

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Minutes  
February 12, 2009

John XXIII Center  
100 Hodges Rd., Charleston, WV

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Visitors:
Doug Godfrey	Gary Vandevander	Brenda Hall
Pierre Sevigny	John Knisely	Brandon Hall
Dr. Charles Abraham	Molly Simonton	John Burdette
Marty Blakely	Melinda Siler	Toni Hall
James Ennis	Martha Y. Walker	Melanie Wilkerson
Jennifer Burgess	Pam Roush	
Annette Carey	Michael Sullivan	Interpreter:
Pat Moss		Eileen Brown
Barbara King	Staff:	
Ann Behrens (proxy Dr. Shank)	Roy Forman, Deputy Director	
	Kari Preslar, Secretary	

I. Call to Order

Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

II. Reading of the Mission Statement and Introductions

Pat Moss read mission statement.

III. Minutes

Minutes from the November 6, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Marty Blakely made the motion to approve the minutes. James Ennis seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Report

Staff report was reviewed.

Old Business

V. Deaf Child's Bill of Rights

The draft was reviewed.

VI. Legislative Rule

Doug Godfrey provided an update on a formal grievance procedure for Legislative Rule 192. He received an email from Jennifer Apple at RID. She said that many states adopt RID's policy. That policy, however, is 37 pages long. More research is needed in what to include in West Virginia's policy.

Barbara King made the motion that Doug write a letter to Martha Walker, DHHR Secretary, requesting her to identify a liaison who will serve as a legal representative regarding Legislative

Rule 192 as soon as possible. He will also ask her to identify a liaison from her office as a Commission representative. Annette Carey seconded. Motion approved.

#### VII. Executive Director Update

The advertisement was re-posted December 8-22, 2008. The Division of Personnel received nine applicants. Interviews will be scheduled. Pat Moss will replace Molly Simonton on the Search Committee.

#### VIII. Division of Rehabilitation Services

Barbara King updated the Commission on the status of the Life Skills Program for the Deaf closing. A week after the last board meeting, the decision was made to keep the program open but reduce the teaching staff from two to one. After receiving a request for more information, Barbara and Roy traveled to Fairmont State University and met with a group on December 9. Last week, the management changed its mind and the unit will now close June 30, 2009. The interpreters will still be on staff. The closure is due to lack of referrals and no more housing available at the campus in Institute.

Pierre Sevigny made the motion that the Commission draft a letter to the Governor asking him to reconsider the decision to close the Life Skills program. Doug, Annette and Pat will work on the draft. Marty Blakely seconded. Motion approved, Barbara King abstained.

WVAD will also be encouraged to write a letter.

#### IX. EIPA

Annette commended Roy on his work in getting the educational interpreters tested. She said that she is seeing a positive difference in the work of educational interpreters.

#### New Business

#### X. Board Update

Doug reported that Melinda Siler has resigned from the board. Roy and Kari will follow up with Scott Cosco in the Governor's office regarding board terms, vacancies and re-appointments.

#### XI. Workshops

Kari reported on workshops that the Commission is sponsoring.

February 7: sponsored a videoconference from Boys Town, "Classifiers in the Classroom: Incorporating Classifiers in Science, Art and Math". It was presented at the RESA office in Parkersburg and the RESA office in Wheeling.

April 4 in Charleston and April 11 at WVSD, Ruby Losh will present "English Homonyms in ASL".

April 18: videoconference from Boys Town, "Using EIPA Feedback to Develop a Professional Development Plan". We are partnering with the Department of Education to sponsor this workshop. We are waiting to hear which RESAs want to host.

#### XII. Blue Cross/Blue Shield Assistance

Pat Moss reported that through financial assistance from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Office for Maternal, Child and Family Health has been doing Early Screening of children entering school. They are finding many children with health care needs that are not covered under any insurance

policies. The office will begin using some of that money to pay for hearing aids for children aged 3-6 years. Money will pay for ear molds and 6 months of batteries.

#### XIII. Public Comments:

Toni Hall sent an email to Doug Godfrey requesting the Commission include 14 additional points in the Deaf Child's Bill of Rights document. She asked the Commission to reconsider adding these points. Following discussion, Doug will reconvene the sub-committee in order to make sure that points #1, 9, and 11, especially, are included in the document. The board encouraged Toni and the other parents to contact Dr. Paine (state superintendent of schools) concerning specific personnel issues.

#### XIV. Executive Session

Pierre Sevigny made the motion and Dr. Abraham seconded for the board to go into Executive Session. Motion approved.

Dr. Abraham made the motion and Barbara King seconded for the board to adjourn the Executive Session. Motion approved.

#### XV. Adjournment

James Ennis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Annette Carey seconded. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.