

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
May 12, 2011

Fairmont State University
Hardway Hall, Room 219

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doug Godfrey• Pierre Sevigny• Marty Blakely• James Ennis• Tammy Phillips• Marsha Dadisman• Angela Wilson• Carla Cleek• Annette Carey• Christina Mullins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Charles Abraham• Jamie Mallory• Pam Roush• Mike Sullivan• Dr. Patsy Shank	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marissa Sanders• Roy Forman• Kari Preslar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liz Leisure• Bill Nichols• Gerald Musick• Vicky Musick• Terry Ford• Eric Pierson• Jennifer Casto• Josiah Kelly• Ruby Losh• Donna Williams• April Starks• Mark McDonald• John Burdette	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connie Pitman• Teresa McGonigle

I. Call to Order

Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

James Ennis read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

Minutes from the February 10, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Marsha Dadisman made a motion to approve the minutes with one change (change "legislatures" to "legislature"). Annette Carey seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Report

Marissa shared highlights from the written report:

- **Contacts:**
 - Marissa and Kari attended the Tapestry performance at the State Capitol.
 - Marissa has attended several deaf events. She also assisted at the Fair Shake Network's ice cream social at the Capitol where she had the opportunity to meet several Delegates and Senators.
 - Marissa attended the Family Leadership First conference at Canaan Valley and she also attended part of a weekend for Deafblind families held at Blackwater Falls the same weekend.

- **Staff training:** The staff have been attending several Division of Personnel trainings and Purchasing trainings.
- **EIPA testing:** Marissa and Roy met with Annette Carey to streamline the EIPA testing and scheduling process. A new system has been implemented. Testing will be done four times a year, with five slots available on each day. Slots will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- **Fire alarms:** Marissa attended a meeting with WVAD members Liz Leisure and John Burdette with the State Fire Marshall's office regarding fire alarms for the deaf. They will be working with the Fire Marshall on finding funding and assisting with distribution.
- **Board appointments:** nominations were delivered to the Governor's office in February but the appointments have not yet been made. As a reminder, board members can continue to serve on the board until you are reappointed or replaced.
- **Budget update:** FY 2012 budget is \$250,667. The \$5,000 increase over last year's budget went to the salary and insurance increases passed by the legislature.
- **Directory:** Marissa and Kari have been discussing creating several different directories instead of one huge book. Each smaller directory will target a specific audience.
- **Constituent trainings:** The Commission conducted two Policy & Advocacy trainings. The last one will take place on June 4 in Martinsburg. Plans are to provide a training that will cover federal laws, ADA, etc.
- **Meeting with DRS:** Marissa's meeting with Deborah Lovely from DRS was cancelled. The meeting will be re-scheduled.
- **Mailing list/database:** The mailing list and contacts are being updated.
- **Community survey:** The final report on the community survey is included in the packet.
- **WVCDHH Library:** The Rehabilitation library is closed. Marissa and Kari helped Carol Johnson-Cyrus pack the deaf collection for moving to the Library Commission at the Culture Center. The Library Commission now owns the collection. We can still donate to the collection. The Library Commission will return any books that they do not want back to WVCDHH.

OLD BUSINESS

V. Interpreter Registry

- Marissa reported that the task force has met several times since the last meeting.
- They have been working on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Virginia to use their QAS. The agreement is for up to 15 assessments for the first year with an average cost of \$354 per assessment. WV will only pay Virginia for the actual number of assessments. The task force is looking for either a LTA or other organization to proctor the test.
- The name for the entire registry process is WV Registry for Interpreters and Transliterators (WVRIT).
- The Registry is mandated for all interpreters to order to interpret in WV (except for a few exceptions). The directory is for public information. Interpreters can choose to be in the directory.
- The task force is still finalizing details on the MOA with VA. They are hoping to begin the registry by Sept. 2011 with Sept. 2012 as the deadline for all to be registered.

VI. Hands & Voices

No report

VII. Strategic Plan & Operational Plan

Tabled

VIII. VRI at Hospitals

Marissa spoke with the Department of Justice. The VRI can be used as the primary method of providing interpreters as long as it is effective communication. Four requirements must be met:

- A dedicated internet connection with enough speed and efficiency to provide clear video
- The individual must be able to see the interpreter's and the deaf person's face, arms, hands, and fingers no matter what position the deaf person is in
- Clear voices that can be clearly understood
- Training provided to users so the VRI can be set up and operated quickly and easily

There is a case in Pennsylvania right now where people are suing over the use of VRI. Need to watch the results of it. It may be possible to get state legislation passed in order to make the requirements more stringent.

X. Hearing Impaired License Plate Update

Marissa received a letter from the DMV stating what they would assist with if the board decided to continue with this project. Following discussion, the board agreed that if this were part of our state code or passed by legislation then we should do it, however it is not. Marsha made a motion to let Delegate Smith know that the Commission respectfully declines taking on the responsibility of distributing hearing impaired stickers and feels that it would be more appropriate for the program to be administered within the framework of the DMV. Annette seconded. Motion approved.

XI. Moving WVCDHH Office

Marissa has received proposals for office space on Virginia Street. Greg Nicholson (Chief Operations Officer for DHHR) told Marissa that she could draft a proposal to the Real Estate Commission and it may get approved. Annette made a motion that as long as there is sufficient parking, all staff are in agreement and there is no additional rent, Marissa should write the proposal to the Real Estate Commission for the Virginia Street office space. James seconded. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

XII. Legislative Update

Marissa and Annette have been working on a survey for people to provide feedback concerning the Deaf Child's Bill of Rights.

XIII. Discussion of WVCDHH and DHHR decision-making processes

Marissa shared an email that she received from Susan Perry attempting to clarify DHHR's role with WVCDHH. Marissa developed a draft flow chart to visualize the process and she will continue to work on it.

XIV. WVCDHH org. chart

The board reviewed a draft organizational chart. Annette made the motion that the board discuss the relationship between DHHR and WVCDHH at the next meeting and each board member review the emails before that time. Marty seconded. Motion approved.

XV. Task Force Membership

At the last board meeting there was a request for written guidelines to be drafted regarding membership on the task forces. Marissa developed draft guidelines. Annette made the motion that as long as they continue to be “guidelines” and can be adjusted as needed, the guidelines be approved. Tammy seconded. Motion approved.

XVI. WVCDHH Website Revisions

Marissa has been working with the website programmer to redesign the website. Anticipated changes include adding a VLOG on the home page and making the site more user-friendly. A draft of a new design for the homepage was distributed.

XVII. March 31 Public Forum Issues

The board identified the following issues that were brought up at the March 31 Public Forum:

- DHHR
 - Interpreters bidding with state
 - Interview panel
 - DRS
 - Board members
 - What WVCDHH can do/cannot do
 - Public relations/logistics
 - Fire safety
 - Board nominations to Governor
- **Interpreters:** Since there are so many issues concerning interpreters, Annette made the motion to establish an Interpreter Stakeholder Group. Marty seconded. The staff will work with board volunteers Marty and Carla to identify 20-25 people from across the state (interpreter agencies, deaf consumers, businesses) to study the issues and ways to address them.
- **Bid process:** Kari explained the interpreter bid process for interpreters to work as a state vendor. A suggestion was made to put the bid process on the website.
- **Board membership:** Membership on the board is established by state code. We must wait for the Governor to appoint members. Annette made the motion that the board write a letter to the Governor requesting the appointments be made. Marsha seconded. Motion approved. Tammy volunteered to draft a letter.
- **Interview panel:** The interview committee for the Executive Director consisted of three Deaf members and two hearing members. Marissa is the person who the interview committee chose.
- **Public Relations:** The Commission will work on improving public relations.
- Annette will organize all of the issues and assign them to appropriate task forces to address.

XVIII. WVCDHH Board Chair Election

Doug has resigned from the board due to a change in his job. Tammy nominated Marty Blakely as Chair. Pierre seconded. Motion approved. Marty will begin his new position on July 1, 2012.

XIX. Executive Session

Annette made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues raised in the March 31 public forum. Tammy seconded. Motion approved.

Pierre made the motion to go out of Executive Session. Marty seconded. Motion approved.

XX. Response to Deaf Caucus

Annette made the motion for Doug to draft a letter stating that the board met and stands in full support of the staff of the Commission. Tammy seconded. Motion approved. The response will be emailed to Eric Pierson and Josiah Kelly.

XXI. Adjournment

Marty made the motion to adjourn. Pierre seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.