

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Minutes  
March 29, 2007

John XXIII Pastoral Center  
100 Hodges Road  
Charleston, West Virginia

Commission Members Present:	Commission Members Absent:	Visitors:
Doug Godfrey	Dr. Charles Abraham	John Burdette
Pierre Sevigny	Melinda Siler	Ruby Losh
Gary Vandevander	Pat Moss	Ashley Harrah
John Knisely	Pam Roush	Rev. Dot Stewart
Emily Hopta	J.D. Corbin	April Hottle
Jennifer Burgess		
Molly Simonton	Staff:	
Marty Blakely	Deanna Stone, Executive Director	
James Ennis	Roy Forman, Deputy Director	
Annette Carey	Kari Preslar, Secretary	
Barbara King		
Dr. Michael Sullivan	Interpreters:	
	Teresa McGonigle	
	April Starks	

I. Call to Order

Doug Godfrey called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

II. Reading of the Mission Statement and Introductions

Pierre Sevigny read the WVCDHH Mission Statement.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 2, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Barbara King made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Gary Vandevander seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Stone shared a written report.

Old Business

V. Parents' Guide

Molly Simonton shared her thoughts regarding a Parent Manual from BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc. in North Carolina. This non-profit agency created this resource to help answer questions that parents of deaf or hard of hearing children might have. Molly recommended that the commission work with BEGINNINGS to secure the necessary copyrights to reproduce it for families in West Virginia. The vote will be at the May meeting.

#### VI. ASL as a foreign language

Annette Carey reported that the content standards were approved by the Board of Education. She distributed copies for review. Annette thanked the members of the committee who worked so hard to get the standards approved.

#### VII. Policy 2419

Annette reported that Policy 2419 will go to the Board of Education at the April meeting. There are several changes to the policy that will affect deaf and hard of hearing students. This policy will put children who have been identified as deaf or hard of hearing under that category instead of under the “developmentally delayed” category that they are currently placed under for services.

#### VIII. TRS Contract

Roy Forman reported that Hamilton is the new TRS provider as of January 31, 2007. They have an 18 month contract with the option to renew.

#### IX. TTY Signage

Roy reported that the Division of Highways has almost completed placing signs indicating where the TTY is located in rest areas throughout West Virginia. Roy thanked Andy Gallagher for introducing him to the DOH personnel who got this project completed. The board asked that thank you notes be sent.

#### X. CI Concerns from November meeting

Doug Godfrey gave an update on concerns that were brought before the board at the November meeting regarding a 3 year old child. Doug visited with the family along with a School for the Deaf employee. The family requested no further action be taken. The family has since moved to Pennsylvania. Doug asked everyone to continue to bring concerns that they become aware of to the board.

#### XI. Mentoring Training

Deanna reported that eight interpreters have been chosen to be mentors for other interpreters in the state. They will attend training on April 28-29 in South Charleston with Frances Beurivage from Boys Town. Roy has facilitated 24 EIPA performance tests.

#### XII. Workshop reports

Roy said the “Interpreting the 3 Rs” workshop in Romney on February 24 was very well received.

Kari said that the “Voicing for Deaf Children” workshop in Huntington on March 17 was also very well received.

#### XIII. Deaf Tech Fair 2007

Deanna reported that the Deaf Tech Fair for 2007 has been cancelled. The Fair will become a biennial event occurring on the years when the WVAD conference does not meet. Before we decided to cancel the Fair, we received logos from students at WVSD.

We invited the Office of the Inspector General (located on the same floor as the Commission offices) to vote for their favorites. Kari shared the top three winners. Marty took the prizes to the students after the meeting.

#### XIV. Retreat Recap

Doug reported that work is ongoing on the most efficient ways to conduct a needs assessment survey.

Deanna gave an update on the rest of the priorities:

Telecommunications – Hamilton is the new relay provider.

Hearing Aid assistance – Kari made contact with the Quota Club in Charleston and now has applications for their recycled hearing aid program.

ADA – Deanna will be teaching a class for state workers.

Deaf Children – The board is reviewing the parent manual resource from North Carolina.

Mission Statement – We now read it at the beginning of each meeting.

#### New Business

#### XV. DHHIG

Doug plans to attend the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Government conference on May 8-10 in Washington DC. He will represent the commission and the IRS. He will give a report at the May meeting.

#### XVI. Rehabilitation Services

Barbara King updated the board on what is happening at the Rehabilitation Center in Institute. Most of the units will close as of June 30. Job evaluation, driver's education, services for the blind and for deaf and hard of hearing will remain open at the center. The center will operate a community training program for students who want to attend any of the vocational schools in the Charleston area. The center will provide housing and transportation. Field services will not be affected by the closing. The deaf unit will continue to operate.

#### XVII. WVAD Conference

Deanna reported that she received two proposals from WVAD to sponsor events at their conference on August 2-4 at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. It asked for \$1220.00 to provide food for two days and for \$600 to help pay for the Emergency Preparedness workshop. Gary Vandevander made a motion that the commission pay for both of the proposals. Barbara King seconded. Motion approved.

XVIII. Pierpont C&TC Sign Language Interpreter Professional Development Seminar  
Deanna shared that the commission will provide \$2500.00 to help offset costs for this seminar that will be held on June 18-21. Doug invited Ruby Losh to talk about it. Steven Walker and Trix Bruce will be the presenters.

XIX. Legislative Update

Deanna reported that the rule to register interpreters was inadvertently omitted from the DHHR rule bundle this year. It will include it in the 2008 legislative session.

XX. WVSD events

Marty Blakely reported that he will proctor the EIPA written test on May 26 at WVSD. He also said that the Academic Bowl will be held on the Romney campus next March. Sixteen teams will compete.

XXI. Public Comments

John Burdette, representing WVAD, said the deaf driver card project is almost complete. Doug Evans has sent a letter to the State Police Academy requesting a meeting with them before the commission prints the placards.

Rev. Dot Stewart, a minister with the United Methodist Church, is hoping to start a deaf ministry in West Virginia.

XXII. Adjournment

Pierre Sevigny made the motion to adjourn the meeting. James Ennis seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.