

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



2015 Annual Report

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of



West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
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Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
Natalie E. Tennant, Secretary of State



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

405 Capitol St., Suite 800
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

July 6th, 2015

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor, State of West Virginia
State Capitol Building
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Governor Tomblin

RE: 2015 Annual Report:

The 2015 Annual Report details the performance of the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) between June 30, 2014 and June 31, 2015. WVCDHH focused on the issues of significance for deaf and hard of hearing West Virginians. The staff and Commission members have worked diligently to attain goals set by the board as a result of strategic planning for 2015. As always, the staff strives to provide outreach, information, assistance, and training to anyone in West Virginia who is affected by concerns related to varying degrees of deafness.

I hope that you will find this report informative. Please contact me if you would like additional materials or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Earnest Covington III".

Earnest Covington III, MPA
Executive Director

ECIII

Enclosure

CC: Natalie E. Tennant, The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin, and Board and Ex-Officio Members of the WVCDHH.
West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
2015 Annual Report**

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Acronyms

AA/AAS	Associate Degree
ASL	American Sign Language
BA/BS	Bachelor's Degree
CDI	Certified Deaf Interpreter
CED	Center for Excellence in Disabilities
CEU	Continuing Education Units
CI	Certified Interpreter
CI	Cochlear Implant
CMP	Certificate Maintenance Program
CT	Certified Transliterater
DOP	Division of Personnel
DRS	Division of Rehabilitation Services
EIPA	Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment
FY	Fiscal Year
LTA	Local Test Administrator
MUGC	Marshall University Graduate College
NA	No Answer/Not Applicable
NAD	National Association of the Deaf
OHRD	Organization and Human Resource Development
PERD	Performance Evaluation and Research Division
Ph.D.	Doctorate Degree
RID	Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf
TDD	Telecommunications Device for the Deaf
TTY	Teletypewriter
WVAD	West Virginia Association of the Deaf
WVCDHH	West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
WVDE	West Virginia Department of Education
WVDHHR	West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
WVSDB	West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Mission

The West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was established in 1989. The mission of WVCDHH is to advocate for, develop, and coordinate public policies, regulations, and programs to assure full and equal opportunity for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing in West Virginia. Committed to carrying out that mission, the Commission works statewide to provide opportunities through which the deaf and hard of hearing can participate fully as active, responsible, productive, and independent citizens.

Goals/Objectives

- Increase public awareness of deafness, and promote understanding between deaf and hearing persons through town meetings, workshops, and conferences.
- Increase number of communication access services including the number of certified and qualified sign language interpreters and real-time captioning.
- Conduct ongoing workshops to increase skill levels of interpreters.
- Distribute telephonic devices for individuals with communication access needs, including amplified telephone, teletypewriter/telephone digital device (TDD/TTY), large display TDD/TTY for low-vision individuals, and Braille TDD/TTY.
- Add items to the WVCDHH library collection. The library, located at the Library Commission, provides information and materials for the deaf, hard of hearing, and interpreters, including sign language training materials.
- Maintain information about education, communication, group home facilities, independent living skills, recreational facilities, employment, vocational training, health and mental health services, substance abuse, and other services necessary to assure their ability to function in society.
- Investigate the conditions of the deaf and hard of hearing prioritizing the aged, homeless, needy, victims of rubella, victims of abuse and neglect, group homes, and services for the multi-disabled deaf and hard of hearing.
- Provide services related to interpreters including establishing and updating the interpreter directory, providing workshops and evaluations, and maintaining a registry of interpreters qualified to practice within West Virginia.

Performance Measures

	Fiscal Year	Actual 2015
Town meetings, workshops, and conferences held	6	8
Addition to the WVCDHH Library Collection	N/A	N/A
TDD/TTY and amplified phone distributed	9	9
Smoke alarms	14 sets	16 sets

Board Meetings January to December Cycle 2015

Location	Date	Member Participation	Ex-Officio Participation
Bridgeport	March 20, 2015	3	3
Parkersburg	May 8, 2015	6	6
Snowshoe	August 6, 2015	8	7
Charleston	November 13, 2015	6	7

Board Members:

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Representatives:

Paul See (Chairperson)
 George "Marty" Blakely
 John Burdette
 Gloria Hollen
 Roy Forman

Parent of a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child:

Gwen Bryant

Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing:

Tammy Phillips

Otolaryngologist:

Vacant

Audiologist:

Dr. Karen McNealy

Ex-Officio Members:

Angela Wilson – Designee for John R. Junkins, Acting Commissioner, Division of Labor
 Annette Carey – Designee for Michael J. Martirano Ed.D., Superintendent, Department of Education
 Nancy Sullivan – Designee for Karen L. Bowling, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Health and Human Resources
 Rachel Gill – Designee for Donna L. Ashworth, Director, Division of Rehabilitation Services
 Christina Mullins – Designee for Rahaul Gupta, M.D., Commissioner, Bureau for Public Health
 Pam Roush – WV Birth to Three Program
 Dr. Martin P. Keller – West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind
 Susan White – Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children
 Programs and Recommendations:

West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Staff:

Previous:

Marissa Sanders, Executive Director (resigned on July 30, 2014)
Holly Courtney, Deputy Director (resigned on January 1, 2014)
Kari Preslar, Office Assistant III (resigned on March 30, 2015)

Present:

Earnest Covington, Executive Director (hired on January 3, 2015)
Rachel Rajca, Deputy Director (hired on June 1, 2015)
Sarah Lowther, Office Assistant III (hired on April 1, 2015 on a temporary basis and hired full time on July 1, 2015)

Programs and Recommendations:

West Virginia Code §5-14-9 states that the Commission shall make an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature which shall include its recommendations and programs. Currently, the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has the following areas of responsibility:

Program 1:

There must be more emphasis on the use of communication devices for people who are deaf or hard of hearing and the means to provide them [§5-14-1(g)]. This includes investigating and advocating for new technology for West Virginia residents.

**Telephonic Communication Device Loan Program Summary 2015
Loan Recipient Information**

In recent years, Video Relay Services have gained popularity with the profoundly Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) currently provides funding for this technology at no cost to the individual. However, this technology is not conducive to the needs of every individual. This program specifically addresses the needs of those who have experienced hearing loss over time, such as the senior citizen population, or the mining population.

Age

0-17 Years Old	18-54 Years Old	55 and Older
0	0	10

Type of Hearing Loss

Deaf	DeafBlind	Hard of Hearing	Speech Impaired
1	0	9	0

Cause of Hearing Loss

Unknown	Illness	Hereditary	Aging	Undeclared
0	3	1	5	1

Onset of Hearing Loss

At Birth	Pre-Lingual (before language)	Post-Lingual (after language)	Undeclared
0	0	7	3

Income

\$0-\$14,999	\$15,000-\$30,999	\$31,000-\$50,999	\$51,000 and up
4	6	0	0

During FY 2015, the WVCDHH provided the following telecommunication devices to qualified West Virginia residents

Type of Device	Number Distributed
TTYs with Printer	0
TTY without Printer	1
Amplified Phones	9
Large Display TTYs	0

***Accessible Smoke Alarm Project Summary 2015
Loan Recipient Information***

0-17 Years Old	18-54 Years Old	55 and Older
3	0	11

Type of Hearing Loss

Deaf	Deaf-Blind	Hard of Hearing	Speech Impaired
6	0	8	0

Cause of Hearing Loss

Unknown	Illness	Hereditary	Aging	Undeclared
0	1	4	4	5

Onset of Hearing Loss

At Birth	Pre-Lingual (before language acquisition)	Post-Lingual (after language acquisition)	Undeclared
3	2	8	1

Income				
\$0-\$14,999	\$15,000-\$30,999	\$31,000-\$50,999	\$51,000 and up	Undeclared
1	0	0	0	13

During FY 2015, the WVCDHH provided the following smoke alarms devices to qualified West Virginia residents

Type of Device	Number Distributed
First Alert SA320	15
Gentex 7139LS	15
Lifetone HLAC150	17

Each employee of the Commission has a web camera attached to his/her computer enabling video communication. The office has Sorenson Videophone for both video relay and video calls to enable communication in American Sign Language for people who are deaf or hard of hearing

The Commission Recommendations:

- Seek funds to continue this program.
- Investigate new technologies that provide better communication access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Currently, most applicants for the Telephonic Communication Device Loan Program are hard of hearing. The Commission recommends researching what technology could be beneficial for those who identify as deaf.
- Advocate for access to communication technology with communication services providers throughout the state.
- Develop a program for communicating urgent emergency information to members of the deaf and hard of hearing community. Develop and distribute information on emergency preparedness to deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
- Increase community interest in the program by actively promoting its existence to foster awareness. In doing so, focus on institutions that work specifically with target population, such as organizations that work with senior citizens.

Program 2:

Develop an outreach program to familiarize the public with the rights and needs of deaf and hard of hearing people and of available services (West Virginia Code §5-14-5).

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) provides data stating that approximately 17% of the American population experiences hearing loss. West Virginia's population of 1.8 million indicates that an estimated 306,000 individuals may be living with varying degrees of hearing loss throughout the state. The Commission continuously strives to provide information and outreach for that population, in accordance with what their specific situation may require.

The Commission continues to distribute the General Information and Resource Information brochures which include sixteen (16) inserts of information on the following subjects: legal, education, employment, senior citizens, assistive technology, animal services, mental health, academic, recreational areas, deaf-blindness, and communication access/interpreters.

The Commission established the 2015 Interpreter Directory. This information also is now available as a web-based resource at www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh.

The WVCDHH Deputy Directory has developed exhibits and information on the assistive technology offered through other programs to benefit the deaf and hard of hearing. She is available to individuals, groups, and agencies to provide information and demonstrations regarding assistive technology.

The WVCDHH web page, www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh, is updated regularly and provides beneficial information to the deaf, hard of hearing, family members, service providers, and all others interested in the work of the Commission.

The Commission Recommendations:

- Develop a program or workshop similar to "Bridge the Gap: Working with People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing" for state employees and others to learn how to interact with deaf and hard of hearing customers or employees.
- Develop a DVD or web-based training guide for service providers.
- The Commission shall consult with public and private entities or organizations to compile and maintain the clearinghouse of information about deaf and hard of hearing people.
- Provide annual workshops on topics identified during Town Hall meetings. Topics for necessary workshops may also be identified in communications with presidents of state deaf and hard of hearing clubs and organizations.

- Encourage the establishment of a hearing loss organization to focus on hard of hearing or late deafened citizens.

Program 3:

Maintain a clearinghouse of information to aid deaf and hard of hearing persons and others in obtaining appropriate services and information about such services (West Virginia Code §5-14-5).

The West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides materials to the deaf, hard of hearing, families, and service providers upon request. A log is compiled of all materials distributed. These materials also are distributed during off-site visits.

The Board is comprised of various citizens and professionals working within Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. The Board members, along with their represented populations provide a vast network for the collection and distribution of information from and to the community.

The Commission has an abundance of resources held at the Library Commission. These are educational resources pertaining to culture and history, hearing loss, Sign Language, interpreting, and music. These resources are available through an interlibrary loan program to ensure access from throughout the state.

Information Sharing for FY 2015

This table includes the goods and information provided to West Virginia residents at no cost upon request and at meetings, conferences, workshops, exhibits, and visits to schools and organizations.

Resources	Number Distributed
Amplified Phones	9
TTY	1
General & Resource Information	20
Harris Communication Catalog	6
Hear-More Catalog	2
ADA Information	5
ASL ABC Bookmarks	150
ASL Activity Books	100
Quota Club Hearing Aid Application	25
2015 Interpreter Directory	5
WVCDHH Monthly Newsletter	250
TTY/Amplified Phone Loan Application	30
Smoke Alarm Loan Application	40

Smoke Device – First Alert	15
Smoke Device – Gentex	15
Smoke Device – Lifetone	17

* Due to significant staff turnover throughout FY 2015 for each position, numbers may appear lower than previous fiscal years.

Records of Contacts by or with WVCDHH Staff

	2015
Interpreter Requests	15
Training or Seminars (including interpreter workshops)	6
Visitors to the Commission	10

* Due to significant staff turnover throughout FY 2015 for each position, numbers may appear lower than previous fiscal years.

The Commission Recommendation:

- Add additional resources to the information clearinghouse as they become available.
- Update the clearinghouse of information to aid deaf and hard of hearing people in endeavors concerning education, communication, group home facilities, independent living skills, recreational facilities, employment, vocational training, physical and mental health services, substance abuse, and other services necessary to assure their deaf and hard of hearing’s ability to function in society.
- Update the WVCDHH website to provide a more current and user-friendly information source.
- Utilize social media to promote the work of the Commission (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and others).

Program 4:

Establish, maintain, and coordinate a statewide services to provide courts, state and local legislative bodies, and others with a listed of qualified and certified interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing and a list of qualified and certified teachers of American Sign Language (ASL). (West Virginia Code §5-14-5)

The 2015 Interpreter Directory was posted to the WVCDHH website for the convenience of entities who my encounter a need to hire a qualified ASL interpreter. Such entities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Governor of West Virginia
State Officials
State Employees
State Colleges and Universities
WVCDHH Board Members
Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing WV Citizens
Division of Rehabilitation Services Counselors for the Deaf
State Police Stations
Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Teachers of the Deaf
Service Providers working with deaf and hard of hearing
Courthouses
Sheriffs' Office
Hospitals
Doctors' Office

The Commission Recommendation:

- Create a new position for an Interpreter Coordinator.
- Continue diligently encouraging practicing interpreters to register as such with the WVRI.
- Work with appropriate state officials to establish consequences for unregistered interpreters or businesses that hire the unregistered or uncertified interpreters into law.
- Develop and implement a plan and advocate for a policy statement to promote the use of certified sign language interpreters. Create a plan for dissemination of policy statement for interpreters, and public and private entities.

Program 5:

Improve services to families with deaf or hard of hearing children.

The Commission is developing a comprehensive manual for parents of deaf and hard of hearing children to help the parents make informed decisions. The manual will include information on communication methods, community resources, cochlear implants, and educational options.

The Commission is represented on the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board.

The Commission Recommendations:

- Continue developing a Parents Manual, advising parent of deaf and hard of hearing children on available options.
- The Commission shall begin working closely with groups that currently provide services and support to families with a deaf and hard of hearing child such as The Outreach Program, Hands and Voices, and the Department of Education.

Program 6:

Develop a needs assessment survey to distribute to deaf and hard of hearing West Virginians.

Currently, the Commission does not have the authority to mandate the release of this information. The survey given is completed on a voluntary basis.

The Commission Recommendations:

- Simplify survey to reach a broader audience.
- Utilize the survey results to maintain awareness of the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Program 7:

Develop infrastructure that will support and maintain the goals and objectives of the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The Commission develops a detailed budget for each project included in the strategic plan by July 1st of each year.

The Commission will share their strategic plan and budgetary needs with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources by August 1st each year. This will allow the Commission to submit any needed improvement plan to the Cabinet Secretary to submit to West Virginia Legislature.

The Commission will explore and apply for grant opportunities that would support the implementation of the strategic plan. It will allow the Commission to identify the potential funding sources within federal or state governments and private foundations. The Commission will determine who would be responsible for writing grant applications and provided the appropriate training for an identified person.

The Commission Recommendations:

- The Commission will analyze the current budget, as well as provide education to the Deputy Director on grant writing to secure funds for future projects, including the Telephonic Communication Device Loan Program
- The Commission will continue to review the state codes pertaining to deaf and hard of hearing constituents to identify areas that might need to be revised to meet the changing needs of target clients

Program 8:

Investigate the condition of the deaf and hard of hearing prioritizing the aged, homeless, needy, victims of rubella, victims of abuse and neglect, group homes and services for the multi-disabled deaf and hard of hearing.

WVCDHH developed complaint protocol for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. WVCDHH investigates the complaints, and reports them to the appropriate commission. Data is collected on all inquiries/complaints so that targeted technical assistance can be developed or provided as appropriate.

Each new Commission staff member is dedicated to attending deaf and hard of hearing related workshops, events, and conferences to ensure full immersion in the community and a deep awareness of needs that may otherwise not be noted.

Total of Complaint Forms for 2015 FY

Reason for Complaint	Count
Hiring unregistered/unqualified Interpreters	2
Refusal to provide interpreter services	5
Refusal to provide reasonable accommodations	4

The Commission Recommendations:

- Establish a system to follow-up with violating entities to provide guidance and education throughout the event of a complaint.

- Create workshops to educate private and public organizations of necessary steps to comply with the ADA and WV Code concerning the rights of deaf and hard of hearing citizens to allow prevention of future complaints

Interagency Collaboration and Related Activities:

The materials serving as resources for community members are now being held at the Library Commission. All materials are available through the statewide interlibrary loan program. A complete list of materials placed at the library during FY 2015 is available at www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh. A search database can be accessed at <http://library.wvdrs.org>

**WVCDHH LIBRARY
(Resources Listed in the WVCDHH Library)**

Categories	Deaf Culture/History	Hearing Loss	Sign Language	Interpreting	Music/Exercise	Reference
Total	13	3	28	12	2	1

Categories	Deaf Culture/History	Hearing Loss	Sign Language	Interpreting	Music/Exercise	Reference
Books	7	1	15	6	1	1
Videos	5	2	13	6	1	

Deaf Culture and History

Title
Sound and Fury
Working with Deaf People
Deaf Culture Behind Bars: Signs and Stories of a Texas Population
You Think Deaf People Have Problems?
Living Legends: Six Stories About Successful Deaf People
Living Legends II: Six Stories about Incredible Deaf People
Living Legends III: Six Stories about Amazing People
Deaf Culture Autobiographies: M.J. Bienvenu
The Hearing World Around Me
Deaf Mosaic: "Deaf President Now"
Movers & Shakers: Deaf People Who Changed the World
Families with Deaf Children: Discovering Your Needs & Exploring Your Choices
Mom and Dad, Your Deaf Child is Ok! Significant Steps in Communicating with your Deaf Child

Hearing Loss

Title
Unheard Voices: A Dramatic Look into the Heart of Hearing Loss
For Hearing People Only
Families With Hard of Hearing Children

Sign Language

Title
Sign with Your Baby: How to Communicate with Infants Before They Can Speak
A Basic Course in American Sign Language
A Basic Course in American Sign Language Study Guide
Un Cuso Basico De Lenguaje American
You Can Sign!: American Sign Language for Beginners Volume 1 to 3
ASL Grammatical Aspects Course 2001: Video ASL/PSE Grammar & Sentence Structure
Mouth Morphemes: In American Sign Language
Sign Language Conversations for Beginning Signers
Fingerspelled Names & Introduction: A Template Building Approach
Fingerspelling: The Final Frontier
Signing Everyday Phrases
Sign Language Made Simple
Signing for Dummies
The American Sign Language Dictionary on CD-ROM: Version 2.0
Random House Webster's American Sign Language Dictionary
Random House Webster's American Sign Language Medical Dictionary
Random House Webster's American Sign Language Legal Dictionary
Essential ASL: The Fun, Fast, and Simple Way to Learn American Sign Language
The Joy of Signing 2 nd Edition
American Sign Language Computer Dictionary
American Sign Language Video Dictionary and Inflection Guide
Signing Naturally Series Teacher Curriculum Guide Level 1 to 3
Signing Naturally Series Student Workbook Level 1 to 3
Talking Hands
In Sign Language Series Videos: God Bless American, The Star Spangled Banner, and The Pledge of Allegiance
Read with Me Video Tapes Set 1 to 11
Sign With Me Volume I to III
Finger Flicks for Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced
Beginning ASL VideoCourse Lesson 1 to 16

Interpreting

<i>Title</i>
An Interview with Kirsten Gonzales
Working with Interpreters
Decisions? Decisions?: A Practical Guide for Sign Language Professionals
The Art of Interpreting ASL
Interpreting the Miranda Warnings
Interpreting Practice Videotapes with Modeling: Voice-to-Sign Interpreting Practice "Living Fully" and Secondary Education Interpreting Practice
Deaf Children Signers
Transliterating: Show me the English
Sign Language Interpreting: A Basic Resource Book
ASL Hymns for Singing
It's Just a Phrase You're Going Through
RID Testing Materials for Generalist, N.T.S Interpretation and Certified Deaf Interpreter

Music/Exercise

<i>Title</i>
Music in Motion
Visual Music Workouts

References

<i>Title</i>
The Blue Book: TDI National Directory & Resource Guide

The Commission is a Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) sponsor for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, supporting the continued education of current interpreters.

The Commission is working with the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources to promulgate rules related to establishing standards for interpreters, as required by state code. The current code for the state quality assurance evaluation includes the establishment of required qualifications and ethical standards for interpreters, the approval of interpreters, the monitoring and investigating of interpreters and the suspension and revocation of approvals. The Commission may conduct interpreter evaluations and collect and expend funds with regards thereto.

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Office of Special Education has partnered with the Commission to continue a mentoring program for educational interpreters during FY 2015.

The Commission has engaged with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Center for Threat Preparedness, the Red Cross, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster, and Community Emergency Response Teams to provide better communication services for deaf and hard of hearing West Virginians during emergencies and disasters.

The Commission is participating in the Center for Threat Preparedness' Access and Functional Needs work group whose mission is to enhance, promote, and support emergency responses systems by leveraging promising practices and innovation solutions to identify, locate, and reach all people in West Virginia during threats to the public's health and safety.

The Commission is working with staff from the Division of Personnel's organization and Human Resource Development office to conduct a workshop entitled "Bridging the Gap: Working with People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing".

The Commission partnered with the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council to receive a grant from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services in the amount of \$194,250 with the goal of distributing ADA compliant smoke alarms to deaf and hard of hearing West Virginians. SILC served as the fiscal agent for this grant with the Commission approving all expenditures. This grant expired in July 1st, 2014.

The Commission continues to maintain the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) lending Teletypewriters (TTYs) and amplified phones to income qualified individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in West Virginia.

Commission Activities -- July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015:

July 2014 – Office Assistant III attended several wvOasis training in preparation for the accounting/purchasing changes within the State.

September 5, 2014 – Office Assistant III attended the Community of Practice meeting in Sutton.

September 27, 2014 – Office Assistant III attended the WV Hands & Voice picnic in Nitro.

October 1-October 2, 2014 – The Commission exhibited at the Equal Employment Opportunity Conference at the Embassy Suites in Charleston.

October 17, 2014 – Office Assistant III attended the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Council meeting in Charleston.

October 23, 2014 – The Commission exhibited at the Disability Awareness Day at BridgeValley Community & Technical College in South Charleston.

November 15, 2014 – Office Assistant III attended the WV Hands & Voices Board Meeting and Community Meeting in Nitro.

December 12, 2014 – Office Assistant III attended the Community of Practice meeting in Sutton.

January 3, 2015 – Executive Director attended the Charleston Association for the Deaf New Year Party in St. Albans.

January 21, 2015 – Executive Director represented WVCDHH for Disability Advocacy Day at the State Capitol.

February 13, 2015 – Executive Director attended the Interpreter Task Force meeting in Charleston.

April 3, 2015 – Executive Director attended the Interpreter Task Force meeting in Charleston

April 7, 2015 – Executive Director met with Tonia Patrick to establish an Interpreter Training Program at BridgeValley Community & Technical College in South Charleston

April 24, 2015 – Executive Director attended the ASL-ITP Advisory Board meeting at Fairmont State University in Fairmont

May 5, 2015 – Executive Director observed the Office of Accessibility Services at West Virginia University in Morgantown.

May 10, 2015 – Executive Director submitted an article for deaf and hard of hearing senior citizens in the Kanawha Valley Senior Services newsletter for the month of May.

May 1 to 30, 2015 – Executive Director reviewed the WVCDHH budget with Department of Health and Human Resources for the FY 2016

May 20, 2015 – Office Assistant III attended the 2015 Robert W. Jackson Senior Conference in Ripley.

May 22, 2015 – Office Assistant III attended the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Council meeting in South Charleston.

June 13, 2015 – Executive Director and Deputy Director represented WVCDHH for the WVSD 145th Anniversary in Romney.

June 17, 2015 – Deputy Director and Office Assistant III attended World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Charleston.

June 22 to June 26, 2015 – Deputy Director and Office Assistant III exhibited at 2015 Disability Caucus in Charleston.

June 23 to June 25, 2015 – Executive Director represented WVCDHH for the National Association of State Agencies for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

June 23, 2015 – Deputy Directory attended Emergency Preparedness Access Functional Needs Meeting in Charleston.

June 27, 2015 – Deputy Directory attended Charleston Association for the Deaf picnic in Charleston.

Publications:

The WVCDHH began publishing a monthly newsletter, beginning July 2015.

The 2015 Interpreter Directory was published, distributed by request, and posted on the WVCDHH website for access to all.

Committee and Board Alliances:

Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Board
Pierpont Community and Technical College American Sign Language/Interpreter
Education Program Advisory Board
BridgeValley Community and Technical College American Sign Language/Interpreter
Training Program Advisory Board
American Sign Language Interpreter Task Force

Interpreter Report:

West Virginia Code §5-14-5 states that the Commission shall establish, maintain and coordinate a statewide service to provide courts, legislative bodies, state and local government entities and others with a list of qualified and certified interpreters for the deaf and a list of qualified and certified teachers of American Sign Language. Furthermore, the commission shall establish required qualifications and ethical standards for interpreters, a mechanism for approval of interpreters, the monitoring and investigation of interpreters and the suspension and revocation of approvals. The commission may conduct interpreter evaluations and collect and expend funds.

Effective July 1, 2008, West Virginia Department of Education policy 5202 require all educational interpreters working in public schools to become para-professionals and achieve a score of 3.0 or higher out of 5 on the EIPA. Beginning July 1, 2010, the interpreters are required to achieve a score of 3.5 or higher.

Effective July 1, 2010, The Commission created an Interpreter Task Force to establish the registry system. The registry opened on October 1, 2012, and became mandatory for all interpreters on October 1, 2013. To be included in the registry, interpreters must hold at least one of three types of qualifications.

1. National Certification through the Registry of Interpreters for Deaf (RID) or the National Association of the Deaf (NAD)
2. State qualifications through the Virginia Quality Assurance Screening or any other state qualifications
3. Educational qualifications through the Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment

The Commission is a Local Test Administrator (LTA) for the EIPA. These tests are administered by the Commission at no cost to the interpreter, except for fees paid to Boys Town National Research Hospital for the assessment.

To improve skills of both community and educational interpreters, the WVCDHH offered during FY 2015. Workshop locations reached geographic regions across West Virginia.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from RID were available for all workshops. The Commission is a Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) sponsor with RID.

The West Virginia Library Commission has RID National Interpreter Certification (NIC) test-taking preparation materials. These materials are available through the interlibrary loan program.

Workshops for Interpreters

Date	Workshop	Location
September 27, 2014	Interpreting Potpourri	South Charleston
October 4, 2014	Relax! You're just an Interpreter	Summersville
October 25, 2014	Interpreting Potpourri	Clarksburg
October 25, 2014	Professional Development Plan	Fairmont
April 4, 2015	ASL: Classifiers, Morpheme and Fluency	Ripley
June 22-25, 2015	ASL Bootcamp	Fairmont

The Commission Recommendation:

- Establish strong disciplinary policies for interpreters and public and private entitles.
- Encourages colleges and universities to establish interpreter training programs.
- Encourages interpreters to register through WVRI to allow a higher set of standards for WV interpreters.

Interpreter Services
(Information Listed in the WVCDHH Directory and on the WVCDHH website)

Certification	FY 2015
Total Interpreters Listed	78
EIPA total	38
NAD certified, RID certified, and VQAS screened total	54
NAD Level	-
Level V	2
Level IV	4
Level III	2
RID Level	-
NIC Advanced	4
NIC Master	0
NIC	12
CI	2
CT	2
CI/CT	4
CDI	0
SC:L	2
VQAS Level (transliterating)	-
Level IV	0
Level III	8
Level II	11
Level I	0
VQAS Level (Interpreting)	-
Level IV	0
Level III	3
Level II	13
Level I	3
Interpreter Agencies	3

Information from updated list on www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh/ as of June 30, 2015
 27 interpreters listed on www.wvdhhr.org/wvcdhh/ are from surrounding states and are available for assignment in West Virginia.

Appendix II

**West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Financial Report FY 2015**

Total Appropriated for FY2015:

General Revenue	\$	217,019.00
Special Revenue	\$	17,819.00
Total	\$	234,838.00

Expenditures:

Personnel	\$	61,045.39
Employee Benefits	\$	18,758.03
Current Expenses	\$	42,213.56
Special Revenue	\$	15.00
Total Expenditures*	\$	<u>122,031.98</u>

Balance \$ 112,806.02

6/30/15 Fund Balance Unreserved \$ 97,786.17

*Due to vacancies in office staff throughout FY 2015 for each position, expenditures are lower than previous years.