

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Minutes

November 3, 2023

WVCDHH Office
100 Dee Drive, Charleston, 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• Gwen Bryant• Roy Forman• Rae Bates• Dawn Embrey-King• Angela Wilson• Gloria Hollen• Julie Shoeman• Mary Anne Clendenin• Kristian Ball (Proxy for M. Golden)• Crystal Law (Proxy for R. Gill) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• W. Clayton Burch• Cyndi Shaver• Regina Woodcock | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah Lowther• Erik Essington | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earl Hollen• Justin Cherry• Paula Forman• Christina Payne• Christine Firkins | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jennifer Casto• Julie Turley |

I. Call to Order

- Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

- Paul See read the Mission Statement.

III. Public Comments

- No Public Comments

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the August 10, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Gloria Hollen made the motion to approve the minutes. John Burdette seconded. Minutes were approved.

V. Presentation

Justin Cherry, Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer, from the Office of Human Resources Management, presented information regarding the policies for operations of Commissions.

VI. 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.
 - b. 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. Testing equipment was ordered for the performance portion, which includes a camera for recording the applicants.
 - c. The WVCDHH website and social media are updated on a regular basis.
 - d. On the WVCDHH Facebook page, we have gained 954 followers since August 2023 for a total of 2,611. There have been 10,500 page visits. The page reach is 310,022. Audience statistics - Men - 17.50% / Women - 82.50%.
 - e. Deaf Awareness Day 2024 has been reserved and will be held on February 28, 2024. The date will be during the 2024 Legislative Session. The event will take place on both the Senate and House sides of the Upper Rotunda at the Capitol in Charleston.
 - f. Monitoring Governmental Policies - West Virginia House Bill 3035 and 4414, and West Virginia Senate Bill 274.
 - g. WVCDHH is working with various universities in the state to start a new Deaf Studies program, which will focus on deaf education and interpreting.
 - h. Erik provided information to first and second-year medical students at Marshall University School of Medicine on deaf-focused individualized and inclusive care in a medical setting.
 - i. Grants were researched through Candid, a comprehensive database on U.S. and global grant-makers and their funding opportunities, provided by the Kanawha County Library. WVCDHH hopes to utilize grants to fund training opportunities and other services.
 - j. WVCDHH would like to sponsor, organize, and provide more workshops for interpreters and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community throughout the state in the near future.

VII. Committee/Task Force Reports

- Executive Committee: No report.
- Nominating Committee: No report.

VIII. Board Member Reports

- Gloria Hollen
 - She is now the Vice President of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf. Their meeting was held during their conference in August.
- Paul See
 - He discussed the goals of WVCDHH, which include setting up town hall meetings to assess needs from different areas of the state.
- John Burdette
 - For Deaf Awareness Day, he would like to invite ASL students from the CTE programs to mentor with interpreters.

- Rae Bates
 - She will send emails regarding questions and concerns that were mentioned during the meeting.

IX. Future Meeting dates

- February 29, 2024 – Charleston, WV

X. Adjournment

Gloria Hollen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Roy Forman seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.