**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf**

**SFY 19 Regular Commission Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes of June 13th, 2019**

**I. Call to Order –** Meeting was called to order at 9:07 am by Pauline Wood, Chairperson.

**II. Invocation/Silent Prayer** – Dan Arabie

**III. Pledge of Allegiance** – Jimmy Gore

**IV. Roll Call** – Nathan Vitale – no quorum of Commissioners was present (9).

**Commissioners Present:**

Jay Isch Pauline Wood

Kevin Monk Dr. Lee Mendoza Ryan Gollner Lisa Potter Jamie Wong Jimmy Gore

**Commissioners Not Present:**

Sen. Yvonne Colomb Chris Gorder Rana Ottallah Jeri Pilk

Melissa Bayham Candace Leblanc Rep. Patricia Haynes Smith

Darlene Austin proxy (Bernice Cooper)

**LCD Staff:**

Ariel Bumbala Ashley Poche Nathan Vitale Jana Broussard

**Interpreters:**

Laura Sicignano Elisabeth Gill Tammy Bennett Wendy Harmon

**V. Public Comment**

**I. Dan Arabie** – Discussed and emphasized his support of ABL. Invites LCD and members of the audience to ABL to go and visit anytime. Recommends that ABL be grandfathered in to continue providing services to the community. Frustrated that DB members didn’t receive any compensation during the ProTactile training, but the trainers did.

**2. Jazmyne Lemar** – Announcement: Invitation to Red stick Day. Grand reopening of the Baton Rouge facility.

August 16th.

**3. Jackie Broussard** – Expressed her support for SSP Program, discussed some history of program, and how for the past 12 years they have been happy with ABL providing the services. Displeased with the reduction in hours. Also mentioned monthly DeafBlind support group at Daigle Hall.

**4. Melinda Granger –** Expressed her support of ABL. Pleased that ABL helped her to learn Braille.

**5. Dover Ling Moe** – Expressed her support of ABL. Pleased that ABL tried to helped her to learn Braille for several years.

**6. Frani Cotty** – Works as an SSP for the last two years. Makes recommendation for SSP guidelines to include holidays and vacation/sick days. Also suggests adding policy to include scheduled breaks and/or providing SSP teams due to fatigue.

**VI. Approval of Meeting Agenda** – None

**VII. Approval of Meeting Minutes** – None

**VIII. Director’s Report**

1. Introduction to new topics- Graphic dispersed to members to guide in proposing new business. Emphasized need for LCD meeting cohesion.
2. Budget: New projection is $2.7 million, which is quite a bit different than what we thought it was going to be. We must focus on making recommendations on actions related to the appropriate budget, and not what we thought it was going to be.
3. Update on SSP Program: Previously there was $435,000 awarded to the SSP services program in the middle of the year, which caused some confusion as to the role of the commission and confusion related to the SSP program. According to state policy and procedures of the state, that amount of money required an RFP (request for proposal) to be written, however, instead the money was divided up among several contracts throughout the state. Right now, LCD is trying to clear up that process, and recognize the DeafBlind community is experiencing a level of fear from change. LCD is working to ensure adequate services are being offered in the interim of an RFP production, that also line-up with the policies of the state.

Currently there are 77 DeafBlind consumers across the state. LCD is required to draft contracts according to state policy of less than $250,000 per region. Due to the amount of consumers in our state and the contract limit restrictions, the budget allows for 25 hours per month per consumer in the entire state. Since the needs of the community are more than the allowed contract amount for the year 2020, we will have to go to an RFP for 2021 in order to accommodate. For this year, 2020, we were able to get specific legal approval for Lafayette Parish to be on its own contract to help this issue for now. The total for SSP services for 2020 is $580,000.

Per community request, we need to gather feedback and consumer satisfaction surveys from DeafBlind individuals, and we will include all information in the RFP for 2021. We have reserved LAAD (Lafayette Athletic Association for the Deaf) for meetings with the DeafBlind in order to gather this information. We will host two meetings: one-on-one feedback sessions (first Friday of the month), and LCD led work groups (3 weeks prior to LCD meetings). Our goal is for the DeafBlind individuals to always know first what's going on.

1. Interpreter, SSP, and DeafBlind training: Trainings critically needed. By providing trainings, we can provide the means to improve interpreting services to interpreters improve services from SSPs and assist the DeafBlind in advocacy and communication techniques. For interpreters specifically, focus will be on ethics, medical, and legal trainings. We strongly encourage prospective deaf interpreters to participate.
2. Hearing Aid Program update: LCD foresees about 1.97 million to eradicate the waiting list. LCD will provide enough funding to address the referrals, also known as waitlist, within a reasonable timeframe and our Regional Service Centers are enthusiastic about this endeavor, so we anticipate making strides.

**IX. Business Requiring Commission Action**

**A. Old Business**

**1. Trainings for Deaf Interpreters**

**2. Emergency Preparedness**

**3. LCD Vacancies- four seats – nominations- Secretary**

**4. Educational Interpreters**

**5. Vacancies (2) – 2 chairs were appointed at the last meeting for parents of deaf children. Those being Iva Tullier and Richie** **Fraychineaud and two seats are still available.**

**6. Jimmy will resign his seat and replace Pauline as the Deaf representative.**

**B. New Business**

**1. Satisfaction Survey for SSP Program**

**X. Business for Information Purpose/Reports**

**A. Officer’ Reports -** No Report

**Chair, Pauline Wood** –

**Vice Chair, Jimmy Gore** – No report

**Secretary** – N/A

**B. Director’s Report** – N/A

**C. Relay Administration Board Report, Pauline Wood** – Resigns from position; recommends Jimmy Gore to replace.

**D. Legislators Reports, Rep. P. Smith/Sen. Y. Colomb** - N/A

**E. Commissioners’ Reports** –

**Jay Isch** – The previous legislative session we advocated for two things. Deaf patient’s choices in a medical setting and health insurances paying for interpreters.

**Jimmy Gore –** No Report

**Jamie Wong** – LEAD-K Task Force turned in their report to legislation on Feb. 1st. and the last meeting will be held Feb. 25th.

**Pauline Wood –** I am retiring from LCD and I need to resign from RAB

**Lisa Potter** – No Report

**Ryan Gollner** – LSD just finished school on May 23rd and now summer school. First day of school is August 5th and Homecoming is September 7th

**Dr. L. Mendoza** – Medicaid enrollment is yearly. If you receive something in the mail from the department please respond.

**K. Monk** – we are working on trying to improve the signing skills of the staff.

**XI. Announcements** –

**XII. Date, Time, and Place of Next Commission Meeting** –

August 16th , 2019 from 9 am – 12 pm, Bienville Building

**X.II Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 11:30 pm.

Draft of minutes prepared 06/20/2019. Minutes corrected on .

\_\_\_Nathan Vitale\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_06/27/19\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Recorder Date Secretary Date