

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Minutes
May 8, 2015

Parkersburg-Wood County Public Library
3100 Emerson Ave., Parkersburg, WV

| Commission Members Present: | Commission Members Absent: | Commission Staff Present: | Visitors: | Interpreters: |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul See• Marty Blakely• Gwen Bryant• John Burdette• Annette Carey• Rachel Gill• Gloria Hollen• Christina Mullins• Tammy Phillips• Pam Roush• Nancy Sullivan• Shari Loar (proxy for L. Boyer) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karen McNealy• Susan White• Angela Wilson | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earnest Covington• Sarah Lowther | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roy Forman• Paula Forman• Elizabeth Leisure• Ruby Losh• Roger Shanahan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Josh Reaser• Stephenie Woodall |

I. Call to Order

Paul See called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

II. Reading of Mission Statement and Introductions

Marty Blakely read the Mission Statement.

III. Public Comments

Roy Forman suggested updating the printed WVCDHH directory because it is out of date. He wants it to be available to senior citizens with large print versions. Gloria Hollen agreed and wants to encourage senior citizens to use senior centers for more resources.

IV. Minutes

The minutes from the March 20, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved.

V. Staff Report

Earnest Covington shared highlights from the written staff report.

VI. Committee/Task Force Reports

1. Executive Committee: no report
2. Interpreter Task Force:
 - Three nominees for Task Force: Ruby Losh, Antonia Vaughan, and Christina Davis.
 - Current projects:
 - a. Disciplinary actions for non-certified and/or non-registered interpreters.
 - b. Remove the resume and references requirements from registry process.
 - c. Develop a complaint form.
3. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee met prior to the Board Meeting. John Burdette, Tammy Phillips, and Paul See were reappointed by the Governor. The Governor also appointed two new board members: Gwen Bryant and Gloria Hollen. The board would like to appoint Roy Forman as a recommendation from WVAD. The board still needs an ENT member.

VII. Strategic Plan

- All members were asked to review the strategic plan prior to the meeting for discussion. It was determined that the plan needs to be updated to be less detailed and structured to give Earnest more freedom to work.
- The plan will also be updated to identify bigger issues, take away specific due dates, and determine issues to be brought to the Governor.

VIII. Emergency Information/Notification for Deaf/HH

Paul will be working on putting a group together, including WVAD members, to work on emergency notification for Deaf/HH. He hopes the group will be able to meet with Kim Nuckles, the ADA coordinator for the state. The group may start out with ten members.

IX. Board Member Reports

- Annette Carey shared information about the educational interpreters in the state. These interpreters include educational sign language interpreter I and II, and sign support specialists. Annette also spoke about the total numbers of interpreters in the state. Sign support specialists include those who do not work with students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Therefore, the number of sign support specialists does not reflect the number of unqualified interpreters. Annette also mentioned that WVDE is supporting several professional development opportunities this summer. ASL I and II provided by Marshall University at the WVSD and ASL Boot Camp at Pierpont Community and Technical College.
- Christina Mullins shared information about the Kids First Hearing Project. It is administered by the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health (OMCFH). School age children whose insurance does not cover hearing aids may apply for funds to cover the cost. The funds donated by Blue Cross Blue Shield for this project are nearly exhausted. OMCFH expects to be able to continue the Project through summer 2015. If additional funds are not identified, the Project will be discontinued.

X. Staffing Update

- Sarah Lowther started working as the temporary Office Assistant on April 10. Six candidates for the permanent Office Assistant position will be interviewed May 11-14.
- A candidate has been found to fill the Project Manager position. Her name is Rachel Torrence. The Governor has confirmed and approved Rachel for the position. DHHR is finalizing the process.
- All members present were in favor of keeping Paul See as chair.
- Motion was seconded to keep the same five members in the Executive Committee.

XI. Future Meeting dates

- August 6, 2015, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Snowshoe Resort. The WVAD conference will be August 6-8, 2015 at Snowshoe.
- November 13, 2015 – Charleston, WV
- February 19, 2016 – Bridgeport, WV
- May 13, 2016 – Martinsburg, WV

XII. Adjournment

Marty Blakely made the motion to adjourn the meeting. John Burdette seconded. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:03pm.