

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Minutes
August 5, 2010

Division of Rehabilitation Services
Institute, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:

Doug Godfrey
Pierre Sevigny
Dr. Charles Abraham
Marty Blakely
James Ennis
Jamie Mallory
Tammy Phillips
Marsha Dadisman
Christina Mullins
Carla Cleek
Pam Roush
Patsy Shank

Commission Members Absent:

Jennifer Burgess
Annette Carey
Mike Sullivan

Staff:

Marissa Johnson
Roy Forman
Kari Preslar

Interpreters:

Janelle St. Martin
Connie Pitman

Visitors:

Ruby Losh
Erin Fulton
Layne Wilder
Paul See
Liz Leisure
Delores & Roy Pyles
Ron & Janis Williams

John Burdette

Linda Phillips

Donna Williams

Barb King

Donna Whittington

Bill & Nancy Nichols

I. Call to Order

Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m.

II. Reading of the Mission Statement and Introductions

Christina Mullins read the Mission Statement

III. Minutes

Minutes from the May 5, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Dr. Abraham made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Patsy Shank seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Reports

Marissa shared highlights from the written reports.

Old Business:

V. Interpreter Registry

Roy and Marissa reported on the work of the Task Force. The Task Force has decided to go with Virginia's Quality Assurance Screening Program. They will be in conversation with Virginia to finalize the details.

VI. Deaf Tech Fair

Roy shared a photo album that Paula Forman put together. Over 125 people attended. Pierre asked if the DTF could be moved to other cities. This will be one of the discussions for the Awareness Task Force.

VII. Board appointments

Still waiting to hear from the Governor's office to appoint Paul See. Still need applications from audiologists.

VIII. Town Hall Meetings

Kari shared the tentative schedule for future Town Hall meetings.

Tentative Schedule:

Fall 2010:	Huntington
Spring 2011:	Clarksburg
Fall 2011:	Wheeling
	Romney
Spring 2012:	Charleston
Fall 2012:	Harper's Ferry
	Parkersburg
Spring 2013:	Lewisburg
Fall 2013:	Huntington
	Beckley

IX. Fees for Qualified Interpreters

Roy has been in touch with DHHR. John Law and Susan Perry told him it will be put on the agenda for the 2012 legislative session to remove the fees from the Code.

X. Hands & Voices

Jamie Mallory reported on the Hands & Voices conference she and Gwen Bryant attended. The first board meeting was held at the end of July. They have had a good response from parents and professionals. Plans are in the works for a Deaf Mentorship Program for middle school and high school students and they plan to establish the Guide By Your Side program that provides parents important information as soon as they find out that their child has a hearing loss.

XI: DHHR & WVCDHH Relationship

Marissa reported that DHHR senior management is looking at the roles and relationships of DHHR with all of the commissions that are under DHHR. We have not heard anything as of yet.

New Business

XII. National Association of State Agencies for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH)

Marissa attended this meeting on July 6 in Philadelphia. About 20 states were represented. They set the following as priorities:

Access to health care
Data collection – how many people are in each state – how to count them
State agency sustainability
Grass roots advocacy
Stronger standards for ASL teachers

XIII. Deaf Empowerment/Self-Advocacy Training

Marissa has scheduled October 23 as the first training. Topic and workshop leader to be announced.

XIV. Deaf Expo

Pierre Sevigny and James Ennis attended the World Deaf Expo in Las Vegas. Approximately 23,400 people attended.

XV. Fire Alarms

James Ennis made a motion to get fire alarm information from Virginia. Marty Blakely seconded. Motion approved.

XVI. Communication Access

Patsy Shank made a motion to approach Frontier Communications and the PSC to improve communication access and high speed internet service throughout the state. Pierre Sevigny seconded. Motion approved.

XVII. Public Comments

Ruby thanked the commission for supporting her workshop in July.

Roy Pyles: VP needs to be moved out of the hallway. Conversations need to be private.

Bill, Ruby, Roy P., Delores: Parents need to have the choice of whether to mainstream their children or sending them to the School for the Deaf.

Ron: DTF needs to be better advertised. Do exhibits around the state.

Linda Phillips: WVAD is enthusiastic about working in partnership with WVCDHH.

Donna Williams: split Sorenson between the two offices. They did it at her house.

Barb: state agencies need to be brought up to speed on communication access.

XVIII. Adjournment

James Ennis made a motion to adjourn and Marty Blakely seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned 2:45 p.m.

Next meeting: November 4, 2010

