



**Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
SFY 2014 Regular Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2013**

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 – N. DeDual

C. Roll Call – Diane Anticich – A quorum of Commissioners was present.

Commissioners present:

Dr. Moises Arriaga

Dr. Nancy Benham

Thelma Covello

John K. Davis

Nancy Hicks

Leslie Knowles

Dr. Lee Mendoza

Gary Montgomery

John Vincent

Carolyn Jarrels

Naomi DeDual (non-voting)

Commissioners not present:

Rep. Regina Barrow Brandi Berkeley

Brandon Burris

Louis Cannon

Sen. Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb

Deanna Hardy

Secretary Suzy Sonnier

Commission Staff present:

Diane Anticich, Program Manager

Elaine Scivicque, Admin. Program Specialist

Jairus Methvin, Program Monitor

Interpreters: Tammy Bennett, Shirley Delahoussaye, and Dawn Melendez

II Approval of November 1, 2013 Meeting Agenda – Motion: Dr. L. Mendoza/Dr. N. Benham motioned to accept November 1, 2013 agenda as presented. Motion passed.

III Approval of August 2, 2013 Meeting Minutes – Motion: J. Vincent/John K. Davis motioned to accept August 2, 2013 minutes as presented. Motion passed.

IV Reports:

A. Officer Reports:

T. Covello, Vice-Chairperson – no report

J. K. Davis, Secretary – no report

B. Executive Director's Report – N. DeDual: Reiterated the purpose, authority and responsibility of LCD staff and board for coordination, facilitation and/or provision of accessibility services; provided the balance of the LCD Trust Fund. Also provided listing 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 2013 performance reports of consumers served statewide through end of year. Provided SFY 2013 report for state-interpreter certification,

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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. Also notified that registration for the next four-year cycle (2014-2017) has begun. Also, provided resources for consumers with hearing loss; LCD RSCs contact info; meetings with/by LCD staff; and information on ADA, HIPAA, and NVRA. Also, requested that commissioners provide the LCD office with a copy of their certificate of completion of ethics training which may be found online at the LA Ethics Administration. Also, notified November 7th at Oak Harbor Golf Club in Slidell, is the 26th annual Deaf Children's Golf Tournament, sponsored by LAD, WalMart, Bruce Fine Foods, Cajun Injector, and Tabasco, with all proceeds to LAD for student activities.

C. Relay Administration Board Report: N. DeDual – Notified as to recent Federal Communication Commission (FCC) activities including a rule in June 2013 regarding VRS; the August 2013 Order regarding processes for distribution of Internet-Protocol – Captioned Telephone Services (IP-CTS) and the Notice of Proposed Rule-making (NPRM) for which feedback is requested about consideration of shifting the costs for (IP-CTS) from the FCC to the individual states.

D. Commissioner Reports:

LRID – L. Knowles – At the Fall conference, a new slate of officers was elected which includes: President, Alvina Malcolm; Vice-President, Barbara Lovas; Secretary, Evon Malray; Treasurer, Tara Cortez; and Member at Large, Tish Imme. Ms. Knowles thanks the incoming officers, the outgoing officers; and reports a transition meeting is being scheduled.

Professional Rep – Dr. Moises Arriaga – I look forward to working with everyone.

Rep w/ Hearing Loss – Jack Vincent – I look forward to working with everyone.

E. State Agency Reports:

DHH – Dr. L. Mendoza – Flu season is October till April. Everyone is recommended to get a flu shot, especially children younger than age 5, pregnant women, persons with illness, and the elderly. More information about flu prevention is available at www.dhh.state.la.us DHH has recently had a few changes in personnel; and Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham is now serving as the Interim Assistant Secretary for the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH); and Mark Thomas is now serving as Interim Assistant Secretary for the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. Both Dr. Dunham and Mr. Thomas have extensive experience with DHH.

LRS/VR – G. Montgomery – All vacancies, except one, of the Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf (RCD) positions are filled in the eight LRS regional offices. A state team planning conference is being held in Chicago, IL next week. Conference team members from LA include: G. Montgomery, N. DeDual, Dr. N. Benham, C. Thibodeaux, and Dr. K. Reynolds.

LSA – Dr. Nancy Benham – Last Thursday, LSA celebrated their 160th anniversary with a performing arts ceremony and a reception. On Nov. 6th, the drama club will perform Charlie and the Chocolate Factory for the community at the LSDVI auditorium. Everyone is invited - tickets are \$3 for children and students; and \$5 for adults.

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DOE – Nancy Hicks – It’s a pleasure to serve on the Commission. I’ve served with the LA Dept. of Education since 1981; and have worked in special education services for 37 years. Also, reports that the LSU-Health Sciences Center recently received a U.S. DOE grant for deaf-blind initiatives.

Workforce Development – C. Jarrels – no report

F. Legislator Reports:

None

V. Business Requiring Commission Action:

A. Old Business:

1. SFY 2014 LCD Technical Guidance manual – **Motion:** J. K. Davis/G. Montgomery - to accept the SFY 2014 LCD Technical Guidance manual. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Officer Elections – **Motion:** J.K. Davis/J. Vincent - to accept the slate of officers who volunteered to serve – B. Berkeley, Chair; T. Covello, Vice-Chair; J.K. Davis, Secretary; G. Montgomery and D. Hardy, members-at-large. Motion passed unanimously.

B. New Business:

1. Apple Technology Project – **Motion:** Dr. M. Arriaga/Dr. L. Mendoza – to initiate a pilot project for assistive services and devices (iPads) for a year limited to \$150K.

Substitute motion: J.K.Davis/Dr. N. Benham – to initiate a pilot project for assistive services and devices (wi-fi compatible iPads) for a year limited to \$150K. Motion passed unanimously.


Motion: J. Vincent/G. Montgomery – to establish a task-force committee to develop technical guidelines and a survey to assess successfulness of the project. Motion passed unanimously.

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

E. Persons Requesting to Address the Board: Kenneth David Paula Rodriguez

VII Adjournment – Dr. L. Mendoza/Dr. N. Benham motioned to adjourn at 12:20 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Draft of minutes prepared 11/21/13


Recorder Date 2/11/14

Minutes corrected on _____.


Secretary Date 2-11-2014

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