



The

May-August 2008

Deaf Bee

A Triennial Publication, Volume 22, Issue 2

FREE

CPS: Do They Want to Take My Kids?

*Michelle Bronson
Case Manager, Fresno*

Most people hold the mistaken belief that Child Protective Services (CPS) will automatically come to the home and take children without first investigating for sufficient evidence or reason. In fact, some people use CPS as a threat when trying to coerce another into doing something and the common response is fear. The truth is that CPS is required to follow proper protocols before removing a child from the home.

CPS' goal is to keep the child with the family, but if the child is neglected or physically or sexually abused they will be immediately placed in protective custody (foster care or with CPS-approved family members). If there is no evidence of abuse or neglect but the family still needs some help CPS will provide a variety of services to keep the family together and strong. CPS wants families to develop healthy relationships and teach parents how to nurture and protect their children.

How Does CPS Get Involved?

It all begins with a phone call to CPS, whether it is by a family member or someone who suspects or witnesses child abuse/maltreatment. CPS then follows six steps:

Intake: Documentation of reports of child abuse or maltreatment allegations. In most states, everyone is a mandatory reporter, which means anytime one hears of child abuse they must contact CPS with the information. If someone knows of child abuse but does not

report it to CPS, that person could get in serious legal trouble for withholding information. The only people who are not required to report to CPS are attorneys representing clients on child-maltreatment criminal charges and substance-abuse treatment providers.



Screening the report:

Evaluation of the allegations of child maltreatment. If certain criteria are met the report is accepted to begin investigation; otherwise the report is disregarded.

Investigation/Assessment: CPS contacts the family and people who are knowledgeable of the family's situation to investigate allegations of abuse.

Case Decision: If the child-maltreatment allegations prove credible either voluntary or mandatory services are provided.

Treatment/Case Management: CPS provides the family with case management and treatment to either prevent or address existing child maltreatment. If CPS determines that the child is not safe remaining in the home, then arrangements are made for the child to live outside the home, some with parental consent and others required by the courts.

Case Closure: The case is closed after the family has met certain requirements for properly caring for the child, or if a family's rights to a child are terminated and the child has been adopted.

What Does CPS look for?

As CPS screens each report, they consider a criteria of what constitute neglect or abuse. Abuse could be physical (slapping, hitting, pulling hair, pinching), sexual (incest, rape,

molestation), and/or emotional (name-calling, intimidation). Neglect includes lack of supervision, failure to provide medical care, inappropriate discipline, exposure to domestic violence, and exposure to parental substance abuse.

If neglect and/or abuse are verified then CPS will determine which services will benefit the family. CPS often will involve other agencies such as law enforcement, schools, mental health services, and social services to provide the family with a support system to foster healthy relationships. Together CPS and parents can strive to provide a better and safer home environment for the child. If a child is removed from the home, CPS continues to work with the family to receive appropriate services, such as parenting classes or alcohol/drug treatment to help prepare them for the return of the child. CPS always has the goal of reunification because of their strong belief in keeping the child with the family.

Each family has unique needs therefore it is important to communicate with CPS what is needed to help raise the child into a healthy, well-rounded adult. Remember, CPS is about keeping the family together whenever possible, not breaking up the family.



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Eyes on the Economy: Deaf Services

Danielle "Dani" Thompson, Executive Director



I love to dance and I have been Latin dancing since a teenager. Dancing was my way of escaping the hearing world and visualizing a new world – one in which Deaf have the same equal access as hearing persons. A few weeks ago, I joined a dance class in Fresno where I was paired with a gentleman to learn a new Salsa technique. While instructing me onto the beats for each step, he made two errors, which caused my back on his knees. He quickly stated “it is a terrible thing to hear and have no sense for what is being heard.” Immediately, I thought of our budget crisis within the state of California. As I was doing my tap, tap, shake, spin, tap, tap, shake, spin, I thought we Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind and Late Deafened need to SPEAK UP!!

As we watch the news and read the newspapers, we see how our economy has gone from great to disgrace! Currently we are about to face a recession (a decline in domestic economic activity). If we do hit a recession, it will have a HUGE impact on every person from every walk of life. The state of California is facing an \$8 billion deficit. As a result the governor is proposing a 10% cut of all services within the state, including services benefiting the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened adults and children.

Deaf Access Program (DAP) is the program under the State of California which provides funding to DHHSC. When these funds are received, we use them to provide services to benefit our Central Valley and Central Coast Deaf communities. DHHSC has been in operation for more than 20 years and our goal is to continue to serve our community. If such cuts are received, we will be forced to put a halt on our future goals and visions for DHHSC!

We must let our local representatives be aware we are a group that desperately need services. We need sign language interpreters to assist us with our independence, we need our schools to provide better education for our future leaders, we need our advocates to assist in times of difficulties, we need our workshops to provide community awareness, and the list of needs goes on.

WHAT YOU CAN DO? Sign the RED “Stop Budget Cuts” paper (available online at www.dhhsc.org and in every DHHSC office) and mail them to your local assembly member, continue to send emails and make phone calls to your representatives asking them to keep our services and make NO cuts to Deaf Access Program services! You do not need to vote for me to go on “Dancing with the Stars,” vote to save our budget!

With Joy, Danielle "Dani" Thompson

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For more information about the Deaf Bee email DeafBee@dhhsc.org
The Deaf Bee is published three times a year in January, May and September.

MERCED AND VISALIA OFFICES ARE MOVING! Merced Outreach will relocate at the end of May and Visalia Outreach office will relocate at the beginning of August.

Fresno Headquarters:	Merced Outreach:	South Valley Outreach:	Central Coast Outreach:
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Board Welcomes New Member Bryan

Renee Nealy
Secretary, Board of Directors



The DHHSC Board of Directors would like to welcome our newest board member, Bryan Minas. Bryan is deaf, lives in Fresno, and currently works as an office assistant in the Personnel Department of Fresno County. Bryan joined the board of DHHSC in order to learn more about the Deaf community as well as the ins and outs of DHHSC including our goals and vision for the future. In his personal time he enjoys traveling, cooking,

gardening, and socializing at Deaf events. Bryan is “very excited about joining the board.” We are equally excited and happy to have him! The Board feels he will be a great addition to our team. Welcome Bryan!

The Board of Directors are a cohesive group of people from different backgrounds that all work together for the good of DHHSC, to make it stronger and more prosperous. Everyone has something they can contribute to DHHSC’s board, which is why we always relish new ideas. All community members are welcome to attend our monthly board meetings; we enjoy hearing feedback from the Deaf community.

Additional board members are needed so if you are interested in joining, we would love to have you. In order to

become a board member, you must attend three consecutive board meetings, write of letter of interest, notify the Board President that you are interested in joining, and make a commitment to attend DHHSC’s events. It is that simple!

One of the pleasures of being on the board is attending the many events, most recently the Martha’s Vineyard event in March. What a wonderful experience! It was great to see so many people in attendance and to experience what life was like many years ago at Martha’s Vineyard. DHHSC’s next big event is Valley Deaf Festival on June 7. It is going to be an exciting time and we are looking forward to being there. If you see any of the board members, come up and say hello, we would love to chat with you!

NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), the City of Fresno will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The City of Fresno does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The City of Fresno will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the City’s programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The City of Fresno will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the City’s offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Fresno, should contact the office of **Elizabeth Kunz, ADA Coordinator** during normal business hours at **559-621-8716 (voice)**, **559-621-8721 (TTY)**, **559-457-1051 (FAX)** or **elizabeth.kunz@fresno.gov**, preferably five working days but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the City of Fresno to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

More information about the ADA can be found at the US Department of Justice website, www.ada.gov, or by calling their helpline at 800-514-0301 (voice), 800-514-0383 (TTY). Applicants or employees of the City of Fresno who would like to request a reasonable accommodation or have other disability-related concerns may contact **Dan Turner, Risk/Safety Manager**, at **559-621-6901** or **dan.turner@fresno.gov**. Concerns or complaints that a program, service, or activity of the City of Fresno not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to **Elizabeth Kunz, ADA Coordinator** at **559-621-8716 (voice)**, **559-621-8721 (TTY)**, **559-457-1051 (FAX)** or **elizabeth.kunz@fresno.gov**

The City of Fresno will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.



IHSS: New Jobs and Services Available

Fresno County offers services to Disabled Deaf that qualify and also seeks Deaf service providers.

*Ann Wilson-Irwin
Community Interpreter, Fresno*

Do you or someone you know need help with personal care, shopping, cooking or housework due to age, illness, injury or disability? Are you looking for a great job helping others to remain independent in their homes despite their inability to handle all of their day to day tasks? In Home Support Services (IHSS) is a government funded program designed to train providers to go into people's homes and help them with their needs so that they can stay at home rather than having to enter a nursing care home or assisted living facility.

There are about 400,000 people in California who rely on IHSS for help in their homes. To qualify for IHSS your monthly income must not be over \$1,000 per month. If your income is higher, you may still qualify by having a share of cost for services. If you qualify, a worker will come to your home to evaluate your needs for services. Once they decide what you need help with,

they will determine how many hours a week they can pay someone to come to your home to help you.

If you are looking for work and you are a caring person, working as an IHSS care provider may be the right job for you. Training to become a care provider is offered free of charge. The only cost to you is \$55.00 for a background check to make sure you do not have a criminal history. If you have completed a background check you do not need to have it re-checked. You will receive a free 6 week course on how to be a care giver, as well as training in CPR, First Aid, and what to do in an emergency. There are also other classes offered free of charge to help you become even more skilled at helping your elderly or disabled clients.

In Home Support Services offers a win/win service to the community; People who need help in their homes can receive it free of charge or at a low cost rate and people who need work can receive free training and earn good money caring for others. Our goal is to train providers who are Deaf, Hard of



Hearing, or are fluent in ASL to care for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and deaf-blind. This could be the perfect opportunity for you.

DHHSC will be working with IHSS to offer interpreted classes at the Fresno headquarters office. These classes will be for those who need help in their homes and for those who would like to be trained to become care givers. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a care giver or needs a care giver in their home please call DHHSC or email Ann Wilson-Irwin at annwi@dhhsc.org and she will send more information. You can also find more information at the Fresno County IHSS website:

www.fresnohumanservices.org/AdultServices/InHomeSupportiveServices.

Get Help Searching for Employment

*MaiNou Vang
Office Assistant, Fresno*

Want a job but afraid and do not know where to begin??? Come to DHHSC Monday-Friday, 830am - 5pm to schedule an appointment to meet with a Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) counselor. At your appointment the DOR counselor will help you begin the job search process.

Please remember that while you are receiving services or assistance from DHHSC for employment/job placement, you have rules to follow. DOR and DHHSC expect you to:

1. Show up on time for appointments – you need to prove that you will be responsible enough to arrive to work on time. If your DOR counselor sees that you are frequently not on time they will know that you are not ready to start the job search and will assist you with pre-employment skills.
2. Participate in job search/activity. Do not expect DHHSC to find the job for you – you are an

active participant in the process! It is your responsibility to look for the job you want and to apply for it.

The DOR counselor will assist you with resume building, interviewing skills, dressing appropriately for job interviews, general counseling on jobs/employment, post employment follow up, and advocate for your rights as a Deaf/Hard of Hearing person. DOR will also provide an interpreter for your interviews to give your best impression to potential employers.

The applicant who is eager, enthusiastic, and motivated is the person who will have more success landing a job. You may not be hired at the first place that you apply, so keep in mind that the more you apply, the better the chances you will get a job. We have had several successful clients in this program that have been placed at jobs because they have worked diligently with us to find employment.

REMEMBER WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE, YOU TOO CAN DO IT !!!!!

From Within the Honeycomb

The Deaf Bee Spotlights Community Members

Alana Lynn Masellis, (*below right*), Deaf, is a graduate of Downey High School in Modesto and Institute of Technology. She is married to Nino Masellis and have two daughters, Alicia and Kristy. She currently volunteers as an Office Assistant at Merced Outreach office in order to gain work experience. She is a great help in the office and in the future hopes to be employed by agencies associated with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing. This month DHHSC would like to wish her a Happy 40th Birthday!

James Lawrence (*below*), Deaf, lives in Visalia with his wife and two children. He has a BA in graphic design from Gallaudet and many years of graphic design experience including being honored as one of the top designers in the nation. Communication was often a struggle however his employers encouraged coworkers to learn ASL. James was hired at College of the Sequoias over four years ago to teach graphic design and now his passion has shifted toward teaching ASL, for which he uses a lot of humor. "Laughing makes [students] learn faster and understand more clearly."



Diane Griffin, (*above*) Hard of Hearing, was born in Detroit, Michigan and has lived in Salinas since 1975. Diane is learning American Sign Language (ASL) at the DHHSC-Central Coast Outreach Office. She previously worked for the Monterey County Office of Education – Head Start Program before her retirement. Diane is a very enthusiastic new volunteer at the Central Coast Outreach Office and looks forward to helping where and when she can be of help. Her goal is to learn Sign Language and help others to learn as well.

Janet Drane, (*above, left*) Deaf-Blind, grew up in Fresno and attended Fremont School for the Deaf. She has had her own crafting business since 1993. Janet first started with a crochet blanket, from which she based her designs for buttons, pins, magnets, blankets, and more. Most of her items are recognizable by the American flag and ILY emblem which she designed in 2003. Currently she only sells them at various deaf events such as Deaf Nation Expo and Valley Deaf Festival but in the future she hopes to expand her business online.

**Do you know
someone who you
think should be featured
in the next Honeycomb?
Contact deafbee@dhhsc.org
with the person's name and why
they should be featured.**

**“It’s reassuring to know
that when I use SVRS
all of my professional
communication needs
will be met.”**

—Moussa Ahmadi,
Owner, Car Dealership



My Sorenson VRS Story

“I use Sorenson VRS® (SVRS) to discuss details of the cars I am selling. Because SVRS interpreters communicate information so professionally, my customers think I am a hearing car salesman. When my customers come to my car lot, they’re surprised to learn that I am deaf. It’s reassuring to know that when I use SVRS all of

FAX Bus:New Special Rider Certificate Application Process

Joelene Spires

Independent Living Skills Specialist, Fresno

Fresno Area Express (FAX) has recently made some changes to the special rider certificate application in order to reduce the number of identification cards needed. With this new system checking if you are eligible will become easier for both you and FAX because it will reduce delays in processing identification cards.

There are a few changes to the application process. The new application has four pages instead of only one. It requires that you get a signature from a doctor, audiologist, or licensed social worker to verify you are “deaf” or “hard of hearing” or with(out) “disabilities.” In the past photocopied or faxed signatures were accepted however from here on out they will not be accepted. FAX requires the original application after your doctor, audiologist, or licensed social worker sign

the application. Once you have turned in this paperwork to FAX they will consider your eligibility to receive the special rider certificate.

After your application is reviewed and verified you will receive a letter from FAX in the mail which will say “You are eligible.” When you get the letter you need to go to one of the listed locations with your drivers license or state identification card to verify who you are. FAX will take a picture of you and your FAX Identification card will be given to you that day.

You can come to DHHSC and get new application if you need to renew your identification card. Joelene or another DHHSC staff member can help to explain you about the application, but you have to remember that DHHSC staff can not sign the application – you will need to bring it to a licensed doctor, audiologist, or social worker.

We would like to extend a special THANK YOU to our “Circle of Friends” who continue to support DHHSC with their donations and contributions!

Individual:

Anne & Raul Bettencourt

Gus Briseno

Reno & Martha Coletti

David and Linda Hammer-Brown

Robert & Imogene Hyatt

Annette Klein

Jesse Lewis

Gary Lueng

Bryan Minas

Paul & Anne Ogden

Carol Perrier

Marty Pigott

Helen Porter

Winston & Judith Thompson

Rashad R. Wanis

Christy West

Ray & Oweta Wicks

California Credit Union

Catalano’s Market

Central California RID

Cheesecake Factory

Chem Tech

Chili’s Restaurant

Claim Jumpers

Dog House Grill

Dorian Hearing Center

Doug Out Cookies

Elephant Bar

Fresno Grizzlies

Garabedian Foundation

Grape Tray

Hands On VRS (HOVRS)

Harrah’s Casino

International Furniture

Jamba Juice

KISS Country 101.7, 93.7 & 99.9 FM

Lantana

Longs Drugs

Loren Klomp Construction

Mannequin

McDonald’s (Marks/Herndon)

Miracle Ear

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Orchard Supply Hardware

Parma Italian Restaurant

Pebble Beach Golf Course

Pigott & Associates

RaboBank

Sam’s Club

Save Mart Supermarkets

Sharper Image

Sephora

Signing Times - Dawn Sign Press

Six Flags Magic Mountain

Sorenson Communications

Spaghetti Factory

Starbucks

Subway

Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

Target

TGI Friday’s

Tony Roma’s Restaurant

Union Bank

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in Fashion Fair

Walmart, Inc.

Wells Fargo Bank

Wicks Family Trust

Verizon

Visalia Sequoia Lions Club

X-treme Gyms

Zena’s Island Day Spa

Business/Organization:

Alicia Reagan Memorial

Anonymous fund of the Community

Foundation for Monterey County

Big Dog Stores

Big Five

Blockbuster Video

BJ’s Restaurant Management

Blue Moon

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, handicapped status or the ability to pay, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination with respect to DHHSC’s services. DHHSC’s facilities are accessible to all persons with disabilities.



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Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center's mission is to advocate, seek equality, and promote self-determination through empowerment for those who seek our assistance, and to enhance the awareness and understanding of the Deaf Culture and the unique communication needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.