

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Minutes
July 30, 2009

John XXIII Center
100 Hodges Rd., Charleston, WV

Commission Members Present:

Doug Godfrey
Pierre Sevigny
Gary Vandevander
Dr. Charles Abraham
James Ennis
Marsha Dadisman
Annette Carey
Pat Moss
Barbara King
Michael Sullivan
Patsy Shank

Commission Members Absent:

John Knisely
Jennifer Burgess
Marty Blakely
Pam Roush

Visitors:

Gwen Bryant
Jamie Mallory
Carol Johnson-Cyrus

Staff:

Marissa Johnson, Ex. Dir.
Roy Forman, Deputy Dir.
Kari Preslar, Secretary

Interpreters:

Connie Pitman
Donna Whittington

I. Call to Order

Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:10.

II. Reading of the Mission Statement and Introductions

Annette Carey read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

Minutes from the May 14 meeting were reviewed. James Ennis made the motion to approve the minutes. Pierre Sevigny seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Report

Staff report was reviewed.

Old Business

V. Deaf Child's Bill of Rights

The DCBR sub-committee met on July 17. The Board reviewed the final draft approved by the sub-committee.

Marissa Johnson shared her conversation with John Law. He advised sending a study resolution to the Legislature. The following suggestions were made:

First page: Line 21: Annette Carey will provide Marissa will numbers.

Line 23: question about how many people actually go on to post-secondary education. DRS may have some better statistics.

Second page, Line 1: change to:

Whereas, many individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing remain underemployed after completing school due to significant employment barriers including literacy, communication and (employer or attitudinal) barriers.

Line 6: omit *to education and employment*

Annette Carey made the motion to approve the study resolution with the revisions. Patsy Shank seconded. Motion approved.

VI: Legislative Rule

Roy Forman shared an update on the registry of interpreters following his meeting with DHHR legal staff, Bob Paulson regarding the procedure if an interpreter needs to be reprimanded. If the person is certified through NAD, RID or EIPA, those organizations would take care of the complaint. If the interpreter is not certified, the Commission can omit them from the interpreter directory and no longer recommend him/her. The Commission chair would need to appoint a committee from the board to deal with grievances.

VII. Office of Technology update

Roy has been in contact with Kathy Moore. He will work on getting a meeting organized with agency representatives and Ms. Moore to discuss assistive technologies for state offices (Videophones, Ojo, etc.)

Barbara King suggested that the commission sponsor a one-day seminar for health care providers, in conjunction with ADA representatives, in order to share technology available when an interpreter is not available. (tabled for the Board retreat)

New Business

VIII. Workshops

Kari Preslar gave an update on the workshops scheduled so far. Marissa would like to offer workshops focusing on advocacy, audism, and knowing your rights for deaf constituents. The Commission will commit to a minimum number of workshops for each group: interpreters, deaf, hard of hearing.

IX. RID Conference

Roy will be attending the RID Conference in Philadelphia on August 1-7, 2009.

X. WVAD Conference

Marissa will attend the WVAD Conference in Mineral Wells, August 6-8, 2009.

XI. Relay Service

As of September 30, 2009, Sprint will be the TRS provider for West Virginia.

XII. Town Hall Meetings

Town Hall meetings have been scheduled for the following cities:

Sept. 19 – Morgantown	March 13 – Elkins
Oct. 10 – Institute	March 27 – Parkersburg
Oct. 24 – Wheeling	April 17 – Martinsburg
Oct. 31 – Romney	April 24 – Beckley

Meetings will be 10 a.m. to noon. Refreshments will be served.

The staff will be working with AARP to set up meetings at Senior Centers on the Friday before in each city.

XIII. Fees for Qualified Interpreters

The document needs to be changed and updated. Pat Moss made the motion to table this item for the board retreat. James Ennis seconded. Motion approved.

XIV. Board Retreat

Kari will send out an email asking members to choose which of the following dates is best for them: October 26-27, October 27-28, or October 28-29.

XV. Other Business

Annette Carey is sponsoring a Visual Phonics workshop on October 16-17.

Barbara King said the Family Support Group that meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at DRS in Institute is inviting anyone associated with the deaf to attend (not just family members).

Barbara is sponsoring a meeting at Stonewall Resort on September 8-9, on Assistive Technology.

Pierre Sevigny will be attending the Deaf Senior Citizens Conference in Las Vegas.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion made by Pierre to adjourn. James seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:05.