



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 2016 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2015**

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

A. Silent Prayer – T. Covello

B. Pledge of Allegiance – J. Vincent

C. Roll Call –Ashley Poche – A quorum of Commissioners was present.

D. Announcements/Comments/Persons Requesting to Address the Board –

D. Arabie, Case Mgr., Amelia Manor Nursing Home

Commissioners present:

Dr. Moises Arriaga	Thelma Covello	John K. Davis	Deanna Hardy
Nancy Hicks	Alvina Malcolm	Dr. Lee Mendoza	John Vincent
Pauline Wood	Naomi DeDual (non-voting)		

Commissioners not present:

Representative Regina Barrow	Dr. Nancy Benham	Senator Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb
Carolyn Jarrels	Gary Montgomery	Secretary Suzy Sonnier

Commission Staff present:

Ashley Poche	Susan Dean
--------------	------------

Interpreters: Shirley Delahoussaye Dawn Melendez Rose Ray

II Approval of December 11, 2015 Meeting Agenda - Motion: J. Vincent/Dr. L. Mendoza - to approve agenda; passed unanimously.

III Approval of August 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes – Motion: J. Vincent/P.Wood – to accept August 28, 2015 meeting minutes with amendments: LRID report: Michelle Simoneaux is Secretary and Gayle Burnett is Treasurer. Passed unanimously

IV Business Requiring Commission Action:

A. Old Business: none

B. New Business:

1. Election of Officers: - Motion: J. Vincent/Dr. L. Mendoza - to accept John K. Davis as LCD Chairperson and Thelma Covello as Vice-Chairperson. Motion passed unanimously



Motion: John K. Davis/J. Vincent – to
Motion passed unanimously.

accept Deanna Hardy as LCD Secretary.

Motion: J. Vincent/N. Hicks – to accept Pauline Wood and Dr. Lee Mendoza as LCD members at large. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Review of Legislation and Project Development** –Motion: John K. Davis/J. Vincent – to suspend discussions of new business and retain on agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Business for Information Purposes/Reports:

A. Officer Reports:

Thelma Covello, Vice-Chair – At the Alexandria Association of the Deaf meeting, it was reported that LCD Regional Service Centers do not allow Deaf person to pick their preferred interpreter; and Deaf people don't know where to exchange LCD equipment. Also, some RSCs use an answering machine.

John K. Davis, Secretary – deferred

B. LCD Director's Report – **N. DeDual:** Shared the purpose, authority and responsibility of LCD staff and board for coordination, facilitation and/or provision of accessibility services; and provided SFY 2016 performance reports of consumers served statewide.

C. Relay Administration Board Report: **N. DeDual/P. Wood** – reported on various activities of the Relay Administration Board (RAB), National Association of State Relay Administrators (NASRA), and Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

D. Commissioner Reports:

Louisiana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (LRID) – **A. Malcolm** – In August, it was reported that Brandon Vice was elected LRID President. As Brandon resigned before taking office, Wendi Coker, Vice-President, will serve as LRID President. Justin Cobb will be appointed to serve as Vice-President.

Louisiana Association of the Deaf (LAD) – **P. Wood** – Last June, Houston Moss was elected as LAD President; Cindy Robillard as LAD Vice-President; and Kenny Davis as LAD Treasurer. Tomorrow is LAD's quarterly meeting in Madisonville where the LAD Secretary will be announced. LAD President Moss has worked closely on amendments to the Deaf Child's Bill of Rights; and LAD members are working with the Deaf Grassroots Movement. The next LAD convention is scheduled for 2017.

Parent – **D. Hardy** – none

Deaf – **J.K. Davis** – none



Rep w/ Hearing Loss – Jack Vincent – I wanted to share research which shows that isolation which occurs due to hearing loss may contribute to the progression of Alzheimer’s disease. One benefit of hearing aids is that it may reduce isolation, which in turn, may reduce progression of Alzheimer’s disease. I will also be contacting the ad council to request they consider doing public service announcements about the many benefits of hearing aid use for persons with hearing loss.

Professional Rep – Dr. Moises Arriaga – A new concept in hearing aids is coming out. Traditional hearing aids work by converting sound to electricity, modifying it, putting it into a speaker, and directing the sound back out. The new concept, recently approved by the government, is to put a contact lens on the ear drum which vibrates by laser light and stimulates the lens. This may eliminate the physical limitations to what you can do with sound.

You can manipulate a light wave, much easier. This means there will be a whole new generation of devices, that will work, where acoustical devices couldn’t work, specifically at the very low frequencies, and the very high frequencies, where amplifiers can’t make that transition. This will eliminate feedback and is an altogether new concept to physically get sound into the ear.

And so it’s been approved, and we will be working on this, in the modified trial. And so they will be making new contact lenses for this purpose.

E. State Agency Reports:

DHH – Dr. L. Mendoza – There’s a new DHH program, called Own Your Own Health sponsored by the Governor’s Council on Fitness. It challenges individuals to set daily goals for improving health, and weight loss through diet. It’s a web-based program that is completely free, and it helps people to set realistic goals and to monitor their progress. Registration is open for a 3 month challenge, now, from January 25th to April 25th at <http://www.oyohla.com> and there are prizes for participation, like Saints/Pelicans/LSU tickets, Fitbits, shoes and other gift cards. Anyone can register – please share with everyone.

DOE – N. Hicks – The Department of Education is filing an application for a \$13.4 million grant (state/federal funds) to provide appropriate educational services to classrooms in rural and smaller school districts which serve students with high-cost needs. One of the potential benefits of this grant is to cover additional costs of interpreting services for classroom education.

LSD – Dr. Donna Alleman for LSD – Dr. Alleman reports that enrollment at LSD is up; and approximately 200 children aged three to twenty-two attend LSD from throughout the state. LSD has 11 Deaf teachers; 3 Deaf counselors; a Deaf librarian; and three of four administrators at LSD are deaf. LSD also works with the Parent/Pupil Education Program (PPEP) for children ages 0-3 located throughout the state; and provides parents of these children with information about language development and educational tracks. On February 25th, 2016, LSD will host an open house and drama performances of The Lion King – one in the daytime and another in the evening. Everyone is welcome.



F. Legislator Reports: None

VI Date, Time, Place of Next Commission Meeting – February 12, 2016 – 10 AM – Bienville #118

VII Adjournment – J. Vincent/D. Hardy motioned to adjourn at 12:15 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft of minutes prepared 12/18/15
Recorder [Signature] Date 5/31/16

Minutes corrected on _____
Secretary [Signature] Date 5/31/16

c. LCD master file; LCD Board Members; LCD Staff