

# West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes  
May 13, 2016

DRS Offices  
489 Mid Atlantic Parkway, Suite 2, Martinsburg, 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>• Gloria Hollen</li><li>• Susan White</li><li>• Roy Forman</li><li>• Pam Roush</li><li>• Gwen Bryant</li><li>• Martin Keller</li><li>• Angela Wilson <i>(via phone)</i></li><li>• Mekell Golden <i>(proxy for C. Mullins)</i></li><li>• Crystal Miler <i>(proxy for R. Gill)</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annette Carey</li><li>• Marty Blakely</li><li>• Tammy Phillips</li><li>• Karen McNealy</li><li>• Nancy Sullivan</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Earnest Covington</li><li>• Sarah Lowther</li><li>• Rachel Rajca</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paula Forman</li><li>• Earl Hollen</li><li>• Holly Fox</li><li>• Kelly Bernard</li><li>• Alli Friends</li><li>• Kaye Peacock</li><li>• Tom Jividen</li><li>• Mary Ann Jividen</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brian Millin</li><li>• Stephenie Woodall</li><li>• Nan Cronk-Walker</li></ul>

## I. Call to Order

Paul See called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

## II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Susan White read the Mission Statement.

## III. Minutes

The minutes from the February 29, 2016 meeting were reviewed. John Burdette requested a change: Number IX for his board report should say VRI instead of videophone. John Burdette made the motion to approve the minutes with the change. Susan White seconded. Motion approved.

## IV. Staff Report

Earnest Covington shared information from the written staff report.

- Highlights included:
  - a. Eighty-three solicitation letters were sent to ENTs throughout the state. Eighteen were received back as “unable to deliver.” Five applications to fill the ENT position were received.
  - b. A Town Hall meeting will be held after the Board Meeting on May 13, 2016 in Martinsburg, WV.

- c. WVCDHH will be holding a workshop for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community regarding Social Security Disability Insurance and employment on May 21, 2016 in Weston, West Virginia.
- d. Due to the success of this year's Deaf Awareness Day held at the WV capitol, March 13, 2017 has been established for next year's event.
- e. Earnest has been working with Paul See, Martin Keller, John Burdette, and Ruby Losh to compile a list of Deaf Olympians from WV. Dr. Keller has expressed interest in holding a presentation that would engage the young, Deaf population in hopes of gaining interest in future involvement.
- f. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 66 likes for a total of 519. We had three posts topple over 1,000 "reaches." Our highest was 1,830 people reached from a single post. This is a 650 person increase reached than on our most popular post reported by the last Board meeting in February

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

1. Executive Committee: No report.
2. Interpreter Task Force:
  - The ITF met on April 26, 2016 in Bridgeport, WV.
  - Rachel presented to the interpreter town hall meeting held on May 12, 2016 in Martinsburg on the importance of registering. The ITF recommends setting up a similar presentation in other areas.
  - VQAS – VDDHH is having difficulty with funding. The ITF is exploring alternate ways to alleviate funding due to our large dependency on the screening.
  - The WVRI is regularly updated to reflect those newly qualified and those who have let their qualifications lapse.
  - There are 92 registered interpreters on the WVRI. Sixty-two are West Virginia residents, and 30 are located out-of-state. There are no Certified Deaf Interpreters in the state.
3. Nominating Committee:
  - Gloria Hollen and Martin Keller will join the Nominating Committee.
  - The board still needs an ENT member. Five applications for the position have been received. The Nominating Committee will meet to choose from the applicants.
  - Once the ENT position is filled, there will be a full board.
  - Motions were approved to keep Gwen Bryant and Karen McNealy on the board. A letter will be sent to the Governor for approval.

## **VI. Strategic Plan**

- Many goals from the Strategic Plan have been met.
- The Strategic Plan needs to be updated to reflect the goals that have been met, then add and/or update it with new goals.
- Paul would like to use a Board retreat in the Fall to discuss and update the Strategic Plan. Until then, it is on hold.

## **VII. Emergency Information/Notification for Deaf/HH**

- WVCDHH is waiting to discuss the importance of text-to-911 for Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals with the 911 Committee.
- There will be an AFN workshop in June. There will be different methods of communication. AFN is focusing on Zika Virus right now.

## **VIII. Board Member Reports**

- Gloria Hollen
  - On May 12, 2016, there was a meeting held at Blue Ridge Community and Technical college to discuss establishing an Interpreter Training Program (ITP). A tour of the school was provided. There was a lot of positive enthusiasm for the program. The biggest barrier to creating the program will be funding.
  - A town hall meeting for interpreters was held on the same day after the ITP meeting. It was eye-opening. Mary Ann Jividen added that the evaluations of the meeting were positive.
- Martin Keller
  - Updates on WVSDDB:
    - a. FSA Weekend is May 14-15, 2016. There will be family activities to help get parents involved.
    - b. There has been a 10% increase in enrollment at the school.
    - c. There was a meeting with the Board of Education in Charleston to get a budget for school improvements.
    - d. Using the ASLPI from Gallaudet University at WVSDDB will provide better assessment of skills which will lead to better communication between teachers and students.
    - e. There will be ASL immersion camps offered for families during the summer.
- Roy Forman
  - Pittsburg Association of the Deaf and Greater Morgantown Deaf Alliance are planning a trip to Kennywood in Pennsylvania. The agencies are working together.
- Pam Roush
  - Birth to Five Community of Practice is working to ensure that infants are identified as soon as possible for hearing loss. They are also gathering information regarding statistics and other pertinent information to be included in the WVCDHH annual report.
- John Burdette
  - WVAD, along with WVCDHH, will be attending the West Virginia State Fair as an exhibitor on August 19, 2016. There, we will be able to provide outreach to the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community. We will also show services offered, along with providing opportunities for networking and exposure.

## **IX. Public Comments**

- Alli Friends – She is thankful that the Board Meeting is being held in Martinsburg, WV. She would also like to encourage the creation of WVRID.
- Kaye Peacock – He thinks more senior services are needed in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

## **X. Future Meeting dates**

- August 12, 2016 – Morgantown, WV
- November 4, 2016 – Charleston, WV
- February 3, 2017 – Romney, WV
- May 19, 2017 – Wheeling, WV
- August 3, 2017 – Beckley, WV

## **XI. Adjournment**

Gloria Hollen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. John Burdette seconded. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.