

# West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes  
November 22, 2013

WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind  
Romney, WV

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marty Blakely</li><li>• Paul See</li><li>• Tammy Phillips</li><li>• Angela Wilson</li><li>• Annette Carey</li><li>• Rachel Gill</li><li>• Claudia Mals</li><li>• Christina Mullins</li><li>• John Burdette</li><li>• Karen McNealy</li><li>• Susan White</li><li>• Liz Leisure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jamie Mallory</li><li>• Nancy Sullivan</li><li>• Pam Roush</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marissa Sanders</li><li>• Kari Preslar</li><li>• Holly Courtney</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scott Hottle</li><li>• April Hottle</li><li>• Worthy Devericks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chad Barnett</li><li>• Brian Millin</li><li>• Dean Englehaupt</li></ul>

## I. Call to Order

Marty Blakely called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

## II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Tammy Phillips read the Mission Statement.

## III. Minutes

The minutes from the August 28, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

## IV. Staff Report

Marissa shared highlights from the written report.

- Marissa asked for comments on the 2013 Consensus Agenda on Disability Policy draft from the Statewide Independent Living Council. Suggestions from the board:
  - Under Education: add "for
  - Under Human and Civil Rights: delete "Develop, implement and enforce a standardized process to certify interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing."

Annette Carey made the motion to approve the draft document with the changes. Susan White seconded. Motion approved.

- Strategic Plan: Since the strategic plan has not been finalized, a motion was made by Tammy Phillips that the board meet on February 27 beginning at 3:00 p.m. to discuss and finalize. John Burdette seconded. Motion approved.

- Facebook page: Annette Carey made the motion that the Board directs Marissa to establish a Facebook page for the Commission with informational posts. Controversial issues will be avoided. Angie Wilson seconded. Motion approved.
- Update on Smoke Alarm Project: We've been having some issues with installations not being done in a timely manner. Holly Courtney is working on creating a video that would walk people through the installation process and include other safety concerns. This video would be included with the smoke alarms for the clients to do their own installation. A line will be added to the application asking people if they need someone to come to their home.
- Update on Interpreter Registry: Currently there are 54 interpreters who have registered on the WV Registry of Interpreters. Following discussion on how to get interpreters to register and to deal with complaints, Paul See made the motion that the original interpreter task force reconvene and an interpreter who has not registered be invited to attend. The discussion will be facilitated by board members: Annette Carey, Rachel Gill and John Burdette. Annette Carey seconded. Motion approved.
- WVRI Q & A: Marissa shared a draft of a question and answer document she created to address the Interpreter Registry. A vote to approve will be done by email in order to give board members time to review and comment.
- Website: MIS has created a draft website design. Staff will continue to work with them to make the changes.
- Activities WVCDHH is Required/Allowed to Do by Law: Marissa asked for permission to post this document on our website. She made one change to it: She included what is required by law and what is optional. Susan White made the motion to approve the document with the changes and approve it for the website. Annette Carey seconded. Motion approved.

## **V. Board Member Reports**

- Marissa requested each board member to share with the board any information that would be helpful for the Commission to know that their business/agency is dealing with regarding issues important to deaf/hard of hearing individuals.
  - Christina Mullins shared from the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health that they continue to provide hearing aids for people 18 years old and younger who are un-insured or under-insured however there is a finite amount of money for the project. Once the money is gone it will probably not be re-established. The contact person is Robin Simmons.
  - Annette Carey from the Department of Education:
    - distributed copies of the "Educational Sign Language Interpreters: Guidance for WV Schools and Districts" to board members. She requested board members to not share the document with the public until the second week of December after it is shared with education personnel.
    - The Department is reviewing the requirements for Educational Interpreters. Currently to become a para-professional, they need to achieve a 3.0 for initial certificate and 3.5 for permanent on the EIPA and have 36 college credits. The Department is exploring using the EIPA written test as the requirement

for college credits. Annette will request input from board members as this discussion continues.

- Currently those interpreters with a 3.0 and less than a 3.5 receive an initial certificate that is good for one year and can be renewed once. The Department is considering changing the time period to three years with the option to renew once. During this time, the interpreter would need to take 45 hours of staff development. They would then have six years in order to raise their score from 3.0 to 3.5 or above.
  - The Department has established an Educational Interpreter Professional level. Educational Interpreters can be paid the equivalent of a teacher. They must have a Bachelor's degree, successful completion of the EIPA written test and a score of 3.6 or above on the EIPA performance part.
- Susan White shared the Annual Report from the WV Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children. The biggest concerns that they hear regarding deaf and hard of hearing issues is the recruitment and retention of teachers. They are also seeing an increase in mental health issues among very young children (as young as 3 years old) due to babies born with substance addiction.
  - Rachel Gill from the Division of Rehabilitation Services reported on changes in their hearing aid policy. They are partnering with hearing aid manufacturers and eligibility requirements are now in effect. Previously, there had been no eligibility requirements.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

- Interpreter Professional Development Committee: Annette reported the following workshops have been confirmed or are being considered:
  - 4 EIPA videoconferences sponsored by Boys Town
  - 3 TIE (Terps in Education) cracker barrel sessions to address problems and needs
  - Division of Rehab Services is working on providing two workshops
  - WVSD is considering sponsoring interpreter weekends
  - Annette has been in contact with Frances Beurivage for possible workshops next June
  - The interpreters who attended RID will be presenting workshops based on the classes they took at the conference.
- Interim Executive Committee (Marty Blakely, Tammy Phillips, Pam Roush, Angie Wilson and Marissa Sanders). Angie Wilson reported on items concerning the roles/responsibilities:
  1. Executive Committee will advise/counsel the Executive Director.
  2. They will ensure that meetings are efficient.
  3. If someone misses a meeting, the executive committee will let them know what happened.
  4. Conduct orientation for new board members.
  5. Act when emergency decisions are needed. In the event a decision needs to be made on an emergency basis, the full board will be called for an emergency board meeting. If a quorum is not possible, then the Executive Committee can make the decision until the next board meeting. At the next scheduled board meeting, the committee would explain the situation and the decision made. The board would have the power to cancel the decision.
  6. Create and conduct evaluation for Executive Director. The board will vote to accept or amend.

7. The Executive Committee may be assigned tasks from time to time from the board.
  8. The Commission Chair will serve on the Executive Committee. Recommendation is to add the position of a Vice-Chair.
  9. The Executive Committee will not override the full board.
- Susan White made the motion for the Interim Executive Committee to meet again to discuss the role of a Vice-Chair and to finalize the tasks of the Executive Committee. Paul See seconded. Motion approved.

## **VII. Discussion: How to collect needs of constituents and how those needs can be met**

- Liz Leisure suggested that board members attend Deaf Club meetings and receive permission to be on the docket.
- Annette Carey made the motion that this topic be part of the strategic plan meeting by creating a survey and then identifying the process of who and how to send it out. Susan White seconded. Motion approved.

## **VIII. Language Assessment of D/HH Children**

- This is not part of the Code that WVCDHH is required to do. The School for the Deaf is doing language assessment for their children at the school. Annette Carey suggested that issues of concern need to be addressed to the board in writing and the board will respond in writing.

## **IX. Action Items**

- Board members need to send in ideas/recommendations for the survey to investigate needs of Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals.
- Executive Committee will meet to finalize roles and responsibilities.
- Interpreter Task Force will meet to deal with issues surrounding the Interpreter Registry. Annette, Rachel and John will facilitate.
- Marissa will email the Policy Priorities document for approval.
- Holiday Lunch is scheduled for December 10 at 12:30 p.m. Location will be determined. All board members are welcome to attend.

## **X. Meeting Dates**

- February 27 in Charleston, 3:00 p.m. – Strategic Planning
- February 28 in Charleston. A Community Meeting will be scheduled for the evening.
- May 30 in Parkersburg

## **XV. Adjournment**

The motion was made by Rachel Gill and seconded by Claudia Mals to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. Motion approved.