



Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 11 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2011

I. Call To Order -The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Brandi Berkeley, Chair.

- A. Invocation – Representative Kay Katz
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – Brandi Berkeley
- C. Roll Call – Naomi DeDual

Commissioners present:

Darlene Austin	Brandi Berkeley	Brandon Burris	Thelma Covello
John K. Davis	Dr. Monita Hara	Deanna Hardy	Carolyn Jarrels
Rep. Kay Katz	Joyce Russo	Daniel Theaux	Pauline Wood

Commissioners not present:

Myron Berzas Sen. Yvonne Dorsey Maegan Guilbeau Kenneth York

Non-voting Commission Member present:

Naomi DeDual, Executive Director

Commission Staff present:

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

Interpreters: Shirley Delahoussaye, Peggy Gray, Melissa Hines, Amy Miller, Dawn Melendez, and Bianca Perez

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

E. Persons Requesting to Address the Board:

David Hylan, Executive Director, Deaf Action Center - Louisiana (Shreveport) – reports the DAC-LA has served the Deaf community for 26+ years; concerned with a lack of communication and transparency, and increasing hostility with the LCD Director. In 2009, he filed a grievance with LRS which did not resolve to his satisfaction; requested information about contracts and requests a task force review transparency, communication, and hostility of the LCD Director; and report findings.

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Todd Hamilton, Deputy Director of the Diocese of Baton Rouge (Catholic Charities) – Introduced Beverly Hills, staff person and reported his organization has had a contract with LCD since 1995. Their program has had a strong track record of high-quality services and good accessibility. Reports his first concern is the need of Deaf consumers; and he has concerns that the contract negotiation process was conducted without full participation; he requests an opportunity for open proposals for the contract process.

Dan Arabie, Leader of Deaf-blind on the Move – provided information about Communication Facilitators (aide to assist a person who is deaf-blind with Telecommunication Relay Services); requests consideration for this service.

Andrew Veith – requests case-management services (e.g. VR)

Shari Bernius, Executive Director of Deaf Action Center – Greater New Orleans – requests a task-force committee to hear concerns of the contracting agencies whom are not being offered LCD SFY 12-14 contracts.

II Approval of Agenda - Motion: B. Burris/T. Covello moved to accept the meeting agenda. Passed

III Approval of Minutes - Motion: B. Burris/P. Wood moved to accept the meeting minutes of the December 10, 2010 Commission meeting. Passed
Motion: D. Hardy/D. Theaux moved to accept the meeting minutes of the March 25, 2010 Task Force committee meeting. Passed

IV Business for Informational Purposes

A. Officer's Reports: Chair, B. Berkeley provided information on Hands & Voices, a national organization that touts unbiased communication and full inclusion of persons using any/all modes of communication; and informed that the Dept of Justice has revised the ADA standards as of 03/15/11.

Vice-Chair, T. Covello – none

Secretary, J. Davis – served on the task force to review contract changes proposed by the LCD office; and recommends acceptance of these changes.

B. Executive Director Report: Naomi DeDual – provided the totals of SFY 2011 payments made through 03/28/11; 2nd quarter SFY 2011 performance reports of consumers served statewide; balance of LCD trust as of 03/28/11; 2nd quarter reports for state-interpreter certification; qualifications for state-interpreter certification; included list of statewide resources for consumers with hearing loss; presented information on meetings and presentations by LCD Director and staff; presented highlights of the changes occurring with the DOJ's changes to the ADA standards; and presented information on the Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness ceremony on 06/10/11 at State Capitol.

C. Relay Administration Board Report: Thelma Covello – for the past few years, she has served as the RAB delegate at NASRA (National Association of State Relay Administrators) national conference, which is conducted annually and is coordinated with the TEDPA (Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program Association) annual conference. She requests LCD sponsor travel for an LCD Commissioner to attend the TEDPA conference to learn how to negotiate better rates for amplified and adaptive equipment.

D. Commissioner Reports:

D. Austin/LRID – none

B. Berkeley/Parent – The Commission is doing an excellent job; and what is needed to serve all LCD consumers.

B.Burris/GODA – The special legislative session has begun; legislators are dealing with the \$1.6 billion budget deficit; the enforcement date for the new DOJ ADA standards is 03/15/12. This summer, GODA will host an all-day ADA symposium for professionals and persons with disabilities.

T. Covello/Deaf rep.–Would like to see an LCD delegate participate at TEDPA.

J. Davis/Deaf rep. – No report; glad to be here.

D. Hardy/Parent – As parent of a beautiful child with hearing loss, and as a teacher at Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC), she serves as an advocate to improve services for all. She is involved in the development of an interpreter degree program at BPCC; and recently requested a letter of support from LCD Director who agreed to provide.

D. Theaux/Hard of Hearing rep. - none

P. Wood/LAD – Indicates that the Deaf and deaf-blind are suffering from these discussions about contracts; and it's not beneficial.

(Break at 11:30; Meeting resumed at 11:48)

Dr. M. Hara/LSD – LSD is alive and well and all are welcome to the campus. It's a very busy place and a lot is happening. LSD recently hosted DeafHood which included workshops for teachers, parents, etc. She announced their collaboration with the LA Restaurant Association towards development of a culinary-arts trade program called Pro-Start. The LRA will provide small kitchenware and chefs who will provide instruction in culinary operations so as to develop future culinary entrepreneurs. Extensive information about the school is located on their website at <http://www.lsd.org> Additionally LSD staff will be participating in a meeting at Central High School to discuss a potential pilot project for ASL classes for secondary credit. DOE staff are working to identify ASL-TA (qualified ASL instructors) for such classes. On April 7th, a play based on Alice in Wonderland, will be conducted by the drama club. On April 21st -24th, the CEASD conference will be held in Hawaii, and a presentation will be conducted by LSD staff on the changes for which LSD has been nationally recognized as a 'model of change'. On May 4th at 5:00 PM, a welcome reception, hosted by Sorenson Relay, will be held in the Student Center for Andrea Sonnier, Miss Capitol City, who will be competing in the Miss Deaf Louisiana pageant; and the LSD Talent show will follow at 7 PM in the Auditorium.

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Dr. Hara/LSD continued: LSD will conduct graduation ceremonies on May 13th for 14 students- 6 planning to go to college, 6 to career/technical programs; and 2 to employment; and John Dickinson is the featured commencement speaker. LSD will also hold summer camp in early summer for children ages 6-10; and again in July for students ages 7-14. LSD staff are conducting presentations to the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, and the Sertoma Club.

C. Jarrells/LWC – none

J. Russo/DOE – Last August, the DOE moved special education services under Programs for Federal Support, which includes IDEA and NCLB. DOE is working to increase availability of college-readiness training; and is working closely with LSD on early-intervention services; reports she is happy to serve on the LCD; and looks forward to many years of mutual cooperation.

Rep. K. Katz/House of Representatives – none

V Business Requiring Commission Action

A. Old Business –

1. LCD SFY 2012 budget – P. Wood/T. Covello moved to delete from agenda. Passed
2. R.S. 47-1061 – expansion - D. Austin/J. Davis moved to delete from agenda. Passed
3. Election of new officers - P. Wood/T. Covello moved to delete from agenda. Passed

B. New Business –

1. SFY 2012-14 contracts – J. Davis/J. Russo moved to adopt the task-force committee's recommendation to accept the proposed LCD SFY 2012-2014 contracts; and to include in these contracts that background checks are required for sub-contractors (i.e. interpreters and SSPs). Passed – Roll call:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
B. Berkeley	D. Austin	P. Wood
J. Davis	T. Covello	Dr. M. Hara
D. Theaux		B. Burris
C. Jarrells		
J. Russo		
D. Hardy		
Rep. K. Katz		

2. Task force committee – T. Covello/D. Austin moved for the task-force committee to assess a reported lack of transparency and communication, and reported hostility by LCD Executive Director to five existing contractors during the contract negotiation process. Task-force committee volunteers include: D. Austin, B. Berkeley, T. Covello, J. Davis, D. Hardy, D. Theaux and others up to a maximum number of 9. Passed

3. List of non-certified interpreters who have completed background check – D. Austin/P. Wood moved for the LCD office to maintain a list of non-certified interpreters who have completed the background check. Passed

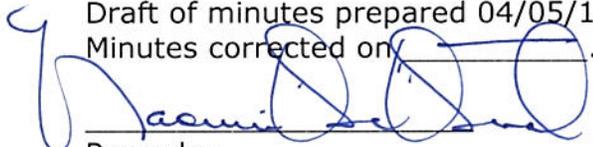
VI Date, Time, and Place for next Commission Meeting - The next LCD meeting will be June 17, 2011 at 10:00 AM in Rm. 173 - DHH Bienville.

VII Announcements – none

VIII Adjournment – T. Covello/D. Austin moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 PM. Passed

Draft of minutes prepared 04/05/11

Minutes corrected on ~~04/05/11~~.


Recorder 8/12/11
Date


Secretary 8.12.2011
Date

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