

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Minutes

February 29, 2024

WVCDHH Office
100 Dee Drive, Charleston, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Public Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul See • John Burdette • Nancy Gillispie • Gloria Hollen • Roy Forman • Rae Bates • Regina Woodcock • Angela Wilson • Julie Shoeman • Mary Anne Clendenin • Kristian Ball <i>(Proxy for M. Golden)</i> • Rachel Gill • Cyndi Shaver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W. Clayton Burch • Dawn Embrey-King 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Lowther • Erik Essington • Gwen Bryant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earl Hollen • Crystal Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Casto • Julie Turley

I. Call to Order

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

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

- Paul See read the Mission Statement.

III. Public Comments

- No Public Comments

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the November 3, 2023 meeting were reviewed. John Burdette made the motion to approve the minutes. Gloria Hollen seconded. Minutes were approved.

V. Staff Reports

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

- Highlights included:
 - a. The term for the Otolaryngologist/ENT position on the board expired in June 2020. Applications can be submitted to fill this position.
 - b. Gwen Bryant began working as the Assistant to the Director at WVCDHH in February.
 - c. WVCDHH is still in the process of 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 61 followers since November 2023 for a total of 2,672. The page reach is 5,171. Audience statistics - Men - 17.50% / Women - 82.50%.
 - f. Deaf Awareness Day 2024 was held on February 28, 2024. There were twenty-four exhibitors who registered to have a table at the event. Students from WVSDB and Shoals Elementary performed at the event. Next year's Deaf Awareness Day will be booked as soon as the Capitol is taking reservations.
 - g. Monitoring Governmental Policies - West Virginia House Bill 3035 and 4414, and West Virginia Senate Bill 274.
 - h. WVCDHH is collaborating with University of Charleston's School of Arts and Sciences to develop an ASL Studies Minor program launching in Fall 2024.
 - i. Erik assisted with facilitating the transition of the D/HH program from Westside Middle School to Horace Mann Middle School in collaboration with the Department of Education/Kanawha County Schools.
 - j. WVCDHH is partnering with the Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliance to hold a town hall meeting on May 4, 2024, in Martinsburg, WV.
 - k. WVCDHH is partnering with Marshall University's School Psychology Program to explore best practices and inclusive strategies in working with deaf students with the Department of Education.
 - l. WVCDHH would like to sponsor, organize, and provide more workshops for interpreters and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community throughout the state soon.

VI. Committee/Task Force Reports

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

VII. Board Member Reports

- Gloria Hollen
 - While visiting Morganton, NC, she met with a deaf group home coordinator. The home is for deaf adults and is funded by the state. The facility was very impressive. She hopes to be able to set up a similar facility here in WV.
- John Burdette
 - Students from the Greenbrier Career Technical Education (CTE) Program attended Deaf Awareness Day. The students had opportunities to observe and interact with deaf and hard of hearing people in attendance.
- Mary Anne Clendenin
 - All students with an IEP have unique needs. Parents choose the mode of communication.

- The Department of Education and WVSDDB are offering free ASL classes starting in March 2024. The classes will be online.
- On May 29, 2024, WV Outreach Center will hold an Interpreter Retreat.
- The CTE Program is open to any county in the state.
- Regina Woodcock
 - WV Birth to Three is partnering with Deaf Services Center (DSC).
 - There are eight staff members from DSC who have taken 40 hours of training in early childhood development. The staff are available to teach ASL to clients on home visits. They are also serving as role models to introduce families to deaf events and language.
- Paul See
 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is here in WV to provide support and assess damages from flooding until the end of March.
- Rachel Gill
 - DRS is developing a Meet Your Counselor Day in May at WVSDDB.
 - Due to budget constraints, some services from DRS, like the deaf camps, have been suspended.
 - DRS is working to renew contracts with interpreters and requests guidance from WVCDHH.

VIII. Executive Session

- Gloria Hollen made the motion to go into Executive Session. John Burdette seconded. Motion was approved. Executive Session began at 11:51 a.m.
- Gloria Hollen made the motion to go out of Executive Session. Angela Wilson seconded. Motion was approved. Executive Session ended at 1:23 p.m.

IX. Future Meeting dates

- May 3, 2024 – Martinsburg, WV

X. Adjournment

Rachel Gill made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Gloria Hollen seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.