

West Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Minutes
February 4, 2010

John XXIII Pastoral Center
Charleston, WV

Commission Members Present:

Doug Godfrey
Pierre Sevigny
Dr. Charles Abraham
James Ennis
Jamie Mallory
Tammy Phillips
Marsha Dadisman
Martha O'Dell
Annette Carey
Pat Moss
Barbara King
Pam Roush

Commission Members Absent:

Marty Blakely
Michael Sullivan
Dr. Patsy Shank

Interpreters:

Janelle St. Martin
Toni Hall

Staff:

Marissa Johnson
Roy Forman
Kari Preslar

Visitors:

Nikki Knipp
Ruby Losh
Jennifer Casto
Ashley Sever
Shelly Beckett
Teresa St. Clair

I. Call to Order

Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. Reading of the Mission Statement and Introductions

Jamie Mallory read the Mission Statement.

III. Minutes

Minutes from the November 3, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Annette Carey made a motion to approve the minutes, Barbara King seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Staff Report

Marissa shared highlights from the staff report. She noted that John Knisely and Gary Vandevander will come to the next meeting to be thanked for their service to the board.

Old Business

V. Deaf Child's Bill of Rights: Marissa is monitoring.

VI. Interpreter Registry

The task force has been meeting every two weeks. They continue to work.

VII. Board appointments

Marissa reported that we still have vacancies for a deaf/hard of hearing member and an audiologist. The deadline for applications has been extended to March 15.

VIII. Town Hall Meetings

Kari reported that the meetings will begin again in March. The staff decided to not hold the Friday meetings at the senior citizen centers due to low turn-out and being fiscally responsible. A sign-up sheet was distributed asking for board members to attend at least one of the meetings.

IX. Fees for Qualified Interpreters

Marissa reported that it is too late to make this request for this legislative session. She will work on getting the updated version to the 2011 session. Barb and Marissa will work on updating the language.

New Business

X. Strategic Plan

Marissa shared the strategic plan, timeline and operational plan.

XI. Interest Survey

A Board Interest Survey was developed to fit board members into the strategic plan. Members are asked to rank their top 3 task forces where they would like to serve.

XII. Budget Update

Marissa did a budget analysis of the Commission's finances at the halfway mark of the fiscal year. She recommended that we start charging \$20-25 for workshops to help offset the budget cuts we have had. Pat Moss contacted her office and we will get \$10,000 from them to help with town hall meetings costs.

XIII. Individual Advocacy Discussion

Marissa requested that the board delineate what "individual advocacy" means. The board needs to determine where the line is drawn. Individual child advocacy is not within our means, especially when there are systems already in place. The gray area is when it's an individual request for doctors, lawyers, or other professionals, where there is no system already in place. We need to find a way to work with those professionals to get a system in place. Public Health has systems in place to assist with health field professionals. The commission cannot step in and respond to every request. Suggestion: to develop local mentors to advocate and speak up for a specific geographic area. This mentor would then be contacted to work with the person having the issue, whether going to the bank with them or meetings with landlords, etc. WV Advocates has expressed an interest to work on developing systems. Doug suggested that this be added to Goal 6: Advocacy. The board determined that the staff is to do their best to refer or provide resources for individuals but we cannot provide individual assistance. The Advocacy Task Force will work to develop systems with professionals.

XIV. Public Comments

Marshall University students are interested in trying to get movie theaters to provide open captioning. Marissa will try to help the students get started.

A question was raised as to why the Commission board does not have a representative from the interpreter community. Doug responded that our Code dictates the representatives who serve and an interpreter is not in code. It would require getting the code changed legislatively in order to add any other representatives. This may occur in the future.

XV. Adjournment

Pierre Sevigny made the motion to adjourn and James Ennis seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Next meeting: May 5, 2010.