



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 17 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2017**

I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Pauline Wood, Chairperson.

A. Invocation/Silent Prayer

B. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Dan Arabi

C. Roll Call – Ashley Poche – a quorum of Commissioners was present (12).

D. Public Comments – Ron Henderson (Commission of Insurance)

Commissioners Present:

Dr. Donna Allemen	Candice LeBlanc	Jimmy Gore	Jay Isch
Dr. Moises Arriaga	Mark Martin	Kevin Monk	Rana Ottalah
Dr. Lee Mendoza	Pauline Wood	Melodie Sparks	Jeri Pilk

Commissioners Not Present:

Sen. Yvonne Colomb	Re. Patricia Smith	Jack Vincent	Katie Potier
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Commission Staff:

Ashley Poche	Susan Dean
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Interpreters:

Shirley Delahoussaye	Laura Sicignano	Melissa Hines	Daniel Burch
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Captionist:

Stephanie Vallet

LDH Staff:

Sheree Taillon	Michelle Alletto	Beth Scalco	Amy Zapata
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II. Approval of February 17, 2017 Meeting Agenda – J. Isch amended to add Captioning Law and Dr. M. Arriaga amended to add Commission for Insurance Staff, Ron Henderson.

Motion to accept as amended: M. Sparks/Dr. L. Mendoza

III. Approval of December 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes – M. Sparks amended a typo on item C, change LET to LED. Motion to accept as amended: J. Gore/J. Isch

IV. Business Requiring Commission Action:

A. Old Business

1. Budget:



Motion: R. Ottalah/J. Isch motioned to take \$10,000 each, from miscellaneous telecommunications and hearing aids to be used for interpreter training.

Motion: M. Martin/Dr. D. Alleman motioned to approve 2018 Budget as amended.

B. New Business

1. Interpreting:

Motion: R. Ottalah/J. Isch/J. Gore motioned to have an Expert in Interpreting come talk at the next meeting in April.

2. Commission for Insurance: Ron Henderson

Went over Laws 22:1027 and 22:225 Interpreting/Insurance

3. Captioning Law: J. Isch

All Public Businesses (state wide) have captioning on televisions or be fined

4. New Director of Louisiana Commission for the Deaf:

Michelle Alletto

A. LCD will be moving under the Office of Public Health, Bureau of Family Services

B. The process of search for a new Executive Director has started

Beth Scalco (Office of Public Health Bureau of Family Health)

A. Explains the Civil Service procedures

Motion: J. Isch/J. Gore motioned to start a search committee for the new Executive Director

Motion: R. Ottalah motioned to adjust the Job Description of the Executive Director to include proficiency in Sign Language and Cultural Competency. (note: no second)

Amended Motion: J. Isch amended motion for a committee meet March 9, 2017 at 9 am to 11 am to adjust the job description. (Committee Volunteers: D. Alleman, J. Gore, J. Isch, R. Ottalah, M. Sparks, L. Mendoza, J. Pilk)

V. Business for Information Purpose/Reports

A. Officer' Reports

Chair, Pauline Wood – No Report

Vice Chair, Jimmy Gore – No Report

Secretary, Jack Vincent – Not Present

B. Director's Report – N/A

C. Relay Administration Board Report, Pauline Wood – Meeting Monday March 6, 2017

D. Legislators Reports, Rep. P. Smith/Sen. Y. Colomb – Not Present

E. Commissioners' Reports –

Jay Isch - Deaf Focus will have a run/walk/sign 5K race event. I'm co-chair of that event and I'd like to encourage the commissioners to go. I have flyers to pass out and it would be important to come out and support and advocate the effort. I would appreciate that.

Rana Ottalah – I would like to update about the summit. We had over a hundred people attending the two day, Deaf Education Summit. We had a positive feedback. Everybody got a lot of information from there and looking forward to next year.

Jeri Pilk – No Report



Katie Potier – Not Present

Melodie Sparks – My two things were the summit and the race. Let me add to what Jay said about the run/walk/sign. After the walk there will be some entertainment, Deaf people entertainment, information about sign language, a celebration about sign and Deaf Culture. That is what's unique about it and should be fun. As Rana said, the summit was successful and we have a very diverse group of speakers and I think it was very positive and we got a lot of good feedback. The education summit is not just for teachers. We had administrators, teachers, interpreters, especially from the mainstream schools. Wish we'd have it Saturday's and Sunday's. We're challenged with that trying to meet the needs. We had audiologists, speech-therapists, teachers of Deaf, administrators, and parents. It was a good mix of people. The presentations included information about auditory verbal therapy for children, cochlear implants, language development, behavioral issues and key note speaker, one of them, was Rachel Holman who parents know as a performer and celebrity who created a lot of signing video. It was interesting to have her there and was interesting to hear her story. They found out a little late, as a toddler. People we very touched by her story.

Dr. M. Arriaga – No Report

Dr. D. Alleman – Louisiana School for the Deaf will have their Annual Play, March 6 at 6 or 6:30. March 10th a public performance and there are schools and visitors that come. The name of the play this year is "Dorothy in Wonderland". It is a mash-up of Dorothy from the "Wizard of Oz" and "Alice in Wonderland".

Candice LeBlanc – No Report

Mark Martin – I'd like to remind everyone, especially the advocates in the room, this is a very rough situation the state is in and I know we have a \$304 million deficit. There is a lot at stake and a lot of programs that are hugely important regarding disabilities. Some could, in fact, be reduced or unfunded. So put your advocate hat on, promote all individuals with disabilities whether be in healthcare, whether it be employment. We just want to be cognizant of where we're at right now as a state and watch it closely.

Dr. L. Mendoza – Louisiana Department of Health, They want to remind everybody that February is National Heart Month. Heart Disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S. So know your blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, and your BMI. Take care of your heart. Also, December I mentioned that we had nearly 350,000 people enrolled in Medicaid Expansion. This is an astonishing number. Our Goal is 375,000 people by June of this year. This week we exceeded 400,000 people enrolled in Medicaid Expansion. This is a huge, huge victory for us, for people in Louisiana. These people now have health insurance where they did not have it before. We can discover more cases of breast cancer, colon cancer, hypertension and other diseases. That's a great thing for Louisiana.

K. Monk – No Report

VI. Date, Time, and Place of Next Commission Meeting –

March 9th – 9am – 11am (committee meeting) and April 21st – 9am (Regular Commission Meeting)

VII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.

Draft of minutes prepared 04/07/2017.