

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Minutes
 May 3, 2024

Division of Rehabilitation Services
 489 Mid-Atlantic Parkway, Suite 2, Martinsburg, 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 • Mary Anne Clendenin • Cyndi Shaver • Angela Wilson • Julie Shoeman • Mary Anne Clendenin • Monty Hogbin <i>(Proxy for R. Gill)</i> • W. Clayton Burch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rae Bates • Dawn Embrey-King • Mekell Golden • Regina Woodcock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Lowther • Erik Essington • Gwen Bryant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earl Hollen • Paula Forman • Mary Ann Jividen • Christine Firkins • Kaye Peacock • Sandra Pittaro • Cara Dietrich 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becky Brady • Melissa Figueroa

I. Call to Order

- Paul See called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

- John Burdette read the Mission Statement.

III. Public Comments

- Sandra Pittaro
 - She is from the Martinsburg community and has been having issues with the DMV not providing interpreters. The form from the DMV was shown and completed, but an interpreter was not provided.
- Mary Ann Jividen
 - She is the Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliance President. She has also had issues with the DMV in the Martinsburg area.

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the February 29, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Gloria Hollen made the motion to approve the minutes. Roy Forman 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 once received.
 - b. Gwen Bryant resigned from her position of Parent representative on the Board effective on March 5, 2024. Applications can be submitted to the Cabinet Secretary's office and Governor's office when received.
 - c. The term for the Teacher of the Deaf position on the board, held by Cyndi Shaver, expires on June 30, 2024. Cyndi is interested in continuing to serve on the Board.
 - d. 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.
 - e. The WVCDHH website and social media are updated on a regular basis.
 - f. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 85 followers since February 2024 for a total of 2,757. There have been 36 posts made. Audience statistics - Men - 17.30% / Women - 82.70%.
 - g. Monitoring Governmental Policies - West Virginia House Bill 3035 and 4414, and West Virginia Senate Bill 274.
 - h. Gwen is developing a new program data and information request process to assist with investigating the condition of the birth to 21 D/HH population of West Virginia.
 - i. WVCDHH is partnering with the Eastern Panhandle Deaf Alliance to hold a town hall meeting on May 4, 2024, in Martinsburg, WV.
 - j. WVCDHH is sponsoring a free fifteen-week virtual ASL 1 class provided by Dr. Christine Firkins and Karen Prudhomme. The class will begin on May 5, 2024, and end on August 18, 2024.
 - k. WVCDHH will be collaborating with the Charleston Dirty Birds baseball team to have a Deaf/HH night on Friday, June 21, 2024.
 - l. Deaf Awareness Day 2025 will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.
 - m. 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

- Roy Forman
 - He has heard about issues with interpreters within the state having issues getting paid.
 - He also thinks there are not enough workshops in the state for earning CEUs for RID.

- John Burdette
 - He would like to set up more workshops for interpreters.
 - He has been working towards an open captioning bill for movies for eight or nine years. Hawaii and Maryland have both passed bills, and he is hoping West Virginia will be next.
- Gloria Hollen
 - She suggested a task force to help with setting up interpreter workshops.
- Mary Anne Clendenin
 - EIPA tests are still given through WVSDDB.
- Julie Shoeman
 - Money is needed to fund projects, such as increasing interpreter training to build a workforce in WV.

VIII. Future Meeting Dates

- August 2, 2024 – Charleston, WV
- November 8, 2024 – Beckley, WV
- March 20, 2025 – Charleston, WV

IX. Adjournment

Gloria Hollen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. John Burdette seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.