

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
November 13, 2015

DRS Offices
4701 MacCorkle Avenue, 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• Annette Carey• Karen McNealy• Rachel Gill• Nancy Sullivan• Roy Forman• Susan White• Sarah James <i>(proxy for P. Roush)</i>• Carla Campbell <i>(proxy for A. Wilson)</i>• Mekell Golden <i>(proxy for C. Mullins)</i>• Mark Gandolfi <i>(proxy for M. Keller)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gloria Hollen• Marty Blakely• Tammy Phillips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earnest Covington• Sarah Lowther• Rachel Rajca	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crystal Miller• Holly Fox• Enis Schauffner• Jason Kapcala	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashley Cobb• Kelly Golightly

I. Call to Order

Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

John Burdette read the Mission Statement.

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the August 6, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved.

V. Staff Report

Earnest Covington shared information from the written staff report.

- Highlights included:
 - a. Completed the FY 2015 annual report for board review. The board will review the annual report, suggest any changes, and approve by December 4, 2015.

- b. Worked with DHHR to produce samples of new WVCDHH logos for board approval. The board made suggestions and voted on a new logo.
- c. Received updated list of inventory of the library of resources.
- d. Continuing to create and distribute monthly newsletters via printed and emailed copies.

VI. Committee/Task Force Reports

1. Executive Committee:
 - Members met to perform the Executive Director evaluation before the board meeting.
2. Interpreter Task Force:
 - The WVRI is regularly updated to reflect those newly qualified and those who have let their qualifications lapse. There are 86 registered interpreters on the WVRI. Fifty-eight are West Virginia residents, and 28 are located out-of-state. There are no Certified Deaf Interpreters in the state.
 - Rachel discussed the proposal from the ITF to officially state that WVCDHH has no CEU requirement for WVRI members. The vote passed to remove the requirement because of lack of consistency in publication, and lack of enforcement.
 - Mark Gandolfi made a motion to approve the removal of the CEUs required by the Commission for the time being. He also suggested coming back to next board meeting with a plan for improvements and a timeline for implementing them. Annette Carey seconded. Motion passed.
3. Nominating Committee:
 - The board still needs an ENT member. No applications have been received.
 - Once the ENT position is filled, there will be a full board.

VII. 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.
- The board will go over the Strategic Plan at the next board meeting.

VIII. Emergency Information/Notification for Deaf/HH

- A meeting with Kim Nuckles, the ADA coordinator for the state, was held on November 12, 2015.
- In attendance at the meeting were: Paul See, John Burdette, Roy Forman, Earnest Covington, Rachel Rajca, and Sarah Lowther.
- Issues were brought to the table regarding alerts being sent to Deaf and Hard of Hearing community members during emergencies.
- Annette Carey suggested inviting Kim Nuckles and WV Advocates to a board meeting so that they will get a better idea of the needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

IX. Board Member Reports

- Annette Carey
 - Has been working on getting ASL as a foreign language in WV schools. In 1995, it was added into state code with expectations and standards, but issues arose with finding qualified teachers.
 - Legislation was passed two years ago that will allow teachers to add an additional endorsement to their teacher's certification if they are competent in certain areas.

- As of October 13, 2015, if certified WV teachers can demonstrate proficiency in ASL with the National ASL Praxis test, NIC Certification, or SLPI/ASLPI, they are qualified to teach ASL in high school.
- Sarah James
 - *Come Grow with Us* is a statewide initiative from WV Birth to Three.
 - It is now on the Birth to Three website with lists of available resources.
 - A plan has been submitted to the federal government to help with social and emotional development and growth.
- Earnest Covington
 - a. Has worked with the Public Service Commission. It has been determined that it is not the right time to utilize Communication Service for the Deaf's (CSD) services. Paul agreed and suggested using grants or other funds for better communication access.
 - b. Interpreters want a voice on the board. It was suggested to invite interpreters to attend board meetings with the public so that their voices will be heard. It can be added to meeting agendas to include a time slot for interpreter issues to be brought to the board.
 - c. There is no Mental Health Task Force to address the issues of drugs, alcohol, depression, etc. in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Nancy suggested contacting the Bureau for Behavioral Health before attempting to create a new task force because they may be able to provide the services that are lacking.
- Rachel Gill
 - a. Crystal Miller is now a Rehabilitation Counselor for DRS.
 - b. Rachel is now working with iCanConnect, the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program.
 - Federally funded
 - Geared towards adults and school aged children
 - Provides equipment and training to people with significant combined hearing and vision loss so that they can stay connected to friends and family.

X. Executive Session

Paul made the motion to go into Executive Session without WVCDHH staff members present. Motion approved.

Paul made the motion to go out of Executive Session. Motion approved. WVCDHH staff returned to meeting.

XI. Future Meeting dates

- February 29, 2016 – Bridgeport, WV
- May 13, 2016 – Martinsburg, WV

XII. Adjournment

Mark Gandolfi made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mekell Golden seconded. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.