

## **ADA Committee Meeting April 25, 2012**

The ADA Committee met at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 via ITV in Room 204 in Vernon and Room 300 at Century City Center.

Members present were Deana Lehman, Chair, Jamie Buchanan, Judy Ditmore, Gary Don Harkey, Kristin Harris, Dean Johnston, Ruth Rascon, Betha Rutledge, Jo Ann Sharp, and Johnny Spence. Absent were Iva Belew, John Hardin, Kathy Peterson, Mary Rivard, and Michael Scott.

Ms. Lehman called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

The first order of business was the approval of the May 2, 2011 meeting minutes. Judy Ditmore made the motion to approve the minutes as written and Gary Don Harkey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Lehman presented a report on Fall 2011 ADA data. Gary Don Harkey said that the college is hoping to hire a second full-time interpreter in the future. Ms. Lehman noted that the interpreters could also assist with coordinating of note-taking and test proctoring at the two Wichita Falls locations during semesters when there are fewer deaf students enrolled.

Ms. Lehman noted that the only service animals allowed under the ADA in a classroom are dogs. Instructors are allowed to ask only two questions of a student who brings a service animal into a classroom: 1) Is the animal required because of a disability? 2) What task or service has the animal been trained to do? However, the ADA is now allowing students with proper documentation to bring comfort animals into the dorms.

Ms. Lehman read the Special Services Department Mission Statement and said that she would like to continue to use it as written. There were no suggestions for changes. She also read the two questions that are being added to the ADA Special Services Evaluation:

“The accommodations I received helped me to be successful in classroom and/or testing situations” (Yes or No); “What did you learn from using Special Services?”

Ms. Lehman reported that a big topic at the 2012 AHEAD in Texas conference was veterans’ services and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Students with PTSD may have unusual accommodation requests such as sitting at the back of the room and bringing in a bomb-sniffing dog to ease their anxiety. PTSD may actually cause changes in brain function. She stated that we have not yet served a student with this condition.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.