

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
August 3, 2012

WV School for the Deaf
Romney, WV

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marty Blakely• Pierre Sevigny• Jamie Mallory• Tammy Phillips• Angela Wilson• Annette Carey• Christina Mullins• Rachel Gill• Pam Roush• Lynn Boyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Charles Abraham• Paul See• Marsha Dadisman• Mike Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marissa Sanders• Kari Preslar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roy Forman• Paula Forman• Worthy Devericks• Lois Devericks• Kevin Maynus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connie Pitman• Shari Loar• Cindy Kessel• Lori Milcic• Danielle Filip

I. Call to Order

Marty Blakely called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Pam Roush read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

Minutes from the May 12, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Minutes approved unanimously.

IV. Nominating Report

The Nominating Committee (Marty, Pierre, Annette, Tammy, Jamie, Marissa) presented their recommendations:

Audiologist: Karen McNeely (1st choice), Brandon Lichtman (2nd choice)

Deaf/Hard of Hearing: Liz Leisure (1st choice), Linda Phillips (2nd choice)
John Burdette (1st choice), Doug Evans (2nd choice)

A motion was made by Annette Carey to accept Karen McNeely to fill the audiologist position and if she declines to accept Brandon Lichtman. Rachel Gill seconded. Motion approved.

Pierre Sevigny made the motion to accept Liz Leisure to fill one of the positions for Deaf/HH and Linda Phillips if she declined and John Burdette to fill the second Deaf/HH position and Doug Evans if he declined. Angie Wilson seconded. Motion approved.

V. Staff Report

Marissa shared highlights from the written report.

- Marissa attended the Fairmont Pig Roast on July 14 and she attended the meeting of the National Association of State Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on July 2.
- **Interpreter Task Force:** A grant application for \$70,400 has been submitted to the Division of Rehabilitation Services to help pay for the VQAS and NIC tests. If awarded, the grant should begin October 1, 2012. Interpreters are encouraged to go ahead and take the VQAS now before the price rises. That test is done in Richmond, VA. Beginning October 1, 2013, it will be mandatory for interpreters to have one of the tests in order to interpret in West Virginia.
- **Smoke Alarm Project:** Barbara King was been contracted with to coordinate this project. Marissa presented the application form to be approved. Annette Carey made the motion to approve the form with amendments. Angie Wilson seconded. Motion approved.
- **VLOG:** Marissa showed the first draft of a vlog that she and Marty did. Pierre made the suggestion to put the WVCDHH logo in the background. The vlog still needs to be approved by DHHR before it can be posted on the website.
- **VLOG and Facebook page:** Jamie Mallory made the motion for Lynn Boyer to write a letter to DHHR to request a Facebook page and to request an easier process to update the vlog without having to get each video approved by DHHR. The letter will also include types of topics that the vlog will cover. Marty will sign the letter. Tammy Phillips seconded. Motion approved.
- **Medical Appointment Cards:** Some will be distributed at the Community Meeting. They will be sent to the printer next week.
- **Personnel:** Marissa has finished a draft position description for the vacant position. She sent it to HR for feedback.
- **State Code Committee:** A draft of the updated bill has been developed. Commissioners have a copy to review.
- **Website:** The website has been updated. Marissa would still like to receive comments from Commissioners regarding what they like from other websites, especially in terms of content, before making more changes.
- **Emergency Planning/Response:**
 - Following the June 29 storms, Marissa and Kari worked hard to get emergency contact information out the best that we could, when we had working electricity and internet.
 - Marissa also posted information extensively on her personal Facebook page since WVCDHH does not have a Facebook page at this time.
 - Marissa participated in daily conference calls with emergency responders and FEMA in the 2 weeks following the storm. She provided information and feedback to help them make information accessible and to help them hire interpreters for cooling centers.
 - On July 4, FEMA emailed Marissa requesting an interpreter for a TV interview the Governor was going to do that evening. She found an interpreter, then the interview was cancelled. The interview was rescheduled and Marissa located another interpreter. They then cancelled the interview however they did the interview later without contacting Marissa again.
 - On July 31, Marissa participated in a FEMA region 3 disability integration conference call.
 - Marissa has been working on a booklet with emergency contacts/phone numbers for distribution. She put together a page of basic signs to give out to emergency workers.
 - She is working on collaborating with various organizations to set up a statewide text system. The FCC is working on making it mandatory.

- Rachel Gill made a motion for Marissa to work with the Legislature on developing a bill that would create a more efficient way to communicate with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing during emergencies. Jamie Mallory seconded. Motion approved.
- **DMV:** The issue with the DMV not providing interpreters has been resolved.

VI. Board Roles/Responsibilities

Marty Blakely: All members are responsible for everything that the Commission does – not just the Executive Director and the staff. Marty would like to request that each board member attend at least two Deaf Clubs each year. The Commission will pay for an interpreter for those who need one. Lynn suggested that members bring students to the Deaf Club meetings. Annette Carey said that the Commission needs to be represented at other organizations as well, for example, AG Bell, Hands & Voices, etc.

VII. Executive Committee

Marty and Marissa would like an Executive Committee of the Board formed that would include the Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary and a fourth person (possibly the Nominating Committee chair). This committee would be available to respond to issues that come up between board meetings. Pierre Sevigny made the motion for three or four people to work on roles/responsibilities of an executive committee and to bring recommendations for the expectations of a board member back to the board. Tammy seconded. Motion approved. Those who will work on this include: Marty, Angie, Tammy, Jamie, Pam, Marissa. Pam will take the lead to get the meeting started.

VIII. Emergency Preparedness Plans

Since we will not be having a Deaf Tech Fair this year, Marissa suggested that we plan some kind of emergency preparedness workshop or forum. Lynn Boyer made the motion to hold a workshop/forum on emergency preparedness in conjunction with Deaf Awareness week at WVSD. Rachel Gill seconded. Motion approved.

IX. State Code

Suggestions for the draft bill:

- §5-14-3(c): Consider how to get more broad-based recommendations for new Commission members.
- §5-14-3(a): Instead of requiring 2 interpreters at every Commission meeting, state that Commission meetings will include accessible communication.
- §5-14A-9 (Interpreter for the Deaf Act): Consider whether to remove the requirement for a legislative rule to establish a fee scale. Instead state that WVCDHH will maintain a list of average pay ranges on their website.

X. Beliefs of the Commission

- Angie Wilson distributed some statements that the committee decided on for each of the Beliefs and Behaviors that were approved at the last meeting. She asked everyone to choose one statement for each word. She will email it out to the members not here today and she will compile the most popular statement for each word.

XI. Board Meeting Dates

Meetings will include a Community Meeting.

- November 2 in Fairmont
- March 15 in Charleston
- May 17 in Beckley

XII. Priorities for the next board meeting

- State Code
- Interpreter Registry
- Roles/Responsibilities of Executive Committee
- Strategic Plan (Christina will work on)
- Emergency Response Bill

XIII. Community Meeting Plans

- Introductions by Commissioners
- Marissa will give a brief presentation of projects, etc. of the Commission
- Participants will be divided into small groups to answer several questions

XIV. ASL as a Foreign Language

Annette shared that the problem with moving ASL as a foreign language forward has been the issue of highly qualified instructors. She said the legislation has been created making an exception to that rule. Pending approval the new requirements would be a BA and courses specifically in foreign language and how to teach foreign languages. Instructors would need to demonstrate their proficiency in ASL by passing one of several tests approved by the State Board of Education.

XV. FCC Grant

Annette said a grant from the FCC to make internet telephonic devices available for the deaf/blind has been approved. Brochures and applications will be developed soon.

XVI. Public Comments

XVII. Executive Committee

Tammy Phillips made the motion to go into Executive Session. Angie Wilson seconded. Motion approved.

Jamie Mallory made the motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Tammy Phillips seconded. Motion approved.

XII. Adjournment

Annette Carey made the motion to adjourn. Christina Mullins seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Next meeting: November 2 in Fairmont (tentative). 10 a.m. start time.