



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 2016 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2015**

I. Call To Order -Meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM by John. K. Davis, Secretary.

A. Silent Prayer – John K. Davis

B. Pledge of Allegiance – J. Vincent

C. Roll Call – Jairus Methvin – A quorum of Commissioners was present.

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

Darlene Austin, Mgr., BR Sorenson Relay

Dan Arabie, Case Mgr., Amelia Manor Nursing Home

Commissioners present:

Dr. Moises Arriaga

John K. Davis

Deanna Hardy

Nancy Hicks

Dr. Lee Mendoza

Gary Montgomery

Ellis Roussel

John Vincent

Pauline Wood

Naomi DeDual (non-voting)

Commissioners not present:

Representative Regina Barrow

Dr. Nancy Benham

Thelma Covello

Senator Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb

Carolyn Jarrels

Alvina Malcolm

Secretary Suzy Sonnier

Commission Staff present:

Jairus Methvin

Ashley Poche

Susan Dean

Interpreters: Shirley Delahoussaye

Dawn Melendez

Tammy Bennett

II Approval of August 28, 2015 Meeting Agenda - Motion: P. Wood/N. Hicks/G. Montgomery - to approve agenda; passed unanimously.

III Approval of November 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes – Motion: N. Hicks/Dr. L. Mendoza – to amend November 7, 2014 meeting minutes: Louisiana Rehabilitation Services report: Orders of Selection I, II, and III – not IV and to approve minutes as amended. Passed unanimously

Approval of May 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes – Motion: J. Vincent/Dr. L. Mendoza – to approve May 15, 2015 meeting minutes. Passed unanimously

IV Business Requiring Commission Action:

A. Old Business:

1. Text to 911 - deferred

B. New Business:

1. **State Fiscal Year 2016 Budget** - Motion: J. Vincent/Dr. M. Arriaga to approve LCD SFY 2016 budget. Passed unanimously



2. **Office of Inspector General Report –Motion:** Dr. M. Arriaga/J. Vincent/P. Wood/Dr. L. Mendoza – to affirm that LCD Commissioners have reviewed the Inspector General’s public report; are in agreement with the Department of Health and Hospital’s response; and are fully supportive of the LCD Director, Naomi DeDual, and the LCD program. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Business for Information Purposes/Reports:

A. Officer Reports: 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 a spreadsheet of SFY 2015 payments for administration, telecommunication equipment, hearing aids, and payments for professional services including equipment distribution; hearing aid administration; ASL interpreting services; and SSP services. Provided SFY 2015 performance reports of consumers served statewide.

C. Relay Administration Board Report: N. DeDual/P. Wood – deferred

D. Commissioner Reports:

LRID – Darlene Austin for A. Malcolm – August 7-12th, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf conference was held in New Orleans. Effective December 1 2015, incoming LRID officers include: Brandon Vice, President; Michelle Simoneaux, Secretary; Gayle Burnett, Treasurer; and Walker Estes, Member at Large.

GODA – E. Roussel – none

LAD – P. Wood - none

Parent – D. Hardy – none

Deaf – J.K. Davis – request for information on LCD expense for telecommunication equipment - difference between amount budgeted and amount paid – N. DeDual responded there is a new Office of Technology Services with Division of Administration, which has a new process for purchasing telecommunication equipment which is considered information technology devices. Additional time for approvals of purchase resulted in reduced expenses.

Rep w/ Hearing Loss – Jack Vincent –none

Professional Rep – Dr. Moises Arriaga – Medicaid covers cochlear implants (CI) in children. Research shows that the earlier surgical implantation occurs, the better. Also, bilateral cochlear implantation is best for sound localization and for language development. Ruth Kennedy with DHH Medicaid is recommending DHH/Louisiana Medicaid to cover costs for bilateral cochlear implantation. There are also numerous adults in Louisiana who qualify for Medicaid who would benefit from cochlear implantation if it were a covered benefit under Medicaid.



E. State Agency Reports:

DHH – Dr. L. Mendoza – The presence of brain-eating amoeba was found in the Ascension Parish and Terrebonne Parish water supply. **This water is safe to drink, but persons should avoid getting water into the nose or sinus cavities**. Also, West Nile Virus continues to be a problem. This year, 20 individuals were reported to have West Nile in Louisiana. Last year, 61 persons in Louisiana were reported with West Nile. To reduce exposure, it's recommended that while outdoors, persons wear long sleeves, mosquito repellent, and eliminate standing water. For more information, go to <http://www.DHH.la.Gov>. Also, it's hurricane season – for information on emergency preparedness, go to <http://www.getagameplan.org>

LWC – Mark Martin for C. Eysink/C. Jarrels – Louisiana Workforce Commission puts people to work. LWC works with businesses and customers through Workers Compensation, Unemployment Compensation, and Workforce Development. Louisiana Rehabilitation Services is a part of Workforce Development. In 2010, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services was transferred out of the Department of Social Services to LWC. This was part of a national realignment effort to emphasize the mission of employment development and placement by Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors. LWC met each of its federal performance indicators this year which relate to the quality and quantity of employment outcomes for those consumers served through the year. LRS is a state/federal fund matching program. For example, in SFY 2006 (after Hurricane Katrina), LRS opened all Orders of Selection without any state-funding match (100% federal \$\$); but in more recent years, Louisiana has been unable to secure ~\$19 million in federal funds because there are insufficient state dollars available with which to draw down the federal funds.

DOE – N. Hicks – During the 2015 legislative session, Act 250 was passed which amended the Louisiana Deaf Child's Bill of Rights (L.R.S. 17:1960) which was first enacted in 1993. The amendment turned entitlement-style language into more directive language for the school districts that serve this population of students; and includes students with deaf-blindness. The most significant revision was the mandate of a communication plan included in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The amended law went into effect on August 1, 2015; and school districts were informed to develop a communication plan for all students who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind with the components required by law (if one did not already exist) and to include that communication plan on the IEP.

LSD – Dr. Donna Alleman for LSD – Dr. Alleman is the new Director of Louisiana School for the Deaf. School recently started and many activities are planned for this school year - outreach and early intervention; sports including football (Homecoming), volleyball, and basketball; drama club performances; academic events; and more. All are welcome at LSD in support of activities and development of our students.

VR – Gary Montgomery – there is now a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf in every region. Counselors for the Deaf in the Shreveport and Monroe regions recently participated in the sign-language immersion/Orientation to Deafness training program at Western Oregon University. Individuals in high school who are referred to VR may participate in Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) to prepare them for competitive employment.



F. Legislator Reports: None

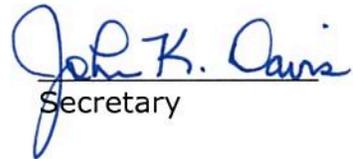
VI Date, Time, Place of Next Commission Meeting – December 11, 2015 – 10 AM – Bienville #118

VII Adjournment – J. Vincent/D. Hardy motioned to adjourn at 11:52 AM. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft of minutes prepared 09/03/15

Minutes corrected 12/11/15


Recorder Date 12/18/15


Secretary Date 12-18-2015

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