



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf  
SFY 12 Regular Commission Meeting  
Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2011**

**I. Call To Order** -The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Thelma Covello, Vice-Chair.

**A. Invocation** – Carolyn Jarrels

**B. Pledge of Allegiance** – Naomi DeDual

**C. Roll Call** – Naomi DeDual – A quorum of Commissioners was present.

**Commissioners present:**

Darlene Austin	Brandon Burris	Myron Berzas	Thelma Covello
John K. Davis	Maegan Guilbeau	Deanna Hardy	Carolyn Jarrels
Joyce Russo	Daniel Theaux	Kenneth York	

**Commissioners not present:**

Brandi Berkeley	Sen. Yvonne Dorsey	Walker Estes	Dr. Monita Hara
Rep. Kay Katz			

**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

**D. Opening remarks:** T. Covello welcomed all Commissioners and guests.

**E. Persons Requesting to Address the Board:**

Wendi Coker, Interpreting Coordinator – Deaf Action Center – Shreveport – expressed concern that letters of support for the DAC were not presented at the previous meeting; and notified that the DAC – Shreveport would like to partner with New Horizons for any needed ASL interpreting services.

**II Approval of Agenda - Motion:** B. Burris/D. Austin moved to accept the September 30, 2011 meeting agenda. Passed

**III Approval of Minutes - Motion:** D. Hardy/D. Theaux moved to accept the meeting minutes of the June 17, 2011 Task-Force (AM) meeting. Passed

**Approval of Minutes - Motion:** M. Guilbeau/M. Berzas moved to accept the meeting minutes of the June 17, 2011 Commission (PM) meeting. Passed

**IV Business for Informational Purposes**

**A. Officer's Reports:**

**President - B. Berkeley - N/A**

**Vice-President - T. Covello - no report**

**Secretary - J. Davis - no report**

**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 2010, along with the revenue and interest collected in SFY 2011; and the balance of the Trust Fund (\$1.2 million) after SFY 12 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.

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 the qualifications for state-interpreter certification; a list of state-wide resources for consumers with hearing loss; and information on meetings and presentations by LCD Director and staff.

**C. Relay Administration Board Report: N. DeDual** – provided information on the RAB; Hamilton Relay – provider for Louisiana TRS; and the status of traditional telecommunication relay services and CapTel relay services.

**D. Commissioner Reports:**

**D. Austin/LRID** – Last Friday LRID held their annual state conference and board elections; and Ms. Austin was re-elected as President. A public forum was held with members from LRID and LA Association of the Deaf to make sure available state services are provided to persons who are Deaf; and to solicit feedback and ideas from both groups.

**B. Burris/GODA** - Governor Jindal has proclaimed October as Disability Awareness Month; and information is available on their website about job fairs held around the metro areas of the state. Rep. Scott Simon is sponsoring state legislation pertaining to changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act, which is supported by GODA and ARC of Louisiana. On October 22, 2011, a conference will be held at the State Fire Marshall's office for persons with disabilities and for professionals in the disability field. Presentations will include: reports from the State Fire Marshall's office; statewide ADA services; and Moving Beyond ADA.

**T. Covello/Deaf rep.** - no report

**J. Davis/Deaf rep.** - has concerns about funding for next year's LCD budget and wants to ensure continued services to the Deaf community;

**D. Hardy/Parent** -has concerns about reductions in insurance benefits for hearing aids for minors. Her child's hearing aids cost over \$4,000; and the insurance company will pay only \$800 per hearing aid. Her appeal is based on state law which indicates insurers pay \$1,400 per hearing aid for minors.

**D. Theaux/Hard of Hearing rep.** - has concerns about limited insurance benefits for cochlear implants and services. Insurance paid only 2% of his \$8,000 cost for CI and related services; and he paid 98% out-of-pocket.

**M. LeFors for W. Estes /LAD** - In June, LAD held their annual conference and board elections. New board members are: Walker Estes - President; Thelma Covello - Vice-President; Michelli LeFors - Secretary and David LeFors - Treasurer. LAD is 340 members strong; and town meetings have been held throughout LA to provide information and training to deaf advocates.

**M. Berzas/DCFS** - no changes to existing services within DCFS

**M. Guilbeau/DHH** - no changes to existing services within DHH

**C. Jarrells/LWC** - no changes to existing services within LWC

**J. Russo/DOE** - both general and special education systems within DOE are gearing up for a \$25 million literacy grant; literacy systems have and are continuing to take into consideration sensory issues when designing standardized assessments; and the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness has a new website. The NCDB provides input on services available for persons who are deaf-blind; and the DOE provides technical assistance and training to all parties (consumers, educators, and administrators) for those services provided by NCDB to individuals from birth to age 22. Louisiana is working with eleven other states on a program for students age 16-22 to participate in training through NCDB - Southeastern Use training.

**K. York/LRS-VR** - Throughout October, LA Rehabilitation Services is sponsoring job fairs for persons with disabilities in metro areas around the state in coordination with Business Career/Solution Centers.

**V Business Requiring Commission Action**

**A. Old Business – none**

**B. New 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: J. Davis/D. Austin moved for LCD staff to provide information on LCD hearing aid services. Substitute Motion: D. Hardy/M. Guilbeau – moved for LCD staff to provide information on all LCD services – hearing aids, interpreting, telecomm access, SSP. Passed

Motion: D. Austin/no second – moved that LCD contracts follow an RFP process. D. Austin withdrew the motion.

**VI Date, Time, and Place for next Commission Meeting** - The next LCD meeting will be December 2, at 10:00 AM in Rm. 173 - DHH Bienville.

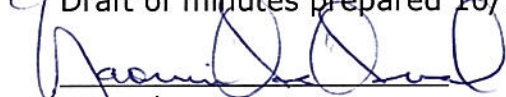
**VII Announcements:**

**T. Covello** - October 29<sup>th</sup> is LSD's Homecoming; and the football game is at 2 PM against Georgia School for the Deaf.

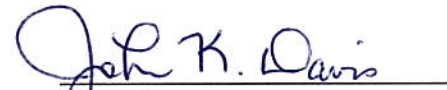
**Paul Winfree** – October 13-16<sup>th</sup> - LA Association of the Deaf is sponsoring a magic/comedy show with deaf magicians in New Orleans (N.O. Black Deaf Advocates/TBA); BR at LSD Auditorium; Lafayette (LAAD clubhouse; and Shreveport (DAC/TBA); tickets are \$10 – under 12 free.

**VIII Adjournment** – B. Burris/D. Theaux moved to adjourn at 12:10 PM. Passed

Draft of minutes prepared 10/13/11 Minutes corrected on \_\_\_\_\_.

  
Recorder

12/29/11  
Date

  
Secretary

12.29.2011  
Date

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