

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes

May 6, 2022

WVCDHH Office

100 Dee Drive, Charleston, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul See• John Burdette• Gwen Bryant• Melanie Hesse <i>(via virtual meeting)</i>• Crystal Miller <i>(proxy for Rachel Gill)</i>• Nancy Gillispie <i>(via phone)</i>• Mary Anne Clendenin• Cyndi Shaver• Lara Miller <i>(proxy for Angela Wilson)</i>• Dawn Embrey-King• Gloria Hollen• Pam Roush• Mekell Golden	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emily Hopta• Roy Forman• David Blaine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah Lowther• Erik Essington		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashley Turley• Cody Cutlip

I. Call to Order

- Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:08 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 February 13, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Gloria Hollen made the motion to approve the minutes. Pam Roush seconded. Minutes were approved.

V. Staff Report

Sarah Lowther shared information from the written Project Director report.

- Highlights included:
 - a. Welcome to our new Executive Director, Erik Essington. He began working on February 14, 2022.
 - b. The draft of the Annual Report for fiscal year 2021 was submitted to DHHR on April 18, 2022.
 - c. There are two terms on the board that will expire on June 30, 2022 - Parent of a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child (Gwen Bryant) and Audiologist (Nancy Gillispie). Renewal letters and Board Assurances paperwork have been mailed to both expiring members.
 - d. There is one vacant position left on the Board: D/HH Community Representative. Applications can also be received for the expired Otolaryngologist/ENT position on the board. When received, applications for these positions will be collected and brought to the Board for review.
 - e. The WVCDHH website is updated and added to on a regular basis.
 - f. WVCDHH hosted Deaf Awareness Day in a virtual format on March 9, 2022. There were many contributors to the Deaf Awareness Day video, including US Senators, other agencies, and members of the D/HH community.
 - g. Deaf Awareness Day 2023 has been tentatively scheduled as an in-person event on March 7, 2023. This date is during the 2023 Legislative Session, and it will take place on both the Senate and House sides of the Upper Rotunda at the Capitol.
 - h. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 161 likes since February 2020 for a total of 1,390. The average post reach is 564 people. Audience statistics - Men - 23.90% / Women - 76.10% in the 35-54 age range.

VI. Committee/Task Force Reports

- Executive Committee: No report.
- Nominating Committee: The Committee will vote for Chairperson of the Board at the next meeting.

VII. Board Member Reports

- Mary Anne Clendenin
 - There is a new WVDE Technical Assistance Center for Accessibility and Transitions located in Romney, WV.
 - There is a shortage of interpreters and teachers of the deaf in the state.
 - The Deaf Mentor program has started in Kanawha County.
- John Burdette
 - He has been doing outreach and advocacy for citizens in his area in Greenbrier County.
- Gloria Hollen
 - The Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliance (EPDA) is overburdened because there are many people who need assistance.
 - She has been working with Mary Anne Clendenin at the Technical Assistance Center.
- Crystal Miller
 - Conference room space is now available for use through the Division of Rehabilitation Services for WVCDHH board meetings.
- Dawn Embrey-King
 - She is new to the board. She replaced former board member, Susan White.

- She meets with county education directors to get information about unmet needs of students with exceptionalities.

VIII. Future Meeting dates

- August 5, 2022 – Romney, WV
- November 4, 2022 – Clarksburg, WV
- March 8, 2023 – Nitro, WV
- May 19, 2023 – Beckley, WV

IX. Adjournment

Gloria Hollen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Anne Clendenin seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.