

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

February 13, 2020

DRS - Charleston Office  
4701 MacCorkle Avenue, SE, Charleston, 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>• Mark Gandolfi</li> <li>• Rachel Gill</li> <li>• Nancy Gillispie</li> <li>• Mary Anne Clendenin</li> <li>• Cyndi Shaver</li> <li>• Angela Wilson</li> <li>• Roy Forman</li> <li>• Gloria Hollen</li> <li>• Emily Hopta</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pam Roush</li> <li>• Susan White</li> <li>• Mekell Golden</li> <li>• David Blaine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Lowther</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paula Forman</li> <li>• Crystal Miller</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashley Turley</li> <li>• Josh Reaser</li> </ul>

## I. Call to Order

- Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

## II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

- Angela Wilson read the Mission Statement.

## III. Public Comments

- No Public Comments

## IV. Minutes

The minutes from the November 15, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Gwen Bryant made the motion to approve the minutes. Roy Forman seconded. Minutes were approved.

## V. Staff Report

Sarah Lowther shared information from the written staff report.

- Highlights included:
  - a. The vacant Executive Director position was posted on December 4, 2019. The deadline for submission of applications was January 3, 2020. The applications were received by DHHR.

- b. The Nominating Committee nominated Nancy Gillispie for the Audiologist position on the Board. Board Assurances paperwork was submitted to Missy Parsons at the Governor's Office. The appointment to the Board was made on January 16, 2020.
- c. There is now one vacant position on the Board: D/HH Community Representative. When received, additional applications for this position will be collected and brought to the Board for review.
- d. The WVCDHH website has been updated and redesigned. Since November, Sarah has worked to create, update, and upload all of the new site's content. After much anticipation, the new website was launched on the new web address on February 12, 2020.
- e. WVCDHH worked with Janelle St. Martin to set up an EIPA testing date and location. The test was held on November 23, 2019, in Charleston at the WVCDHH office. The test was given to two people.
- f. WVCDHH has continued to work with Regal Cinemas in Nitro, WV to offer open captioned movies to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Four movies were shown throughout the months of November, December, January, and February. An additional movie will be shown on February 15, 2020.
- g. WVCDHH will be collaborating again with the WV Power to hold "Deaf Night at the Power." The tentative date will be August 21, 2020. Last year's event was a major success. Planning for this year's event will begin soon.
- h. WVCDHH hosted Deaf Awareness Day on the Senate side of the Upper Rotunda at the State Capitol in Charleston on February 12, 2020. There were twenty-two confirmations for exhibit tables. However, due to dome construction, only eighteen tables were available for exhibitors. Delegate Ruth Rowan presented a Proclamation for the day in the House Chambers. Students from WVSDB also performed in the House Chambers. Deaf Awareness Day 2021 will be scheduled as soon as dates become available.
- i. WVCDHH will be collaborating with EPDA to host Deaf WestiVal 2020 in Martinsburg. The tentative date will be November 7, 2020. EPDA will help to plan the event, while WVCDHH will help to sponsor the workshops and location. Planning has begun.
- j. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 20 likes since November 16, 2019 for a total of 1,229. We have had six posts gain over 500 "reaches." Our highest was 817 people reached from a single post.

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

- Executive Committee: No report.
- Hiring Committee: The Committee has reviewed applications for the Executive Director position. Interviews will be set up soon.
- Nominating Committee: The Committee will vote for Chairperson of the Board at the next meeting in May.

## **VII. Board Member Reports**

- Gloria Hollen
  - She is now the Vice President of WVAD.
  - In Glenville, WV, there is a Deaf inmate. She inquired about visitors, services, and access to interpreters for this person.
- Mary Anne Clendenin
  - On April 4, 2020, there will be an EIPA Workshop. There is usually a good turnout for the workshops. All locations are ADA accessible and provide interpreters.

- She has been working to update interpreter guidelines and D/HH Teacher guidelines. The new guidelines should be rolled out soon.
- There will be ASL classes in Romney in June 2020.
- Gwen Bryant
  - The EHDI Conference will be held in March 2020. The sessions are usually posted on the website afterwards for viewing.
- Mark Gandolfi
  - There has been a 10% increase in enrollment at WVSDB. Outreach services will be expanded to provide more services.
  - A new program has been created that includes rocketry and robotics for the students.
- Nancy Gillispie
  - She explained the ongoing need for Deaf advocates to help those who need assistance.
- Rachel Gill
  - She inquired about the Kids First Hearing Aid Program.
  - The DRS waiting list for hearing aids was opened to allow 1,300 people to receive devices.
- Angela Wilson
  - She explained that there are no deaf employees at the Division of Labor.
  - She helped to create a guide to assist with contracts with deaf individuals.
- Emily Hopta
  - She monitors legislation during the session.
  - She suggested promoting the Accessible Smoke Alarm Program during Fire Safety Week.

### **VIII. Future Meeting dates**

- May 1, 2020 – Parkersburg, WV

### **IX. Adjournment**

Gloria Hollen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. John Burdette seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.