

# WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSION for the DEAF and HARD OF HEARING

## About WVCDHH

The West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) was established in 1989 by the legislature to aid West Virginians who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in their efforts to live independent and productive lives by:

- ◆ **Maintaining a clearinghouse of information**
- ◆ **Maintaining a list of qualified and certified interpreters and American Sign Language (ASL) teachers in West Virginia**
- ◆ **Conducting outreach to raise awareness**
- ◆ **Investigating the condition of Deaf and Hard of Hearing West Virginians**



## WVCDHH Services

- ◆ **Telephonic Communication Device Loan Program**  
Long-term lending of TTYs, amplified phones, and captioned phones for income-qualified individuals with documented need.
- ◆ **Interpreter Registry & Directory**  
Maintaining a registry and public directory of qualified interpreters in WV; coordinating the state testing system for interpreters.
- ◆ **Training**  
Sponsoring trainings for interpreters, Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, and interested businesses or organizations.
- ◆ **Accessible Smoke Alarms**  
Partnering with the Division of Rehabilitation Services to Distribute free accessible smoke alarms for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



*To schedule an awareness training, receive a directory, or for more information about a service, please contact us.*

## WVCDHH Vision



## Know Your Rights!

- ◆ **There are laws in place to protect the rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. They include:**

### The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA states that people cannot be discriminated against because of a disability. Settings under this law include employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and governmental activities.

### §504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The Rehabilitation Act states that people cannot be discriminated against because of a disability in programs conducted by Federal agencies, in programs receiving Federal financial assistance, in Federal employment, and in the employment practices of Federal contractors.

### Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires public schools to provide public education to eligible children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment, while adhering to the child's individual needs.

For a more detailed description of the laws formed to protect your rights, please visit [www.dhhr.wv.gov/cdhh](http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/cdhh)

## Board Members

### Representing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities:

- **Paul See** – Chairperson
- **John Burdette**
- **Roy Forman**
- **Gloria Hollen**
- **Julie Shoeman**

### Representing Service Providers and Family Members:

- **Gwen Bryant**  
Parent of a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child
- **Dr. Nancy Gillispie**  
Audiologist
- **Cyndi Shaver**  
Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- **Currently Vacant** (accepting applications)  
Otolaryngologist (Ear, Nose, Throat Doctor)

### Representing State Agencies (Ex-Officio Members)

- **Mary Anne Clendenin**  
Department of Education  
*Designee for Michele Blatt*  
*State Superintendent of Schools*
- **Rachel Gill**  
Division of Rehabilitation Services  
*Designee for Pisnu Bua-Iam, Director*
- **Rae Bates**  
Department of Health and Human Resources  
*Designee for Sherri A. Young*  
*Interim Cabinet Secretary*
- **Mekell Golden**  
Bureau for Public Health  
*Designee for Dr. Matthew Christiansen*  
*Commissioner*
- **Regina Woodcock**  
WV Birth to Three Programs
- **W. Clayton Burch**  
WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind
- **Dawn Embrey King**  
Advisory Council for the Education of  
Exceptional Children
- **Angela Wilson**  
Division of Labor  
*Designee for Mitchell E. Woodrum,*  
*Commissioner*

## WVCDHH Staff

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WVCDHH is an office within the West Virginia  
Department of Health and Human Resources

# WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSION

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# DEAF and HARD OF HEARING

*The mission of the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) is to advocate for, develop, and coordinate public policies, regulations, and programs to assure full and equal opportunity for persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in West Virginia.*



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