



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 2016 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2016**

I. Call To Order - Meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM by Pauline Wood, Chairperson.

A. Invocation/Silent Prayer

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call –Susan Dean – A quorum of Commissioners was present.

D. Public Comments – Doug Bortoletto Lisa Chase Potter

Commissioners present:

Dr. D. Alleman	Dr. Moises Arriaga	Jimmy Gore	Jay Isch
Nancy Hicks	Mark Martin	Dr. Lee Mendoza	Kevin Monk
Rana Ottallah	Melodie Sparks	Pauline Wood	Naomi DeDual (non-voting)

Commissioners not present: Senator Y. Colomb Candice LeBlanc Jeri Pilk
Katie Potier Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith Jack Vincent

Commission Staff present: Ashley Poche Susan Dean

Interpreters: Daniel Burch Gayle Coronado Shirley Delahoussaye Malachi Mooney

Captionist: Stephanie Vallet

LDH Staff present: Sheree Taillon Cindy Rives Kevin Suire Jodi Wilson

II Approval of December 2, 2016 Meeting Agenda – Motion: M. Martin/N. Hicks motioned to approve agenda; passed without opposition or abstention.

III Approval of August 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Motion: Dr. D. Alleman/M. Martin motioned to accept August 26, 2016 Commission Meeting Minutes; passed without opposition or abstention.

Approval of October 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Motion: Dr. M. Arriaga/N. Hicks motioned to accept October 7, 2016 Commission Meeting Minutes; passed with R. Ottallah and J. Isch in opposition, and M. Sparks abstaining.

IV Business Requiring Commission Action:

A. Old Business:

- 1. SFY 2017 Budget** - Motion: M. Martin/Dr. M. Arriaga motioned to approve the LCD SFY 2017 Budget. Motion passed with R. Ottallah in opposition.



V. Business for Information Purposes/Reports

A. Officers' Reports:

Chair, Pauline Wood – Louisiana Association of the Deaf (LAD) will host a workshop on January 14th from 9 AM – 2 PM at the Embassy Suites and a social gathering from 2 PM–5 PM. The topic is Conflict Transformation – What Does That Have to Do With Me? The presenters are Heather Harker and Storm Smith with Gallaudet University.

Vice-Chair, Jimmy Gore – no report

B. Director's Report, N. DeDual– The LCD budget changes commissioners approved in October are in progress; and will be complete in early January. LCD staff are implementing these changes quickly so more SSP hours are available to deaf-blind persons.

C. Relay Administration Board Report, N. DeDual and P. Wood – The RAB recently let an RFP for telecommunication-relay services (TRS). Hamilton Relay will continue to serve as the state TRS provider. The Public Service Commission ratified this at their November meeting.

D. Legislators Reports – deferred

E. Commissioners Reports –

Jay Isch - no report

Rana Ottallah – the Deaf Education Summit will be held on January 27-28th in New Orleans – passed out flyers to commissioners – topics include bullying, transition, early intervention, visual learning, mock IEPs.

Melodie Sparks – In August, I was appointed as the LCD Rep to the State Capitol Accessibility Committee. I have not heard anything about that committee meeting yet. Also, Deaf Focus is hosting a town hall meeting on December 10th at 10 AM at the American Legion Hall in BR to have the Deaf community meet with Homeland Security officers and to meet with a service provider that provides sign-language alerts during emergencies and visual alerts in shelters for those parishes that sign up for these. Also, at this meeting, Deaf Focus will distribute money collected in their GoFundMe account to Deaf flood survivors.

Dr. Moises Arriaga - The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently approved the Auditory Brainstem Implant (ABI) for Neurofibromatosis (NF2). NF2 is caused by tumors on the hearing nerves. For NF2, a cochlear implant is not an option for persons who want to hear; and this new FDA approval provides another option. The ABI is also an option for children born without hearing nerves. Also, given recent discussions about existing legislation which requires insurance companies' coverage of sign-language interpreting services for Deaf patients, and commissioners' concerns that these services are not being provided because they are not covered by insurance, will LCD staff invite an Insurance Commission representative to present on this matter at the LCD meeting? LCD staff: Yes.

Dr. Donna Alleman (LSD)– Louisiana School for the Deaf will host their Christmas play on December 21st – starts at 9:00 or 9:30 AM. January 25-29th, LSD will host the Mason Dixon Tournament for basketball and cheerleading. Everyone is invited to support LSD sports.

Nancy Hicks (LDOE) – The Department of Education is sponsoring two projects with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding. The first is with Lighthouse LA to increase the skill level of ten educational interpreters. The second is with LSU Health Sciences Center to evaluate needs of students with communication disabilities; identify beneficial adaptive/assistive devices; and provide training on the adaptive applications and devices.



Mark Martin (LWC) –LWC is working with employees and clients who were affected by the floods. Upon declaration of the recent disasters, a request was made to RSA to waive the state-matching funds requirement for federal funding for rehabilitation services for all Orders of Selection (eligibility categories based on severity of disability).

Dr. Lee Mendoza (LDH) – Louisiana has expanded eligibility for Medicaid which means more persons in LA are eligible for health insurance. Persons who may enroll are LA residents age 19-64 with a household income less than 138% of the federal poverty level; and not already enrolled in Medicaid nor eligible for Medicare. This insurance covers essential services – doctors, hospitals, lab, x-rays, maternity and newborn care, and prescriptions. Before Medicaid expansion in Louisiana, almost a billion dollars a year was spent on healthcare for persons who were uninsured. With Medicaid expansion, the federal government will pay up to 100% of care for persons who are enrolled. Currently, more than 350,000 persons are enrolled in Medicaid expansion; and the goal is to enroll at least 375,000 by the end of June 2017. So, this initiative has already benefitted many. Since Medicaid expansion in LA, more than 3,500 women received mammograms and 45 of these women were diagnosed with breast cancer. This insurance coverage is vitally important for persons to get needed tests and treatment for serious health conditions. Over 3,000 persons received colon cancer screening tests; and almost 800 were diagnosed with polyps, so that's colon cancer averted and prevented. We've seen almost 40 persons diagnosed with colon cancer; and they can now receive necessary medical treatment, which is highly important for them and their loved ones. We think this is a very successful and important program. Many persons have worked hard to make this happen and continue to work hard to make it a success. Also, it's flu season. Flu season peaks between December and February. Every year in LA, 500 people die from the flue; and 3000 persons are hospitalized with the flu. It's important to get the flu vaccine. For information on the flu vaccine, go to <http://www.vaccinefinder.org>

Kevin Monk (LRS) - Ditto remarks by Mr. Martin – the waiver may offer much-needed rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities pursuing employment.

Date, Time and Place of Next Commission Meeting – Motion: J. Isch motioned to establish an additional commission meeting in addition to the regular meeting to focus on the budget. **Substitute Motion:** Dr. M. Arriaga/Dr. L. Mendoza motioned to retain February 17th meeting to discuss only the budget. Roll Call: Yes – Dr. Alleman, Dr. Arriaga, N. Hicks, M. Martin, Dr. Mendoza, K. Monk No – J. Isch, J. Gore, R. Ottallah, M. Sparks Motion Passed.

Motion – M. Sparks/R. Ottallah motioned to establish an ad-hoc budget committee. Motion passed without opposition or abstention. Date of budget-committee meeting: January 19th – 9 AM – 12 PM – Bienville Bldg. Room 118. Committee-member volunteers: M. Sparks, R. Ottallah, J. Gore, J. Isch, M. Martin, Dr. L. Mendoza, Dr. D. Alleman

January 19th - 9 AM (committee meeting) and February 17th - 9 AM (commission meeting).

VII. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Draft of minutes prepared 01/26/17 Minutes corrected on _____.

_____ Recorder	_____ Date	_____ Secretary	_____ Date
c. LCD master file; LCD Board Members; LCD Staff Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Meeting Minutes			
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