

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Minutes  
August 16, 2007

John XXIII Pastoral Center  
Charleston, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Visitors:
Doug Godfrey	Molly Simonton	Jennifer Casto
Pierre Sevigny	Marty Blakely	
Gary Vandevander	J.D. Corbin	Interpreters:
John Knisely		Dolly Ford
Dr. Charles Abraham	Staff:	Janelle St. Martin
Melinda Siler	Deanna Stone, Executive Director	
James Ennis	Roy Forman, Deputy Director	
Emily Hopta	Kari Preslar, Secretary	
Jennifer Burgess		
Annette Carey		
Pat Moss		
Barbara King		
Pam Roush		
Dr. Michael Sullivan		

I. Call to Order

Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

II. Reading of the Mission Statement and Introductions

John Knisely read the WVCDHH Mission Statement.

III. Election of the Chair

John Knisely made a motion to elect Doug Godfrey as the WVCDHH chair. Annette Carey seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the May 17, 2007, meeting were reviewed. James Ennis made the motion to accept the minutes. Pierre Sevigny seconded. Motion approved.

V. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Stone shared her written report. The Annual Report is finished and is being reviewed. It needs to be submitted to the Governor's office by September 30.

Old Business

VI. Parent Guide Update

Deanna received an email from Joni Alberg stating that the licensing fee for the whole book is \$2400.00. We can make the changes that pertain to West Virginia. After reviewing the contract, John Knisely suggested that the Commission ask BEGINNINGS

if we could pay an additional amount in order to receive a perpetual license instead of the three-year license that is in the contract. John made the motion to authorize the Commission to spend up to \$5000.00 for a perpetual license. Pierre Sevigny seconded. Motion approved.

#### VII. Mentors

Annette Carey updated the board on the mentorship program. The Department of Education has hired Jennifer Casto as the lead mentor. Currently there are 32 mentees in the program. Jennifer Casto then spoke about what she has been doing and her goals for the program. There are eight mentors: Jennifer, Antonia Hall, Tracie Bryant, Shari Loar, Claudia Mals, Karen Hott, Roy Forman, and Janelle St. Martin.

#### VIII. WVAD Conference

Roy Forman shared about the conference held in Charleston on August 3-4, 2007. The Commission paid about \$2000.00 to sponsor refreshments. On behalf of the Board, Doug expressed his appreciation for the work Roy has done in working with WVAD.

#### IX. Needs Assessment

Doug said the needs assessment has been completed and is currently being distributed. It was distributed at the WVAD conference and everyone is encouraged to make it available throughout the state.

#### X. Deaf Awareness Week

Roy shared the list of activities that are planned at Romney for Deaf Awareness Week, September 24-28. He will do a presentation on "Knowing Your Rights in Medicine."

#### XI. ASL Certification

Annette shared that the process is at a stand-still right now. There are issues regarding who is qualified to be a teacher.

#### XII. Foreign Language Test

Annette's department is working on developing a test that would allow Deaf or Hard of Hearing students to test out of the foreign language requirement. They would receive the credits needed for knowing ASL. Barb King suggested that a letter from the Commission may be helpful to let WVDE know that the Commission is in support of this test.

Annette and Deanna will draft a letter. Commission members will have the opportunity to add their name to it if they want. Emily Hopta suggested the letter go out in September. Emily made the motion to authorize Annette and Deanna to draft a letter.

Pierre Sevigny seconded. Annette abstained. Motion approved.

#### XIII. WVU Audiology Issue

Deanna gave an update on an issue that James Ennis brought to the Commission's attention at the May meeting regarding the conduct of an audiologist at WVU with his daughter and granddaughter. On June 29 at the Cochlear Implant task force meeting, Deanna talked about the issue to Leslie Purcell, a WVU audiologist. Gary Vandevander had already brought the issue to her attention. She said WVU had discussed the matter

with the audiologists about the appropriate way to approach families regarding Cochlear Implants. Pat Moss is working with the Center for Disabilities at WVU. They are developing Cultural Diversity trainings to be offered during medical school. The project is being funded by Maternal, Child and Family Health.

#### XIV. EIPA and workshops updates

Deanna reported that Roy has facilitated 36 EIPA tests. Upcoming workshops include:

Sept. 14: Working with Your Classroom Interpreter (for teachers and administrators)

Sept. 15: Professional Conduct and EIPA Test Preparation

Sept. 16: A session with Frances Beaurivage and our mentors

Sept. 29: That's a Wrap

Oct. 20: Effective Fingerspelling

Oct. 21: Effective Fingerspelling

Nov. 10: Basic Skills

#### XV. Bridging the Gap

Deanna shared about the training that she conducted with the State Division of Personnel on June 28. The evaluations were very positive. The training will be repeated. She is also working on developing a similar course to be presented to the State Police.

#### XVI. ASL Program at MC&TC

Deanna reported for Molly Simonton. Marshall Community and Technical College has added ASL classes and Molly is the Director of the program. Teachers will be Molly, Jennifer Casto and Leigh Ann Brewer.

#### XVII. Empowerment Cards

Roy is working on developing a small emergency card that deaf or hard of hearing people can carry with them. He shared several samples that he has received from other states.

#### New Business

#### XVIII. RID Conference

Kari Preslar shared about the conference held August 3-8 in San Francisco. About 2500 people attended. Kari and Trudy Ford attended from West Virginia.

#### XVIX. FY 2008 Budget

Deanna shared the budget with the commission.

#### XX. Office Update

Deanna told the board what her school schedule is for the fall semester. Doug thanked Kari and Roy for keeping the office running so efficiently while Deanna is attending school.

#### XXI. Civil Service Exams

James Ennis brought a concern regarding the accommodations that are allowed for deaf or hard of hearing persons when taking a civil service exam. Pierre Sevigny made the

motion to table this issue until the next meeting in order to get more information. John Knisely seconded. James, Pierre and Doug will research the issue for the next meeting.

#### XXII. Division of Rehabilitation Services

Barb King gave an update on DRS. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Unit is still a viable service with complete staff. Barb distributed a page detailing the program curriculum available.

#### XXIII. ASL Expo

James announced that the ASL Expo will be held in Pittsburgh on November 3.

#### XXIV. Adjournment

Pierre made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.