

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
February 28, 2014

Division of Rehabilitation Services
Charleston, WV

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marty Blakely• Paul See• Tammy Phillips• Angela Wilson• Annette Carey• Rachel Gill• Claudia Mals• Christina Mullins• Nancy Sullivan• Karen McNealy• Susan White• Liz Leisure• John Burdette	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jamie Mallory• Pam Roush	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marissa Sanders• Kari Preslar• Holly Courtney	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scott Hottle• April Hottle• Gwen Bryant• Christina Payne• Roy Forman• Paula Forman• Donna Williams• Luke Hottle• Mitchell Miller• Ruby Losh• Jon Tackett	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connie Pitman• Ashley Cobb• Stephenie Jaggie

I. Call to Order

Marty Blakely called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Claudia Mals read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

The minutes from the November 22, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Paul See made the motion to approve the minutes. Liz Leisure seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Report

Marissa shared highlights from the written report.

- Marty Blakely accepted an award from the Human Rights Commission on behalf of WVCDHH.
- Legislative Update: Not much has been happening in the Legislature this year. The Hearing Impaired license plate bill was reintroduced but did not make it out of committee. The Hearing Aid bill was put on the agenda twice. It was tabled once and discussed a second time for it didn't make it out of committee. Hands & Voices did a great job of locating families who have had difficulties getting hearing aids so that will help for next year's session.

- WV Registry of Interpreters:
 - Marissa shared the results of the feedback survey. Liz Leisure made a motion to set up a meeting with the Interpreter Task Force to review the results and discuss what to do next to bring back to the board for discussion. Paul See seconded. Motion approved.
 - WVCDHH will be sending two interpreters to the TerpExpo in Detroit in April.
 - We will be changing the information listed on the Registered Interpreter list to include whether they are qualified for community interpreting or not and the hours they are generally available to interpret (daytime or evening).
 - Tammy Phillips made the motion to revisit the membership of the Interpreter Task Force and to establish it as a work group in order to advise the board and to finish the FAQ document. Liz Leisure seconded. Motion approved.
- Marissa met with Becky Neal in the Governor's office regarding the importance of always having an interpreter for press conferences and the need for closed captioning.
- Holly has been working on the DVD to teach people how to install the accessible smoke alarms however she has had difficulty doing the closed captioning. Angie Wilson will contact a person she knows in the Journalism Department at Marshall University to see if this is a project that students might take on. Susan White will send Marissa information on NIH grants for videos.
- Following a discussion on emergency response, Annette Carey made a motion that the Deaf board members accompany Marissa to a meeting with Kim Nuckles (the ADA coordinator for the State), representatives from the Governor's office and any others to discuss emergency response. Liz Leisure seconded. Motion approved. Liz amended the motion by suggesting that up to four WVAD officers be invited to the meeting. Paul See seconded. Motion approved as amended.

V. Board Member Reports

- Liz Leisure shared concerns regarding the use of interpreters in hospitals.
- Angie Wilson shared that part of her position with the Division of Labor is to monitor noise levels in businesses. Up to 10 million people have hearing loss due to working situations. She assists companies in understanding options they have in order to minimize the hearing issues among their employees.
- Christina Mullins shared an update on the Kids First Hearing Project – the program for children up to age 18, as long as they are in school, to provide hearing aids when the family either has no insurance or has inadequate insurance. There is enough money for probably about one more year. Christina also shared that her bureau administers the Newborn Hearing Screening Program – required screening for infants before they leave the hospital.
- Annette Carey is involved in the development of a 3-6 year strategic plan for improving services for children with hearing loss. The plan will have 8-9 goals that will guide the department as they update services.

- Rachel Gill shared the plans for the training for DRS counselors in March 2014. Speakers will include representatives from the Helen Keller Association. Rachel attended the PEPNET conference in Denver and is involved in developing WV Today and Tomorrow, a transition program for deaf/hard of hearing students. This project is in the beginning stages. DRS counselors will tour the National Institute for the Deaf (NTID) in Rochester this spring. The annual state conference will be in May. DRS is now spending quite a bit less on hearing aids for their clients. The interpreting fees and policies are in the process of being revised.
- Claudia Mals gave an update on the WV School for the Deaf's commitment to improve the sign language skills of the whole staff. This is the second year of the program and they have seen improvements among staff. In May, the Outreach Program will be hosting a Literacy Weekend for children in the early intervention program.
- Tammy Phillips reported on the success of the short course program at the School for the Deaf.

VI. Interpreter Professional Development Committee

- Annette Carey reported that there are several videoconferences, trainings and workshops on the calendar for the near future for interpreters.

VII. Interim Executive Committee

- Angie Wilson brought the following recommendations to the board. The committee recommended that either the board chair or the vice chair be deaf or hard of hearing and the other position be a hearing board member. After some discussion, Liz made a motion that the preference is for both the chair and the vice chair be deaf or hard of hearing, if possible. Paul See seconded. Motion approved.
- Annette Carey made the motion to accept the structure as amended and the board will establish an Executive Committee with members to be selected at the next board meeting. Claudia Mals seconded. Motion approved.
- Executive Committee Report will be added to the agendas after Introductions.

VIII. Strategic Plan

- Christina Mullins gave an update on the strategic plan.

IX. Public Comments

- Scott Hottle discussed a need to improve education and services to Deaf and hard of hearing children.
- Roy Forman commented on a need to provide services for senior citizens and those losing their hearing.
- Ruby Losh shared the results of a survey conducted by the Deaf and hearing communities.
- April Hottle discussed a need to conduct language assessments for deaf and hard of hearing children. She also implored board members to attend more deaf and hard of hearing community meetings.

- Paula Forman shared about the need for financial assistance for adults to purchase hearing aids. She also discussed a need for improved notification and information accessible to deaf and hard of hearing individuals during emergencies.

X. Executive Session

- Paul See made the motion to go into Executive Session. Angie Wilson seconded. Motion approved.
- Paul See made the motion to exit the Executive Session. Tammy Phillips seconded. Motion approved.
- Susan White made the motion to accept the survey results that were discussed during the executive session. Angie Wilson seconded. Motion approved.
- Susan White made a motion to take the survey from the deaf and hard of hearing communities to a professional survey developer to ask about legitimacy of the questions. Annette Carey seconded. Motion approved.
- Christina Mullins made a motion to have Marissa finalize the strategic and operational plan and approved within six weeks, then posted on the Commission's website for public review and comment. Angela Wilson seconded. Motion approved.
- Paul See made a motion to have Marissa draft responses to each of the issues raised by the survey for the board's review and approval by next week. Rachel Gill seconded. Motion approved.
- Liz Leisure made a motion that Marissa will make a monthly vlog on various topics. Claudia Mals seconded. Motion approved.
- Tammy Phillips made a motion to have the board reach out to Jamie Mallory to see if she plans to continue on the board or resign. Karen McNealy seconded. Motion approved.

XI. Action Items

- Interpreter Task Force meeting to review results from the feedback survey.
- Make changes to the Registered Interpreter list to clarify certifications.
- Revisit the membership of the Interpreter Task Force and establish it as an ongoing work group at the next board meeting.
- Complete FAQ document for interpreters.
- Angie contact Journalism Department at Marshall regarding creating DVDs.
- Susan send information to Marissa regarding NIH grants.
- Meeting with board members and Kim Nuckles and other state officials regarding emergency response.
- Executive Committee to be established at next board meeting.
- Finish strategic plan and operational plan
- Respond to issues brought to the board from the public.

XII. Meeting Dates

- May 30 in Parkersburg

XIII. Adjournment

- A motion was made by Paul See and seconded by Tammy Phillips to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m. Motion approved.