

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
February 28, 2019

DRS Office
10 McJunkin Road, Nitro, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul See• John Burdette• Gwen Bryant• Rachel Gill• Pam Roush• Gloria Hollen• Angela Wilson• Mary Anne Clendenin• Susan White• Roy Forman• Emily Hopta• Mark Gandolfi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christina Mullins• David Blaine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earnest Covington• Sarah Lowther• Barbara Calhoun	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gina Desmond• Earl Hollen• Christina Payne• Crystal Miller• Jennifer Casto• April Hottle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashley Turley• Kelly Golightly

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
 - Disability Rights of WV will continue its mailings to law enforcement offices throughout the state, which includes the D/HH Visor Cards and other information. This year will focus on mailings to city police. Information will be sent to 143 offices. After this year, all law enforcement offices in the state will have received the information.
- Jennifer Casto
 - Sorenson Communications is very excited to now be a community agency for interpreters. Hospitals and local businesses have already reached out and utilized the services.
- April Hottle
 - Deaf Services Center is a new group in Jackson County that is working to provide social opportunities for Deaf families and children, along with ASL classes.

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the November 2, 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. After Board review and approval, the Annual Report for FY2018 was submitted to DHHR in November 2018. The report was then reviewed and edited by DHHR, before submission to the Governor's Office on December 14, 2018.
 - b. The Board term for the Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing position expired in June 2018. The vacant position was announced, and one application has been received.
 - c. In January, a candidate was interviewed for the Interpreter Coordinator position. After careful consideration, the job was offered to Barbara Calhoun. Barbara started on February 11, 2019. The position is classified as temporary. The job duties will include office work, interpreting for office staff when needed, and helping with other projects. She will also assist in creating a DeafBlind Community Task Force.
 - d. After accepting the job in the WVCDHH office, Barbara resigned from the Board as a representative of the D/HH Community effective on February 11, 2019. No applications for this vacant position have been received.
 - e. In February, Karen McNealy resigned from the Audiologist position on the Board. No applications for this position have been received.
 - f. Changes have been made to the registration process for taking the EIPA Performance test. In the past, applicants registered by filling out an application and submitting it to WVCDHH. Now, applicants will register and pay online through the Boys Town website. This new process will save time and paperwork. Sarah will continue to work with Janelle to set up the dates and locations of the tests. There are three testing dates in Spring – March 30, 2019 in Parkersburg, April 12, 2019 in Fairmont, and May 11, 2019 in Charleston.
 - 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. Eight movies were shown throughout the months of November, December, January, and February. Two more movies will be shown in March.
 - h. Several D/HH community members and organizations contacted WVCDHH regarding the mistake made by Governor Justice while discussing WVSDDB in a news video. He mistakenly referred to the school as "Schools for the Deaf and the Dumb." A letter was written and sent to the Governor addressing the issue on February 22, 2019.
 - i. Deaf Awareness Day was held on February 27, 2019 at the Capitol, and it was a big success. Over twenty exhibitors confirmed to attend the event. Delegate Rowan presented a Proclamation for the day in the House Chambers. Students from WVSDDB also performed. Planning for Deaf Awareness Day 2020 will begin soon.
 - j. WVCDHH will be collaborating with EPDA to host Deaf WestiVal 2020 in Martinsburg.
 - k. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 68 likes since November 3, 2018 for a total of 1,073. We have had fifteen posts gain over 500 "reaches." Our highest was 4,259 people reached from a single post.

VI. Committee/Task Force Reports

- Executive Committee: No report.
- Nominating Committee: There are now three total vacant positions on the Board. One application has been received for the Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing position on the board.

VII. Board Member Reports

- No reports.

VIII. Future Meeting dates

- May 3, 2019 – Romney, WV
- August 8, 2019 – Morgantown, WV

IX. Adjournment

John Burdette made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Gandolfi seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.