

# West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Minutes

August 8, 2019

Lakeview Resort  
1 Lakeview Drive, Morgantown, 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>• Emily Hopta</li> <li>• Rachel Gill</li> <li>• Gloria Hollen</li> <li>• Mary Anne Clendenin</li> <li>• Cyndi Shaver</li> <li>• Susan White</li> <li>• Roy Forman</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Gandolfi</li> <li>• David Blaine</li> <li>• Pam Roush</li> <li>• Christina Mullins</li> <li>• Angela Wilson</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>• Crystal Miller</li> <li>• Paula Forman</li> <li>• Worthy Devericks</li> <li>• Darlene Crawford</li> <li>• April Hottle</li> <li>• Larry Hubbard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josh Reaser</li> <li>• Ashley Turley</li> </ul>

## I. Call to Order

Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

## II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

- Roy Forman read the Mission Statement.

## III. Public Comments

- Gina Desmond
  - Disability Rights of WV has received requests for assistance from D/HH individuals. During the last quarter, services have been provided for four cases.

## IV. Minutes

The minutes from the May 3, 2019 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 Annual Debt Certification was signed for FY2019. It states that WVCDHH has no debt.

- b. WV House Bill 2816: a bill to remove the terms “hearing impaired,” “hearing impairment,” and “deaf mute” from the West Virginia Code and substituting the terms “deaf or hard of hearing,” “hard of hearing,” “hearing difficulties,” or “difficulties in hearing” according to context. The bill was passed and signed by the Governor in March. It went into effect on June 6, 2019.
- c. The WVCDHH website will be updated, redesigned, and moved to a new address later this year. The state-contracted website company, WV Interactive, is currently working to design and build the new site.
- d. The Nominating Committee met before the Board Meeting in May. Cyndi Shaver was nominated for the Teacher of the D/HH position. Gwen Bryant was also nominated to serve for a consecutive term in the Parent of a D/HH Child position. The Board Assurances paperwork from both nominees was submitted to the Governor’s Office in May. The appointments for both Gwen and Cyndi were confirmed by the Governor on July 11, 2019.
- e. There are two vacant positions on the Board: D/HH Community Representative and Audiologist. When received, applications for these positions will be collected and brought to the Board for review.
- f. WVCDHH worked with Janelle St. Martin to set up three EIPA testing dates in Spring. The first two tests were held in March and April. The final test was given to three applicants on May 11, 2019 in Charleston at the WVCDHH office. Additional testing dates and locations for the EIPA will be established in Fall 2019.
- g. The EIPA contract with Janelle will expire on November 30, 2019. The contract will be renewed and reestablished when the date is near to continue offering EIPA testing.
- h. 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. One movie will be shown in August.
- i. “Deaf Night at the Power” will be held on August 30, 2019. The night will include: five videos in ASL shown on the videoboards, live interpreters for the National Anthem and during the game, the opportunity to throw the pre-game first pitch, educational tables for WVCDHH and other organizations, fireworks shown at the end of the night, and two-hundred tickets for the community. There will also be team jerseys with ASL letters that will be worn during the game, and then auctioned off; the proceeds will go to local Deaf organizations. Contracts, along with other required paperwork, have been submitted and approved by DHHR Purchasing.
- j. WVCDHH will be collaborating with EPDA to host Deaf WestVal 2020 in Martinsburg. The tentative date will be November 7, 2020. EPDA will help to plan the event, while WVCDHH will sponsor the workshops and location. More plans will be made as the date approaches.
- k. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 76 likes since May 4, 2019 for a total of 1,177. We have had twenty-eight posts gain over 500 “reaches.” Our highest was 2,441 people reached from a single post.

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

- Executive Committee: No report.
- Nominating Committee: There are two total vacant positions on the Board.
  - The Committee met before the Board Meeting to discuss the vacancies and the received applications.
  - A candidate was chosen for the Audiologist position. A letter will be sent to the candidate to request the required Board Assurances form be completed. With receipt of the completed form, a letter will be sent to the Governor recommending the appointment.
  - For the vacant D/HH position, a decision will be made after more applications are received.

## **VII. Board Member Reports**

- Mary Anne Clendenin
  - The WV Department of Education previously did not have interpreters on contract. Now, there is a bid out for interpreters to secure contracts.
  - She would like the Board Members to share more information during the meetings to keep up to date with each agency or organization.
- Crystal Miller
  - The Division of Rehabilitation Services recently held an event called “Reach for the Stars” in collaboration with the WV Department of Education and the Deaf Services Center. It was very successful. She would like to continue holding this event in the future.
  - Glenville State College is currently serving a Deaf student. All accommodations have been provided.

## **VIII. Future Meeting dates**

- November 15, 2019 – Huntington, WV
- February 13, 2020 – Charleston, WV
- May 1, 2020 – Parkersburg, WV

## **IX. Adjournment**

Gloria Hollen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Roy Forman seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.