West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Minutes
November 6, 2008
John XXIII Center
100 Hodges Road, Charleston, WV

Commission Members Present:          Commission Members Absent:          Interpreters:
Doug Godfrey                                Gary Vandevander                  Eileen Brown
Pierre Sevigny                              John Knisely                      Jasmin Campbell
Dr. Charles Abraham                        Melinda Siler
Molly Simonton                             Marty Blakely
James Ennis                                Martha Y. Walker                  Staff:
Annette Carey                              Jennifer Burgess                   Roy Forman,
Pat Moss                                   Pam Roush                         Deputy Director
Barbara King                                Dr. Michael Sullivan
Dr. Patsy Shank

I. Call to Order
Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

II. Reading of the Mission Statement and Introductions
Dr. Abraham read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes
The minutes from the August 14, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Barbara King made the motion to approve the minutes. Molly Simonton seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Report
Staff Report was reviewed.

Old Business

V. Deaf Child’s Bill of Rights
Following discussion, Molly Simonton made the motion, Dr. Abraham seconded, for the following to happen:

- Doug will send the draft to the parents (who presented the original document to the board) in January and give them a 30 day comment period.
- Comments from the parents (in writing) will be discussed by the sub-committee at their meeting in February.
- The parents will be invited to attend the February 12 Commission meeting. Any additional action by the board will be decided on at that meeting.

Motion approved.
VI. Legislative Rule
Roy reported that the rule should be read during the next legislative session. Doug contacted RID, the Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Michigan Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing regarding their grievance procedures. He received a reply from Virginia. They have no formal grievance policy. When they receive a complaint against an interpreter, they provide a counseling session with the program manager. If the complaint is against a certified interpreter, then they refer the complainant to the appropriate certifying organization. Doug will continue to research grievance procedures.

VII. Executive Director Update
Doug gave an update on the position. The position was offered to a candidate however that person turned it down. The position will be advertised again through WV Press Services and several websites.

New Business

VIII. 2009 Board Meeting Dates
- February 12
- May 14
- July 30
- November 5

IX. Cochlear Implant Issue
Roy and Annette both received a phone call from an audiologist in Mercer County looking for assistance regarding a Medicaid issue with a child with a Cochlear Implant. Pat Moss will follow-up with Annette to see if she can help.

X. DRS Deaf Unit Closure
Barbara King reported that the Deaf Unit will no longer operate out of the Institute campus as of January 31, 2009. Those needing services will be referred to the field offices. The Blind Unit will be the only training program left at the Institute campus. Annette Carey made the motion to write a letter to the Governor and other legislative leaders expressing the Commission’s concern regarding the lack of services that will be available once the closing happens. Molly Simonton volunteered to draft a letter. Pat Moss seconded. Motion approved with Barbara King abstaining.

XI. Adjournment
Dr. Abraham made the motion to adjourn the meeting. James Ennis seconded. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.