

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
August 12, 2016

DRS Offices
Sabraton Plaza, 1415 Earl Core Road, Morgantown, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul See• John Burdette• Gloria Hollen• Rachel Gill• Roy Forman• Tammy Phillips• Gwen Bryant• Angela Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annette Carey• Pam Roush• Christina Mullins• Karen McNealy• Nancy Sullivan• Susan White• Martin Keller	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earnest Covington• Sarah Lowther• Rachel Rajca	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paula Forman• Ruby Losh• Kelly Barnard• Bridget Dannemann	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Josh Reaser• Stephenie Woodall

I. Call to Order

Paul See called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Rachel Gill read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

The minutes from the May 13, 2016 meeting were reviewed. John Burdette requested a correction be made to the spelling of 'Anne' to 'Ann' in Mary Ann Jividen's name. John Burdette made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Motion approved.

IV. Public Comments

- Ruby Losh
 - The community is really appreciative of the Commission's work during the flooding.
 - October 7-8, 2016 is the Interpreter Retreat. Friday will include a workshop for educational interpreters and students who do not have the EIPA. Hilary Hardin is coming from Minnesota to present on the code of ethics. The retreat will provide .9 CEUs.
 - At a recent meeting, the ITF discussed hiring a neutral facilitator at hospitals to monitor the use of interpreters, VRI, etc.

V. Staff Report

Earnest Covington shared information from the written staff report.

- Highlights included:
 - a. A letter was sent to the Governor recommending the renewal of Gwen Bryant (Parent of D/HH child) and Dr. Karen McNealy (Audiologist) on May 19, 2016. We are awaiting approval from the Governor for these reappointments.
 - b. Earnest has worked with the WV-ADA office to set up captioning services for live streaming of legislative sessions held at the state capitol and through WV Public Broadcasting Services.
 - c. During the flood crisis, staff created several captioned videos to update the D/HH community on resources for those affected, as new information was provided. Feedback from this project was very positive.
 - d. On July 8, 2016, WVCDHH had a mid-year staff meeting to discuss goals for the rest of the year.
 - e. Sarah worked with DHHR MIS to add a link for community members to submit their own events for the calendar on the WVCDHH website.
 - f. The Commission worked with the Secretary of State's office for inclusion in the "Why I Vote" project they are currently implementing. Commission staff chose a native WV D/HH community member for this project.
 - g. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 134 likes for a total of 653. We had three posts topple over 1,000 "reaches." Our highest was 1,830 people reached from a single post. This is a 152 person increase reached than on our most popular post reported by the last Board meeting in May.
 - h. Commission staff recognizes a need to update the TCDLP. Commission staff sees a need to provide more current technology and also have a more organized system for loans.

VI. Committee/Task Force Reports

1. Executive Committee: No report.
2. Interpreter Task Force:
 - The ITF met on August 3, 2016 in Charleston, WV
 - Rachel is working with Jennifer Casto to set up a VQAS written test date in Martinsburg, after learning of the interest during the town hall meeting in May.
 - The letter to the Tax Department on why interpreting should be considered a professional service and therefore not responsible for collecting sales tax was edited, approved and sent.
 - Ruby Losh and Jennifer Casto are working to set up the 2016 Interpreter Retreat on October 7-8 at the Mollohan Research Center in Fairmont.
 - The ITF is working on collaborating with different agencies to ease the funding issue the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is experiencing by high volumes of WV interpreters.
 - The WVRI is regularly updated to reflect those newly qualified and those who have let their qualifications lapse.
 - There are 91 registered interpreters on the WVRI. Sixty-two are West Virginia residents, and twenty-nine are located out-of-state. One was removed from the registry due to false qualifications.

3. Nominating Committee:

- The Nominating Committee met to choose from the five applications received for the ENT position on the board. A candidate was chosen. A letter will be sent to the Governor for approval.
- Once the ENT position is filled, there will be a full board.
- The D/HH position previously held by Marty Blakely is now open. Applications will be accepted for possible voting at the upcoming Board Meeting in November.

VII. Emergency Information/Notification for Deaf/HH

- At the Natural Disasters for Community Leaders workshop, WVCDHH staff networked with local emergency responders interested in future collaborations on programs to improve services for D/HH individuals.

VIII. Board Member Reports

- Gloria Hollen
 - She and the community are thankful WVCDHH came to Martinsburg in May for the town hall meetings.
- Gwen Bryant
 - The WV Hands and Voices Deaf Awareness Week Picnic will be held on October 24, 2016. Exhibit tables will be set up by different organizations and agencies. There will be a selfie contest and a video contest, along with games and activities at the picnic.
- John Burdette
 - He is thankful for the Commission's work with FEMA for the flooding in June.
 - WVAD is having a picnic tomorrow, August 13, 2016, in Burnsville, WV.
 - WV Relay/Sprint renewed their five year contract.

IX. Strategic Plan

- Many goals from the Strategic Plan have been met.
- A Board Retreat will be held on November 3, 2016, the day before the Board Meeting. This retreat will be used to discuss and update the Strategic Plan. Paul See asked that members come to the retreat with ideas prepared for the Strategic Plan.

X. Executive Session

John Burdette made the motion to go into Executive Session without the public, transcribers, and WVCDHH staff members present. Motion approved.

The motion to go out of Executive Session was approved. WVCDHH staff returned to meeting at 12:47 p.m.

XI. Future Meeting dates

- November 4, 2016 – Charleston, WV
- February 3, 2017 – Romney, WV
- May 19, 2017 – Wheeling, WV
- August 3, 2017 – Beckley, WV

XII. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.