



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 2015 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2014**

- I. Call To Order** -Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Brandi Berkeley, Chairperson.
- A. Silent Prayer** – Chairwoman Berkeley requested commissioners remember DCFS Secretary Sonnier and her family on the recent passing of their son/brother.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance** – B. Berkeley
- C. Roll Call** – Diane Anticich – A quorum of Commissioners was present.
- D. Announcements/Comments/Persons Wishing to Address the Board** –LCD Program Manager, Diane Anticich, retires next week after 37 years of state service and is wished all the best.

Commissioners present:

Dr. Moises Arriaga	Dr. Nancy Benham	Brandi Berkeley	Louis Cannon
John K. Davis	Deanna Hardy	Nancy Hicks	Leslie Knowles
Dr. Lee Mendoza	Gary Montgomery	John Vincent	Naomi DeDual (non-voting)

Commissioners not present:

Representative Regina Barrow	Brandon Burriss	Thelma Covello
Senator Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb	Carolyn Jarrels	Secretary Suzy Sonnier

Commission Staff present:

Diane Anticich, Program Mgr - Jairus Methvin, Program Mon. - Elaine Scivicque, Admin. Specialist

Interpreters: Shirley Delahoussaye, Dawn Melendez, Tammy Bennett

II Approval of August 8, 2014 Meeting Agenda – Motion: Dr. L. Mendoza/G. Montgomery motioned to accept August 8, 2014 agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

III Approval of February 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes – Motion: N. Hicks/Dr. N. Benham motioned to accept February 7, 2014 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of February 14, 2014 Committee Meeting Minutes – Motion: Dr. Lee Mendoza/J. Vincent motioned to accept February 14, 2014 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

IV Business Requiring Commission Action:

A. Old Business:

1. Apple Technology Project – Motion: J. K. Davis/Dr. M. Arriaga –to remove item from agenda and project committee will continue to review project performance. Motion passed unanimously.

B. New Business:

1. Federal Communications Commission – Text to 911 – What you Need to Know – text-to-911 service available in 16 states; FCC meeting today to consider rulemaking for nationwide implementation dates for text-to-911/ Next Generation (NG911). New Smart 9-1-1 system in Tangipahoa Parish – requires registration/self-identification - needs/medications, etc.



V. Business for Information Purposes/Reports:

A. Officer Reports:

B. Berkeley, Chairperson – no report

J. K. Davis, Secretary – no report

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 a detailed list of SFY 2014 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 SFY 2014 performance reports of consumers served statewide. Provided SFY 2014 report for state-interpreter certification, the process which includes interpreters apply; provide notice of national (RID) certification; and provide a \$26 money order payable to LA State Police for a public safety background check. Upon receipt of background results, the LCD office then makes a determination regarding applicant's certification as a state interpreter for four years. Renewals for the 1/1/2014- 12/31/2017 cycle was recently completed. ND provided resources for consumers with hearing loss, and meetings with/by LCD staff; and shared info on Act 514 by Rep. Simon (self-identification w/ Dept. Public Safety) and Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness 2015. L. Gill/T. Schulze presented 'Effective communication in an emergency w/ Deaf/hard of hearing persons and first responders'.

C. Relay Administration Board Report: N. DeDual – As reported earlier, FCC is scheduled to meet today to take a vote on implementation of Text-to-911 across the U.S. Also, on the Stephen Leon vs. LPSC/RAB lawsuit, Judge Clark denied plaintiff's motion for summary judgment.

D. Commissioner Reports:

LRID – L. Knowles – LRID representation on LCD will soon change to Alvina Malcolm, LRID President. LRID has updated their website -www.lrid.org- which lists information about monthly workshops. The Fall 2014 conference will be hosted at the Lafayette Athletic Association of the Deaf (LAAD) clubhouse and includes entertainment by Keith Wann and Wink Smith. In 2015, LRID will host the national RID conference in New Orleans.

Parent – B. Berkeley – no report

LAD – L. Cannon – no report

Deaf – J.K. Davis - no report

Parent – D. Hardy – no report

Rep w/ Hearing Loss – Jack Vincent – Ever since I was a young man, I've been hard of hearing; but put off purchasing hearing aids as other family expenses took priority. As my first set cost \$5,600, I contacted a legislator to consider sponsoring a bill to offer a tax credit for hearing aid purchases for middle-income persons; and I would like this commission to consider this matter at the next board meeting.



Professional Rep – Dr. Moises Arriaga –

recently taken under consideration a proposed rule to redefine (exclude) coverage for bone-anchored hearing aids (BAHA). For persons who've lost mechanical function, not nerve function, the BAHA is a beneficial medical technology. Commissioners may want to share comments with CMS or state representatives because if CMS approves this rule to exclude coverage, insurance companies /health-maintenance organizations will exclude coverage which means increased out-of-pocket expense by patients/families.

The Center for Medicare Services (CMS) has

E. State Agency Reports:

DHH – Dr. L. Mendoza – Effective 8/1/14, all college campuses in Louisiana are now smoke-free. Recently, DHH launched 'Well Ahead', a campaign aimed at improving health in Louisiana and designating 'well-spots', organizations which emphasize health, nutrition, and fitness. DHH is also involved in state emergency preparedness activities (medical shelters) and encourages preparedness by going to www.getagameplan.org

LSD – Dr. Nancy Benham – Next week, classes begin. Last school year, LSD students were co-winners for Gallaudet's Battle of the Books, a national academic competition aimed at improving students' reading skills. LSD students placed fourth in nationals for the Academic Bowl Team; and in February, will compete again. LSD will also host the Mason-Dixon regional high school girls' basketball tournament.

DOE – Nancy Hicks - On September 13th at the Pennington Center, an Usher Syndrome Awareness Day will include a presentation on genetics research. This past legislative session, Act 833 was signed into law to provide an alternative pathway for promotion and graduation for students. LDOE is developing guidelines for implementing the Act.

LRS/VR – G. Montgomery –LRS is placing greater emphasis on the rehabilitation of transition-age youth into employment; and has opened services to all persons who are determined Most Significantly Disabled and Significantly Disabled (Order of Selection Groups I, II, and III) based on impairments in eight areas of occupational functioning.

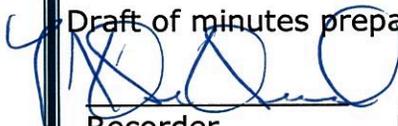
F. Legislator Reports:

None

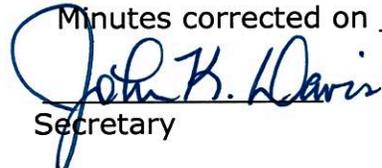
VI Date, Time, Place of Next Commission Meeting – November 7th, 2014 – 10 AM – Rm. 118 - Bienville

VII Adjournment –Dr. M. Arriaga/Dr. N. Benham motioned to adjourn at 11:59 AM. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft of minutes prepared 08/26/14


Recorder 11/13/14
Date

Minutes corrected on _____


Secretary 11.13.2014
Date

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