



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 12 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2012**

I. Call To Order -Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Thelma Covello, Vice-Chairperson.

- A. Silent Prayer** – Thelma Covello
- B. Pledge of Allegiance** – Naomi DeDual
- C. Roll Call** – Diane Anticich – A quorum of Commissioners was present.

Commissioners present:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Darlene Austin | Brandon Burriss | Myron Berzas |
| Thelma Covello | John K. Davis | Maegan Guilbeau |
| Carolyn Jarrels | Joyce Russo | Daniel Theaux |

Commissioners not present:

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Brandi Berkeley | Rep. Regina Barrow | Sen. Yvonne Dorsey |
| Walker Estes | Deanna Hardy | Gary Montgomery |

Non-voting Commission Member present:

Naomi DeDual, Executive Director

Commission Staff present:

Diane Anticich, Program Manager Elaine Scivicque, Admin. Program Specialist A

Interpreters: Shirley Delahoussaye and Gayle Burnett **Captionist:** Lacey Kosienksi

D. Opening remarks: T. Covello welcomed Commissioners and guests.

E. Persons Requesting to Address the Board:

- 1. Andy Veith, employee Deaf Focus/Drive Zone:** alleges ethical misconduct and defamation of character by LCD Director who asked what qualified him to serve as a language specialist for his contract with LA Dept. of Education and if a public safety check was completed after he presented to hospital emergency room staff as a qualified deaf interpreter/communication specialist with Deaf Focus for the student's admission.
- 2. Wendy Coker, Interpreting Coordinator, Deaf Action Center-LA (Shreveport)** – alleges LCD Director misappropriated funds by authorizing interpreting services for a DCFS consumer; and that LCD funds should not be used for a state assignment.
- 3. Guisele Decuir, Parent of Deaf Adult** – reports LCD needs to provide more ADA advocacy to ensure Deaf persons' accessibility to hospitals/behavioral health programs.



II Approval of Agenda - Motion: D. Austin/John K. Davis moved to amend the February 3, 2012 meeting agenda to include item 3. Audit under New Business and accept as amended. Passed

III Approval of Minutes - Motion: D. Austin/John K. Davis moved to amend the December 2, 2011 minutes to reflect that N. DeDual served as notetaker; and accept as amended. Passed

IV Business for Informational Purposes

A. Officer's Reports:

1. Chairwoman - B. Berkeley – N/A

2. Vice-Chair - T. Covello – Concerned with Deaf Services Center – BR and New Orleans

3. Secretary - J. Davis – None

B. Executive Director Report: N. DeDual – provided information on the purpose of LCD including what the LCD is authorized to do and how it is authorized to provide certain services; provided the balance of the LCD Trust Fund as of June 2011, as well as the revenue and interest collected to date in SFY 2012; and the balance of the Trust Fund after SFY 12 budget; and that LCD has requested \$500K from state-general funds for SFY 13 budget. Provided itemization and totals of SFY 12 payments for administration, telecommunication equipment, hearing aids, and payments to contractors for professional services including equipment distribution, hearing aid administration, ASL interpreting services, and SSP services. Provided the SFY 2012 performance reports of consumers served statewide. Provided the SFY 2012 report for state-interpreter certification, the process by which interpreters provide notice of their national certification and pay a \$26 money order to DMV for a back ground check which certifies them as a state interpreter for four years. Provided updated lists of services and resources for consumers with hearing loss; LCD RSCs contact info; and meetings and presentations by LCD Director and staff.

C. Relay Administration Board Report: T. Covello/N. DeDual – provided information on recent RAB meeting; election of new officers; provision of services and community outreaches.

D. Commissioner Reports:

1. **D. Austin/LRID** – requests LCD staff post dates of board meetings on the LCD website, as she has done on the LRID website: <http://www.lrid.org>

2. **B. Burris/GODA** – reports appreciation for LAD members and LCD staff for attendance and support at the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) awards ceremony. This spring, GODA will host an ADA Symposium with a presentation by the State Fire Marshall's office. The legislative session starts in a few weeks and GODA staff will track legislation on disability programs and services; and each Thursday, will host a conference call with members of the disability community. Also, Boards and Commissions is processing numerous appointments.

3. **T. Covello/Deaf rep.** – none

4. **J. Davis/Deaf rep.** – wants greater communication with all groups.

5. **D. Theaux/Hard of Hearing rep.** – none.

6. **M. LeFors for W. Estes /LA Association of Deaf** – February 11th is next LAD board meeting in Alexandria.

7. **M. Berzas/Dept. Children and Family Services** – DCFS updated their website to provide a menu of eligibility benefits programs which allow for online applications; and DSNAP is the food stamp program during disasters.

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8. M. Guilbeau/Dept. Health and Hospitals – no report

9. C. Jarrels/Workforce Commission – Workforce Commission updated their website: <http://www.laworks.net> and can be contacted at 1-866-783-5567

10. Dr. D. Alleman, LSD Director of Outreach: In January, Dr. Hara resigned due to health issues; and Dr. Joe Fischgrund will conduct a national search for the LSD Director position.

11. J. Russo/Dept. of Education- Schools for Deaf and Visually Impaired – Dept. of Ed will conduct a statewide initiative with national consultants emphasizing students age 3 and younger enter school with a mode of communication; and are prepared for classroom learning.

(meeting-break- resumed at 12:14 – quorum re-established)

V Business Requiring Commission Action

A. Old Business –

1. LCD diminished revenue from land-line telephones – review LCD trust balance; and options for additional revenue sources as needed to prevent a reduction in SFY 13 services –

2. LCD SFY 13 budget - Motion: B. Burris/J. Russo moved to table Old Business items 1 and 2 till a later date. Motion Passed

B. New Business –

1. **Advocacy** – LCD staff conducted ADA/advocacy training with RSC staff; and emphasized outreach to public/private businesses on ADA, accessibility, and ASL/Deaf culture.

2. **LCD Technical Guidance manual** – Motion: D. Austin/B. Burris moved to appoint an ad-hoc committee to review the LCD Technical Guidance manual and recommend revisions to the LCD board on May 4, 2012. Passed

3. **Audit** - Motion: D. Austin moved to conduct an internal audit of the LCD by DHH staff and submit results to the LCD. Substitute Motion: B. Burris/D. Austin moved that any LCD Commissioner have the ability to contact LCD staff to request any information or reports that they find important. Motion Passed.

VI Date, Time, and Place for next Commission Meeting – May 4th at 10:00 AM will be the next LCD meeting in Rm. 118 - DHH Bienville.

VII Announcements: none

VIII Adjournment – D. Austin/M. Berzas moved to adjourn at 12:50 PM. Motion Passed

Draft of minutes prepared 02/14/12

Minutes corrected on _____.

Maemie Delgado 9/2/12
Recorder Date

John K. Davis
Secretary

9.7.2012
Date