

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes

November 4, 2022

via

Google Meet

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/dxh-isbs-qek>

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Commission Staff Present:	Visitors:	Interpreters:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul See• John Burdette• Gwen Bryant• Gloria Hollen• Pam Roush• Mekell Golden• Nancy Gillispie• Cyndi Shaver• Angela Wilson• Dawn Embrey-King• Roy Forman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emily Hopta• Rachel Gill• David Blaine• Mary Anne Clendenin• W. Clayton Burch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah Lowther• Erik Essington	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ruby Losh• Jared St. Martin-Brown• Albani St. Martin-Brown• Melanie Hesse• Christine Firkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashley Turley• Julia Townsend

I. Call to Order

- Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

- Paul See read the Mission Statement.

III. Public Comments

- Ruby Losh
 - She stated that the Deaf community needs more assistance with mental health services, care managers, interpreters, and other general services.
- Jared and Albani St. Martin-Brown
 - They shared concerns with a situation involving a deaf foster child in the public school system.
 - The Board offered advice and assistance with the situation.

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the May 6, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Gloria Hollen made the motion to approve the minutes. Roy Forman seconded. Minutes were approved.

V. Staff Reports

Sarah Lowther shared information from the written Project Director report.

- Highlights included:
 - a. Due to the unfortunate lack of availability of interpreters in August, the board meeting was cancelled. We are grateful to have two interpreters joining us for our first Virtual Meeting in November.
 - b. Two terms on the board expired on June 30, 2022 - Parent of a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child (Gwen Bryant) and Audiologist (Nancy Gillispie). Renewal paperwork was submitted to the Governor's Office at the end of May. The paperwork is with the Governor for his consideration.
 - c. There is still 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.
 - d. The WVCDHH website is updated and added to on a regular basis.
 - e. 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. Planning will begin soon.
 - f. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 76 likes since May 2022 for a total of 1,466. The average post reach is 596 people. Audience statistics - Men - 23.30% / Women - 76.70%.

Erik Essington shared additional information.

- Highlights included:
 - g. WVCDHH hopes to work with universities in the state to start a new Deaf Studies program, which will focus on deaf education and interpreting.
 - h. Planning for workshops for interpreters has begun. CEUs may also be available for interpreters through RID

VI. Committee/Task Force Reports

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

VII. Board Member Reports

- No Board Member Reports.

VIII. Future Meeting dates

- March 8, 2023 – Nitro, WV
- May 19, 2023 – Beckley, WV

IX. Adjournment

Paul See made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Erik Essington seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.