

# West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes  
December 9, 2011

Bridgeport Conference Center  
Bridgeport, WV

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marty Blakely</li><li>• Pierre Sevigny</li><li>• Paul See</li><li>• James Ennis</li><li>• Marsha Dadisman</li><li>• Angela Wilson</li><li>• Annette Carey</li><li>• Robin Simmons (for Christina Mullins)</li><li>• Rachel Gill</li><li>• Shari Loar (for Lynn Boyer)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Charles Abraham</li><li>• Jamie Mallory</li><li>• Tammy Phillips</li><li>• Mike Sullivan</li><li>• Pam Roush</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marissa Sanders</li><li>• Kari Preslar</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Doug Evans</li><li>• John Burdette</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connie Pitman</li><li>• Brianna Butler</li></ul>

## I. Call to Order

Marty Blakely called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

## II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Annette Carey read the Mission Statement.

## III. Minutes

Minutes from the August 4, 2011 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **IV. Staff Report**

Marissa shared highlights from the written report:

- Kari and Marissa moved into temporary space on November 22. We will move into Suite 800 at 405 Capitol Street hopefully within the next couple of weeks.
- The Interpreter Task Force is on hold. They are still working on how to pay for the tests.
- Marissa will be requesting a budget increase for 2013.
- Legislative issues: The Education sub-committee has been studying the Education and Communication Barriers resolution. They have been requesting Marissa to arrange for people to make presentations to the committee.
- Marissa is planning on holding a meeting in January with the school interpreters to discuss re-classification.
- The amendments for the two legislative rules passed:
  - Fees for Qualified Interpreters: The changes increase the pay scale by about \$20 per hour.
  - Required Qualifications and Ethical Standards for Interpreters and Transliterators: The change increases the length of time an interpreter's registration is valid from two years to three years to match the Virginia requirement for when interpreters must retake the QAS test. Also, the term "transliterators" has been deleted from the rule.
- Legislative Reception: The best time to have a reception is either for breakfast or in the evening at the hotels where the members are staying. The Women's Commission has a reception already scheduled for the evening of February 6 and is willing to have us join them (with help with costs).
- Marissa is working on the paperwork to hire a temporary employee to fill in some of what Roy was doing. She will also be working with Personnel on posting for the new position.
- Board Development Training: At the retreat one of the requests was to have a board development training. Marissa has been in contact with an attorney, Jennifer Hill, who is willing to do a training. Some of the topics would include: the role of the board in supervision, setting policies, how committees work, roles of officers and executive committees. Marsha asked if the trainer could recommend any resources that would be helpful for the board members to have.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **V. State Code Committee**

- Annette Carey reported for the committee. The committee requested discussion from the board regarding the role and responsibilities of ex-officio members, increasing the number of Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals on the board and how many make a quorum.
- Annette made a motion that ex-officio members do retain their voting rights and the state code be amended with language that the designee needs to report back to their respective agency. Angie Wilson seconded. Motion approved.
- Annette made a motion that a quorum be defined as 50 plus 1 with a minimum of two Deaf or Hard of Hearing board members present. James Ennis seconded. Motion approved.
- At the next board meeting, the board needs to discuss:
  - The representation of ex-officio agencies and their roles;
  - The number of Deaf or Hard of Hearing board members;
  - Exempt vs. non-exempt employees.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **VI. Purpose Statement**

- At the November Retreat, the following was discussed as a Purpose Statement for the Commission: Empower the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in West Virginia through programs, services, and legislation. Angie Wilson made the motion to accept the Purpose Statement. Paul See seconded. Motion approved.

### **VII. Vision Statement**

- Following the discussion at the November retreat, Angie Wilson created the following Vision Statement: Diversity, Equality, Access and Fairness for Deaf and Hard of Hearing in West Virginia. Angie made the motion to accept the Vision Statement. Paul See seconded. Motion approved.

### **VIII. Values**

- At the retreat, members discussed beliefs and behaviors of board members and staff. A list of beliefs (What do we believe about the deaf and hard of hearing and the work of WVCDHH?) and a list of behaviors (How do we expect one another, including staff, to behave?) was created. The retreat facilitator recommended that a small group refine the list to 10 or fewer points for each. These values can then be posted for consumers to see in PR materials and other documents.
- The Committee to discuss values will be Angie Wilson, Rachel Gill, Paul See and Christina Mullins.

### **IX. EPA**

- Marsha Dadisman reported that the DHHR Executive Leadership Team is requesting EPA forms for all Executive Directors of the boards and commissions. The board needs to determine what they expect from Marissa and how to evaluate. The form will be emailed to the board and members are asked to include items that are important.
- Paul See made the motion to request Marissa to write a draft EPA and the board members will review and work on as a full board. Annette Carey seconded. Motion approved.

### **X. 2012 Meeting Dates**

The following dates are tentative.

- February 6 – Charleston (include Legislative reception)
- May 11 – Parkersburg
- August 3 – Romney
- November 2 – Charleston

### **XI. Strategic Plan Framework**

The discussion was done with the whole board.

- Public Engagement and Awareness: At the retreat this group suggested an annual conference that would bring different groups together including deaf/hard of hearing consumers, service providers, medical personnel, etc. The board suggested making it a bi-annual conference to be held on the off years from the WVAD conference and hold it the first weekend of August (Friday/Saturday). Marty Blakely and Rachel Gill will head up a committee.
- Other strategic plan priorities will be discussed at future meetings.

## **XII. Budget**

- Annette Carey made the motion to increase the 2013 budget by \$10,000. Shari Loar seconded. Motion approved.

## **XIII. Legislative Session**

- Since we don't have any bills on the agenda this session, it will be a good time to lay the ground work for the state code changes and to build relationships with the legislative members.
- Marissa attended a meeting that the Statewide Independent Living Council sponsored in order to develop a consensus agenda for all disability groups. It will be a good forum to include WVCDHH issues.
- Pierre Sevigny made the motion to request Marissa to attend the 2012 Legislative sessions. James Ennis seconded. Motion approved.

## **XIV. Adjournment**

- Shari Loar made the motion to adjourn. Annette Carey seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.