

DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2008

Call to Order – 7:04 p.m. Dave Smith presiding

Board Members Present: Dave Smith, President (DS), Bryan Minas, Vice-President (BM), John Eberwein, Treasurer (JE), Renee Nealy, Secretary (RN), Alissa Vigil (AV)

Board Members Absent: none

DHHSC Staff Members Present: Danielle (Dani) Thompson, Executive Director, Susan Coulter, Program Manager

Visitors: Jennifer Roberts, Tim Jubb, Ruth Smith, Joe and Becky Sortwell, CJ Mayfield, Sabrina Strickland, David Glenn, Reno and Martha Coletti, Jovette and Marilyn McCallon, Patty Parker, Janet Drane, Rosemary Diaz, Annette Carter

Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Nicole Wolfe, Beth Lilley, Kendra Cronk, Dylan Geil

Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) – Annette Carter requested for there to be introductions; each board member introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent

Approval of October 21, 2008 Board Minutes – approved by consent as read

President's Report – DS

Congratulations to Dani on her 1 year anniversary at DHHSC! It's been a tough year and there are more struggles to come.

Vice-President's Report – BM

Thank you to everyone for coming tonight!

Secretary's Report – RN – none

Treasurer's Report – JE

Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2008 distributed and reviewed.

Executive Director's Report – Danielle Thompson

Good evening, it's good to see so many of you coming out to our meeting! Our budget is tight right now and we have to make some changes.

A. Regarding the bookstore. We want to reduce our inventory so next year at VDF we'll be selling the books we've purchased over the years that have not sold. We'll be keeping other items for sale in the bookstore like home signaling devices.

B. Regarding community events. I've received a lot of feedback from the community and I appreciate that. The more we get community feedback and support the better for DHHSC. I'm not ignoring those comments, we need time to plan. We don't have the manpower to have a monthly event but maybe every 2 or 3 months we can have a community event. If there is someone in the community that is willing to volunteer to plan monthly events, we would welcome that.

C. Our sprinklers have been fixed outside! Our attorney's office found someone who was willing to donate his time and fixed them for us. We're hoping to have grass and flowers next year.

D. We would like to repaint the office in the future but it's not going to happen before Christmas.

E. We have good news! Two of our staff members are pregnant and are expecting boys; one staff member recently gave birth to a girl.

I want to thank all of you for your support, coming to DHHSC and remembering us as an agency.

Committee Reports –

Personnel Committee – AV

DS and AV continue to work on Dani's evaluation and it will be finished soon.

Bylaws Committee – RN – none

Fundraising Committee – BM, AV

We have a Christmas fundraiser planned at Barnes and Noble. We have to work a minimum

of 3 days, but can work more if we want. We will be wrapping presents. Barnes and Noble provides the supplies and we get to keep all the tip money. We will set up a box or glass jar and people put the money in there; the wrapping service is donation only. Each time shift needs 2 people. The dates are December 1: 2-6 pm, December 9: 6-10 pm, December 12: 6-11 pm, December 23: 6-11 pm. We have a sign up sheet for volunteers.

We are also planning another fundraiser with Barnes and Noble. Barnes and Noble will make flyers that we pass out to the community; when they shop at Barnes and Noble on the day notated on the flyer, we will get a percentage of the money made that day. The money is not in dollars but in Barnes and Noble money that we can spend there.

Outreach Committee – Becky Sortwell, Merced Outreach Office

We are hoping to have a BBQ/dance next Fall; we would like to use a barn. The second annual spring day camp for D/HH children will be on May 2, 2009. We had it this past May and the kids really had fun. We had children from elementary, middle and high schools. They played games, got free backpacks and got to meet Miss Deaf California. We would like stores to donate more backpacks for the kids. Our two staff, Matthew and Angelica, are doing a great job and we have a lot of clients coming to our office. Sorenson continues to install the VP in all 3 counties. Merced Police Department is in the process of installing a VP. Angelica continues with the ASL classes. We would like to have a fingerspelling Bee; we want to see a development in fingerspelling skills. DS commented that the group in Merced is a very active group, good people doing a good job.

General Board Comments –

DS informed the board that we received a letter from Jennifer Roberts stating she wants to join the board; she will go through the interview process at next month's meeting.

Unfinished Business – none

New Business –

A. Approval for an annual fundraising event proposed by Jesse Lewis and Rosemary Diaz.

Rosemary Diaz explained that in 2009, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of DHHSC. In commemoration of the anniversary, the concept of “Friends of DHHSC 25th Anniversary Booster Club” was created. Rosemary, Jesse, the management team and Dani met to brainstorm this idea. We want to recruit 200 people from the counties that are served by DHHSC and from January 1 through December 31, they are to raise \$1.00 each day in donations. If all 200 people raise \$365.00 in one year we will have raised \$73,000. DHHSC banks with Bank of America; if the money that is raised is put into an interest bearing account it will earn \$2700 in interest. The cost to DHHSC is minimal but the profit would be high. The 200 people that worked to get donations will get in for free at our 25th anniversary gala and be recognized for their effort. This is a fundraiser that we can continue every year. DSS's budget has been cut so the money we receive from them has been reduced by 10%, which is \$73,000. We have to create other ways to keep our agency running smoothly and not be dependent on the government; we need to have additional funds. Jesse will make a vlog on the DHHSC website explaining the booster club. The money raised needs to be deposited every month and a separate account will be established for that; the volunteers need to bring the donations to their local DHHSC office. Each volunteer will be required to complete a registration form; Rosemary and Jesse will provide the training to the volunteers.

The board needs more time to consider this proposal. JE motioned to postpone the vote to Tuesday, November 25, 2008 by email. BM seconded.

Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –

Marilyn McCallon commented that she thinks the “Friends of DHHSC” fundraiser is a wonderful idea. CJ Mayfield suggested of giving the person who donated money a raffle ticket as verification of their donation. Becky Sortwell commented that she has been involved in the past with a booster club and it's a very good idea. She suggested creating a letter that would state what the money will be used for.

Announcements –

All events are posted on HYPERLINK "<http://www.dhhsc.org>" www.dhhsc.org
If anyone is interested in joining the board, you must attend 3 meetings and send letter of interest to Dave Smith, President.

Adjournment – 8:03 p.m.

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: December 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Renee Nealy, Secretary

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