



Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 12 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2011

I. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Brandi Berkeley, Chairperson.

A. Invocation – Brandi Berkeley

B. Pledge of Allegiance – Naomi DeDual

C. Roll Call – Diane Anticich – A quorum of Commissioners was present.

Commissioners present:

Darlene Austin	Brandi Berkeley	Brandon Burris	Myron Berzas
Thelma Covello	John K. Davis	Dr. Monita Hara	Deanna Hardy
Gary Montgomery	Daniel Theaux		

Commissioners not present:

Sen. Yvonne Dorsey	Walker Estes	Maegan Guilbeau	Carolyn Jarrels
Rep. Kay Katz	Joyce Russo		

Non-voting Commission Member present:

Naomi DeDual, Executive Director

Commission Staff present:

Diane Anticich, Program Manager
Jairus Methvin, Program Monitor
Elaine Scivicque, Admin. Program Specialist A

Interpreters: Shirley Delahoussaye and Gayle Burnett; Notetaker: N. DeDual

D. Opening remarks: B. Berkeley welcomed all Commissioners and guests.

E. Persons Requesting to Address the Board:

Paula Rodriguez - Nationally-Certified Interpreter; Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Owner- Deaf Focus Services: Shared examples of some hospitals, mental health agencies, and police who are not providing language access for Deaf persons; and asks the LCD board and Regional Service Centers (RSCs) to advocate for Deaf persons by educating these organizations on Deaf culture and ASL interpreting services

Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Meeting
December 2, 2011
Page 1 of 4

II Approval of Agenda - Motion: B. Burris/G. Montgomery moved to accept the December 2, 2011 meeting agenda. Passed

III Approval of Minutes - Motion: G. Montgomery/M. Hara moved to accept the minutes of the September 30, 2011 Commission meeting. Passed

IV Business for Informational Purposes

A. Officer's Reports:

President - B. Berkeley – Thanks all personnel with early identification and early education as her child, who is deaf and has used hearing aids since three months of age, is reading on grade level and doing outstanding.

Vice-President - T. Covello – Concerned by reports that some LCD RSCs are using answering machines and not answering calls; and wants investigation.

Secretary - J. Davis – At a recent LAD meeting, members discussed the LCD budget; and changing how funds are collected for services.

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 is requesting \$500K from state-general funds for SFY 13 budget. Provided totals of SFY 12 payments for administration; telecommunication equipment, hearing aids, and payments made to contractors for contracted services including equipment distribution, hearing aid administration, ASL interpreting services, and SSP services; and notified of a letter from TDI to the U.S. Senate Finance committee about the proposed Wireless Tax Fairness Act. Provided the SFY 2011 performance reports of consumers served statewide. Provided the SFY 2011 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 state-wide resources for consumers with hearing loss, and of 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 the RAB; NASRA conference; and the National Deaf-Blind grant for specialized equipment and training for persons with deaf-blindness.

D. Commissioner Reports:

D. Austin/LRID –no report.

B. Burris/GODA – The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is hosting their Outstanding Leadership Awards ceremony on December 13th at 10 AM at the Old State Capitol – everyone is welcome to attend.

T. Covello/Deaf rep. – I want LCD Regional Service Centers improve with answering phone calls; and meet regularly to share information and ideas.

Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2011

Page 2 of 4

J. Davis/Deaf rep. – As mentioned earlier, funding issues for LCD services.
D. Hardy/Parent – Our insurance company denied my appeal for additional payment for our child's hearing aids; but paid after several follow-up calls.
D. Theaux/Hard of Hearing rep. – Xbox 360- Kinectic edition offers software that teaches sign language; technology incorporating education and gaming.
M. LeFors for W. Estes /LAD – WalMart sponsored a golf tournament to benefit LAD; LAD sponsored a statewide magic-show tour; membership continues to grow; priorities are welfare for the Deaf; accessibility for the RSCs and advocacy for the LCD budget.

M. Berzas/DCFS – Services continue to be available through SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), FITAP (Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program), child welfare and other DCFS programs. When DCFS regional offices are contacted to assist a person with hearing loss, it's our policy to coordinate services to make sure they have language access so they can fully participate in DCFS services.

Dr. Hara/LSD – LSD now has an enrollment of 170 students; and the school continues to share its campus with LSVI students. We are all about cultural diversity; and for the first year, LSD is hosting an international exchange student. The largest increase in enrollment has been with the Pre-K – 3 grades, which is different than several other states where students often transfer into the state school after they've been unsuccessful in other systems. The cultural diversity continues as LSD staff work diligently to help younger students develop a strong ASL language base, as well as helping older students prepare for post-secondary education (vo-tech and college). All are invited to the upcoming Cajun Classic, when LSD serves as the state-host for a nationwide tour of basketball games and cheerleading competitions. On December 8th, in the evening, everyone is invited to the LSD Fall play production; and that information has been also shared with the LAD. Two LSD students were invited to participate in a leadership workshop at California School for the Deaf at Riverside, which allows them to meet with students from other states. We also commend LSD instructor, Mrs. Susan Gremillion who was selected Adaptive Physical Education teacher of the year. Please come out and join us for the Cajun Christmas program later this month. Our enrollment is growing; and we're very encouraged by the support of the community and the improvements which continue to be made.

G. Montgomery/LRS-VR – Thank you for allowing me to serve. I have a 29-30 year history of working with persons who are deaf, and deaf-blind. LRS has experienced some funding restrictions; and currently, there are no plans to extend services beyond Order of Selection Group I (persons with most significant impairment). LRS has a counselor in each of several statewide regions who work specifically with persons who are Deaf. Two of those positions are currently vacant but are in the process of being filled. We are working to ensure that personnel with those particular skills (i.e. ASL) are readily available for services. I was made aware of a school that was not

Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2011

Page 3 of 4

G. Montgomery/LRS-VR continued: providing interpreting services; and we contacted the school and attempted to make sure services were provided. However, when the school notifies us they are not able to provide it, LRS will provide interpreting services to ensure that the student does not do without the communication access. LRS is working on our web page. Last July, we moved from Department of Social Services to Workforce Commission; and we're updating information on the website; and I am working to make it accessible for those who require it. Thanks again for allowing me to serve.

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 - Motion: B. Burris/D. Austin moved to table this item till a later date. Motion Passed

B. New Business -

1. LCD SFY 13 budget - Motion: D. Austin/T. Covello moved to add to the agenda LCD Director include in her report to Commissioners specific breakdown of year-to-date expenditures. Motion Passed.

Motion: D. Austin/T. Covello moved to add to the agenda a discussion on reduction in services and expenditures for SFY 13 budget. Motion Passed.

Motion: D. Austin/J. Davis moved that the Executive Director's report include payments for salaries, phone services, telephone equipment (e.g.CapTel), fees paid to RSCs, hearing aid vendors, and the type of interpreting services - whether governmental or private. Motion Passed.

Motion: D. Austin/B. Burris moved to table the discussion of a reduction in services and expenditures for the SFY 13 budget. Motion Passed.

VI Date, Time, and Place for next Commission Meeting - The next LCD meeting will be February 3rd at 10:00 AM in Rm. 118 - DHH Bienville.

VII Announcements: none

VIII Adjournment - D. Austin/M. Berzas moved to adjourn at 12:45 PM. Motion Passed

Draft of minutes prepared 12/27/11 Minutes corrected on 2/14/12
W. [Signature] 3/2/12 John K. Davis 3-2-2012
Recorder Date Secretary Date

c. LCD master file (original)
LCD Board Members
LCD Staff