



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2011

- I. Call to Order – **6:35 pm** Rosemary W. Diaz presiding
Board Members Present: Rosemary W. Diaz, President (RWD), Ronald Reagan, Vice-President (RR), Jonathan Silva, Treasurer (JS), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), John Eberwein (JE)
Board Members Absent: none
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Jesse Lewis (JL), Operations Director
Visitors: George Wilcox, Laura Casuga, Marilyn McCallon, Janet Drane
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Katie Carlson
- II. Public Comments
- A. George Wilcox reminded everyone about the increase in monthly passes for the bus system *FAX* to \$24. A discount can be obtained with a Medicare card and ID.
 - B. Marilyn McCollum noted that there has been some confusion over the PEP schedule. She also commented on the upcoming Fresno Deaf Women's Leadership conference at which Gallaudet University President's wife Vicki Hurwitz will speak. She expressed a desire for a lighter topic than 'abuse'.
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent
- IV. Approval of **November (tabled) & December** Board Minutes – M/S/P. November minutes will be approved by email.
- V. President's Report – RWD
Showed video from website wishing community Happy New Year and recruiting for new board members. Stressed ability of community to work together for positive change and education of the larger community.
- VI. Vice-President's Report – RR no report
- VII. Secretary's Report – SS no report
- VIII. Treasurer's Report – JS
December Financial Report distributed and reviewed.
Checking and savings \$370,069
Accounts receivable \$334,739
Accounts payable \$189.23
Mortgage payable \$189,071
Board fund private balance \$2,656
Per profit and loss overall \$56,819
Grant awarded 10/2010 \$650,564- spent \$325,335= balance \$325,228.
- IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson
- A. Holiday events:
 - 1. Norseman elementary school for D/HH program included ABC storytelling performance and ABC skit in which we told a story through a manual alphabet. One staff also helped with distributing pizza and drinks that evening. DHHSC staff and Rosemary

Diaz, Board president, performed. It was a positive experience because it shows collaboration between DHHSC and FUSD and provided D/HH students adult Deaf role models.

2. Holiday luncheon had 120 attendees with performances and ABC story. MFT intern presented. Michelle appreciated staff help with the luncheon. We raised \$56 in silent auction.

B. Job training is 3-8 months on average for Communication and Language skills Assessment and Training Program (CLSAT). Class has already started, and we are adding more students. We will add a second class next Tuesday. We now have four in the morning and three enrolled for the afternoon. There are more on the waiting list and will be added once assessed and goals determined.

C. Breast cancer DVD and brochure will be completed before the reveal on March 19th during the Women's Leadership Conference. Those are the last 2 projects required by the grant, due by March 31.

D. Many reports and grants due this month: DSS' second quarterly report and DSS' contract extension for next fiscal year. We also worked on grant for ASL children's carnival, which we hope to hold in April.

E. Katie Carlson and Brittany King resigned as staff interpreters in December. We wish them well and very much appreciated their work here at DHHSC. They will continue as freelancers.

F. In response to Marilyn's question about PEP scheduling: Jennifer Hernandez is providing two back-to-back workshops during month of January due to Jennifer being available before her doctorate classes resume. Susan is waiting to confirm a date with Jason for technology workshop.

G. The Deaf women's leadership conference will be a positive topic. There will also be presentations by breast cancer survivors and women who have overcome domestic violence.

H. New logo is finished and we need the community to vote. Then it will come back to the Board for final approval.

I. The new governor's budget will not affect DHHSC budget. We are healthy and not having to make reductions. We are hoping for no budget reductions in the future.

J. AR is high due to grants not paid out and interpreting revenues not collected.

X. Operations Director's Report – Jesse Lewis

A. Wayne Johnson, our Coordinator of Client Services from the Central Coast Outreach office, is back in the office after medical leave. We're glad to have him back providing the services he does so well. While he was out, we had hired Jacquie Fitzpatrick as a temporary office assistant/interpreter for the office to help support the office's needs in providing services to the community. We found that we are able to keep Jacquie with us for a longer time, at least until June, using grant funds available for this purpose. Having her available in the office will go a long way toward supporting the staff there. She will be able to accept interpreting requests for both staff and community.

B. As you all know by now, we have started our Lose to Win weight loss competition. If any of you are motivated to become more healthy by losing weight, it's not too late to sign up and come weigh in. We're including a series of Healthy Eating workshops to make sure everyone loses weight in a healthy way. The workshops are occurring in all 4 offices. We just recently held one in Visalia, and included a lesson on how to make homemade bread, which was a lot of fun for those who came. We plan to cover a variety of workshop topics relevant to health, through the next few months. We encourage all of you to attend, whether or not you want to join the contest. It's not required to join.

Related to this contest, we also are currently investigating the possibility of DHHSC hosting a 5K walk/run. There's a lot of research that needs to go into this before we know for sure that we can make this happen, but it's one of our goals. The primary focus is to promote wellness through exercise and healthy habits, but it'll also be a fundraiser for us. We are looking for possible funders for such an event as well.

Committee Reports –

- a. Personnel Committee – RWD Jesse and Michelle 2 year anniversary will be next month in February. Congratulations. RWD is meeting with staff and getting some feedback during staff development.
- b. Bylaws Committee – SS no report
- c. Fundraising Committee – JS
 1. ASL storytime probably not moving to Borders as the environment is not conducive for kids, so looking at other options, maybe a library.
 2. Blackbeard's fundraiser: plan to close it and make available only for our community.
 3. Restaurants like Panda Express and Acapulco will donate 20-30% of revenues — try and do every 3 months.
 4. Reptile event last year was the biggest event in terms of attendance so was successful. May repeat maybe with news coverage & accept sponsorship. JS needs help this year. Blackbeard's and the reptile event will be in the spring.
- d. Outreach Committee – CCO, MOO, SVO—no reports
- e. Grant Monitoring Committee – RWD re LEAP program in the Salinas office. The grant cycle ended and DHHSC did not apply for renewal of funding because of difficulty to perform the objectives of the grant.
- f. DHHSC Roundtable – RWD (see under 'new business').

XII. General Board Comments –

JS has heard a lot of comments about negativity at events. Also commented about difficulty some community members have understanding newsletter. MB responded that the VLOGs in ASL are available and there are plans to have more. People were talking during Susan Hill's presentation during the Holiday Luncheon, not leaving; we addressed the community's rudeness in not paying attention but we also learned a valuable lesson in allocating more time for socializing during the luncheon.

XIII. Unfinished Business –

- A. Board retreat scheduled for Sunday February 13 4-7 pm @ DHHSC. M/S/P
- B. Subway franchise \$15,000, but upfront costs are \$75,000. 5 investors \$15,000 each hypothetically could earn 7% profit or however the contract was set up. Motion to go forward with exploring business opportunities for this agency. M/S/P
- C. RWD will present to the City of Fresno disabilities advisory committee--will present about the captioning issue. Hopes to get their support on this issue. Motion for DHHSC Board to take the lead on this issue M/S/P

XIV. New Business –

- A. Motion to remove roundtable committee as all members agree no longer needed. Events are being well-coordinated. M/S/P
- B. Staff development days 1st Thursday and Friday in Feb and same in March. All 4 offices will be closed pending DHHSC approval. M/S/P
- C. Friendly visitors grant to help with activities of daily living for shut-ins and Deaf-blind: found one up to \$20,000. Want to apply for \$50,000 or more. Motion to approve grant applications for this purpose, of up to \$50,000.00. M/S/P

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

Marilyn concerned re weekly digest that only 25 people had viewed a specific event-related VLOG. Thinks people do not know how to find it, so wants DHHSC to educate the community on how to access the information in the DHHSC website. Also wants political education to be part of PEPs.

- XV. Announcements – none
- XV. Closed Session –Board nomination
- XVI. Board Elections: Motion to accept Laura Casuga as a General Member on the Board.
M/S/P
- XVII. Adjournment – **8:30 pm**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: February 8, 2011, DHHSC – Fresno

Draft submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary