

# West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes  
August 3, 2018

DRS - Clarksburg District & Branch Office  
153 West Main Street, Suite F, Clarksburg, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paul See</li><li>• John Burdette</li><li>• Gwen Bryant</li><li>• Roy Forman</li><li>• Pam Roush</li><li>• Gloria Hollen</li><li>• Angela Wilson</li><li>• Crystal Miller (proxy for R. Gill)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Karen McNealy</li><li>• David Blaine</li><li>• Susan White</li><li>• Nancy Sullivan</li><li>• Christina Mullins</li><li>• Barbara Calhoun</li><li>• Mark Gandolfi</li><li>• Wendy Garrison</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Earnest Covington</li><li>• Sarah Lowther</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gina Desmond</li><li>• Earl Hollen</li><li>• Christina Payne</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stephenie Woodall</li><li>• Josh Reaser</li></ul>

## I. Call to Order

Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

## II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

- Roy Forman read the Mission Statement.

## III. Public Comments

- Gina Desmond
  - She attended WVCDHH's Hospital Representative meeting in July, and she thought that it was excellent.
  - She is still receiving calls from Sheriff's offices to request D/HH Visor Cards. The mailing seems to have helped to spread the word about the Visor Cards.

## IV. Minutes

The minutes from the May 11, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Gloria Hollen made the motion to approve the minutes. John Burdette seconded. Minutes were approved.

## **V. Staff Report**

Earnest Covington shared information from the written staff report.

- Highlights included:
  - a. The Interpreter Coordinator position is still vacant after nearly two years. No new applications have been received.
  - b. Wendy Garrison, Low Incidence Coordinator with the West Virginia Department of Education and member of our Board, has resigned.
  - c. On June 30, 2018, the Board term for the Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing position expired. A letter was sent to Tammy Phillips inviting her to reapply for a consecutive term in this position, but she has decided not to continue serving on the Board. Tammy's resignation letter was submitted to the Governor's Office in June.
  - d. The vacant Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing position on the Board has been announced. Applications will be collected for individuals interested in serving on the Board.
  - e. The D/HH Visor Cards were updated to include more contact information, along with Disability Rights of WV's logo for all their assistance with the project. Since the project began, we have dispersed nearly 3,000 Visor Cards to individuals and organizations, which includes law enforcement offices throughout the state.
  - f. New test dates for the EIPA performance test will be offered once registration applications are received. A tentative test date will be in Fall 2018.
  - g. WVCDHH has continued to work with Regal Cinemas in Nitro, WV to offer open captioned movies to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Six movies were shown throughout the months of May, June, and July.
  - h. In July, a meeting was held with hospital representatives from around the state to discuss the needs of D/HH patients. Members of the D/HH community were also asked to attend to share experiences at hospitals. A presentation about Deaf/Hard of Hearing Patients in Hospitals was shown. The meeting was a big success, and we are hopeful that changes will be implemented to better serve patients.
  - i. WVCDHH, DRS, WVATS, and WVAD are continuing to work together, alongside the Governor's Office, to develop captioning for the legislative sessions. Plans are being made to have the captions available during live streaming of the sessions.
  - j. Big changes have been made to our upcoming event, Deaf WestiVal. The event has been moved from the Civic Center in Charleston to the Running Right Leadership Academy and Conference Center in Julian. The date has also been changed to Friday, September 21, 2018. The new venue has free parking and admission. It will also allow us to hold two Town Hall Meetings and to serve lunch and refreshments throughout the day.
  - k. Deaf Awareness Day is scheduled for February 27, 2019 at the Capitol.
  - l. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 58 likes since May 12, 2018 for a total of 974. We have had twenty-nine posts gain over 500 "reaches." Our highest was 3,041 people reached from a single post.

## **VI. Committee/Task Force Reports**

- Executive Committee: No report.
- Nominating Committee: No report.

## **VII. Board Member Reports**

- Paul See
  - A discussion was held about the possibility of scams when requesting an interpreter after he received a strange text requesting assistance.
  - No names or other contact information was given via text. Also, no other contact was made after the initial text.
- John Burdette
  - WVAD will have a picnic on August 11, 2018 at Summersville Dam in Shelter #3 from 11:00 AM until dusk. Food will be served at 2:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

## **VIII. Future Meeting dates**

- November 2, 2018 – Charleston, WV
- February 28, 2019 – Nitro, WV
- May 3, 2019 – Romney, WV
- August 8, 2019 – Morgantown, WV

## **IX. Adjournment**

Gloria Hollen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. John Burdette seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.