:
 - a. Bailey Davis was interviewed for the temporary Office Assistant position on August 19, 2019. After careful consideration, the job was offered to her. Bailey started working at WVCDHH on September 23, 2019.
 - b. Earnest Covington III resigned from the Executive Director position at WVCDHH on September 10, 2019. His last day in the office was October 11, 2019. Effective on November 23, 2019, Sarah will serve as the interim Executive Director until the position is filled.
 - c. The vacant Executive Director position will be posted soon. A hiring committee from the Board will be formed to assist in the search.
 - d. The WVCDHH website has been updated and redesigned, and it will be moved to a new address soon. Content is currently being updated and added to the site.
 - e. The Nominating Committee met before the Board Meeting in August. Dr. Nancy Gillispie was nominated for the Audiologist position on the Board. The completed paperwork was received and submitted the Governor's Office. The appointment to the Board is pending.
 - f. There is now one vacant position on the Board: D/HH Community Representative. When received, additional applications for this position will be collected and brought to the Board for review.
 - g. WVCDHH worked with Janelle St. Martin to set up a new EIPA testing date and location. The test will be held on November 23, 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. Three movies were shown throughout the months of August, September, and October. One movie will be shown in November, and another movie will be shown in December.
 - i. "Deaf Night at the Power" was held on August 30, 2019. In total, there were 2,535 fans in attendance. Prior to the night, all two hundred admission tickets were given away to the D/HH community. Jennifer Casto performed the National Anthem. John Burdette and Casey McDaniel threw the first pitches of the game. The event also had five educational videos in ASL shown on the videoboards before and during the game, a "silent inning," and an exciting firework show at the end of the night. Interpreters were stationed at the ticket booth, concession stand, and in the seating sections to provide equal communication access throughout the evening. The team wore beautiful ASL jerseys during the game. During the game, an auction was held for a chance to win the jerseys. All jerseys were sold and distributed to the winners. \$2,005 was raised from the auction, and the proceeds were given to local D/HH organizations. This was the most successful auction of the Power's 2019 season. The jersey was also recognized by MiLB and nominated for a 2019 Golden Bobblehead award in the Specialty Fan Vote category.

- j. Planning for next year's Deaf Awareness Day has begun. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020. Arrangements are also being made for WVSDB students to attend Deaf Awareness Day, and then visit the Clay Center for museum exploration and a possible workshop program afterwards.
- 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 34 likes since August 9, 2019 for a total of 1,211. We have had nine posts gain over 500 "reaches." Our highest 1,565 people reached from a single post.

VI. Committee/Task Force Reports

- Executive Committee: No report.
- Nominating Committee: There is now one vacant position on the Board.
 - The Nominating Committee met before the Board Meeting in August. Dr. Nancy Gillispie was nominated for the Audiologist position on the Board. Board Assurances paperwork was mailed on August 14, 2019. The completed paperwork was received on August 26, 2019, and then it was submitted the Governor's Office. The appointment to the Board is pending.
 - For the vacant D/HH position, a decision will be made after more applications are received.

VII. Board Member Reports

- No reports.

VIII. Future Meeting dates

- February 13, 2020 – Charleston, WV
- May 1, 2020 – Parkersburg, WV

IX. Adjournment

Roy Forman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Gwen Bryant seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.