

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

August 10, 2023

Holiday Inn – Clay Boardroom  
400 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Charleston, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Public Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul See</li> <li>• John Burdette</li> <li>• Nancy Gillispie</li> <li>• Gwen Bryant</li> <li>• Roy Forman</li> <li>• Rae Bates</li> <li>• W. Clayton Burch</li> <li>• Angela Wilson</li> <li>• Gloria Hollen</li> <li>• Julie Shoeman</li> <li>• Mary Anne Clendenin</li> <li>• Crystal Law (Proxy for R. Gill)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mekell Golden</li> <li>• Cyndi Shaver</li> <li>• Regina Woodcock</li> <li>• Dawn Embrey-King</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Lowther</li> <li>• Erik Essington</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earl Hollen</li> <li>• Doug Casto</li> <li>• Christine Firkins</li> <li>• Brandon Hall</li> <li>• Karen Kingrey</li> <li>• Chris Mick</li> <li>• Jean Marie Suddreth</li> <li>• Hal Suddreth</li> <li>• Darlene Crawford</li> <li>• Mary Beth Mothersell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer Casto</li> <li>• Cody Cutlip</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

- Paul See read the Mission Statement.

## III. Public Comments

- Karen Kingrey
  - She would like to see more interpreter retreats, along with Deaf community member retreats.
  - She also thinks that the BEI test should be explored for use with interpreters in the state.
- Christine Firkins
  - After attending several meetings, she is greatly concerned about the goals of WVCDHH. She believes that no goals have been shown or accomplished during the meetings.
- Chris Mick
  - He would like WVAD and WVCDHH to work together on D/HH issues.
  - He would also like to approach police departments in the state for additional training.

- Hal Suddreth
  - He has experience working with police departments. He would like to be a liaison for the trainings, and then work with both WVCDHH and WVAD to accomplish this.
- Rob Mason
  - He stated that the state police academy has placards.

#### **IV. Minutes**

The minutes from the May 19, 2023 meeting were reviewed. John Burdette made the motion to approve the minutes. Angela Wilson seconded. Minutes were approved.

#### **V. Staff Reports**

Erik Essington and Sarah Lowther shared information from the written board report.

- Highlights included:
  - a. Applications for vacant and expiring positions on the Board were submitted to the Governor's Office in June. The Governor made five appointments: John Burdette, Paul See, Gloria Hollen, Roy Forman, and Julie Shoeman. Four of the five selections were reappointments. Julie is a new appointment.
  - b. The term for the Otolaryngologist/ENT position on the board expired in June 2020. Applications can be submitted to fill this position.
  - c. WVCDHH is in the process of also becoming a Local Test Administrator for the EIPA to offer both the written and performance portions of the test. Testing equipment was ordered for the performance portion, which includes a camera for recording the applicants.
  - d. The WVCDHH website and social media are updated on a regular basis.
  - e. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 49 followers since May 2023 for a total of 1,657. There have been 1,756 page visits. The page reach is 9,658. Audience statistics - Men - 23.40% / Women - 76.60%.
  - f. Deaf Awareness Day 2024 has been reserved and will be held on February 28, 2024. The date will be during the 2024 Legislative Session. The event will take place on both the Senate and House sides of the Upper Rotunda at the Capitol in Charleston.
  - g. WVCDHH is attempting to work with various universities in the state to start a new Deaf Studies program, which will focus on deaf education and interpreting.
  - h. WVCDHH is sponsored a two-part virtual workshop presented by Allisun Kale. The first session was held on April 15, 2023, and the second session was held on June 10, 2023.
  - i. WVCDHH is also sponsored a virtual interpreting workshop on June 5, 2023. The workshop was presented by Christine Mitchell, and there were thirteen participants.
  - j. WVCDHH hopes to sponsor, organize, and provide more workshops for interpreters and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community throughout the state in the near future.

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

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

## **VII. Board Member Reports**

- John Burdette
  - He thinks more community interpreters are needed in the state. He also would like to have in-state tests to become qualified.
- Gloria Hollen
  - She was a former teacher at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. There was an ASL program at the school previously, but there were workforce issues that caused the program to dwindle.
- Crystal Law
  - The Governor has a program to advance careers. She suggested that interpreters be added to the program to entice more people to begin training.
- Roy Forman
  - He stated that he received complaints while at a Deaf event about having trouble reaching WVCDHH by phone.
- Mary Anne Clendenin
  - WVDE has been working on WV House Bill 4414 over the last few years with DHHR to collect data.
  - WVSDH hosted an interpreter retreat recently and would like to bring it back annually.
  - Romney will become an EIPA test administrator and should be ready by Fall. Tests will be given monthly by four test proctors. There will be no fee except for the test payment.
  - The Fall Conference for teachers and students with hearing loss will be held on September 28 and 29, 2023. It will focus on literacy and language.
- Clayton Burch
  - He would like to partner to get more interpreters, training, and teachers in the state.
  - There are CTE programs in several counties in the state.
- Julie Shoeman
  - She suggested working together with Gallaudet University.

## **VIII. Future Meeting dates**

- November 3, 2023 – Charleston, WV
- February 29, 2024 – Charleston, WV

## **IX. Adjournment**

John Burdette made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Gwen Bryant seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.