



DHHSC BOARD MEETING AGENDA

6 PM, Thursday, March 14th, 2024

I. Call to Order - 6:10pm

- A) Starting time: 6:10 PM
- B) Board members Present:
 - a) Steve Longo
 - b) Nicole Hurt
 - c) Anna Virnig
 - d) Patty Killough
 - e) Jessica Lozano-Delgado
 - f) Jaime Johnson-Clay
 - g) Christian Gentile

II. Approval of Agenda Items

- A) Motion to approve the agenda: Carried.

III. Approval of December 2023 Board minutes

- A) Motion to approve the minutes: Carried.

IV. President's Report – Steve Longo

- A) Upcoming events: The Walk Through Deaf History and the Gala are coming up soon. You can find more information at the DHHSC website.
- B) Anniversary: DHHSC's 40 year anniversary is coming up!
- C) Bylaws: We're waiting for an update on the bylaws.

- D) AdHoc Meetings: Nicole has been facilitating AdHoc meetings with the board for various topics. We recently met to discuss renovations, including a new kitchen, and fundraising.
- E) Signed Documents: There has been a rapid turn-around to getting documents signed by the board president for DHHSC.
- F) Website: The board and DHHSC are working on making the information on DHHSC more accessible, including developing an app for phones.

V. Vice President's Report – Nicole Hurt

- A) AdHoc: The board met in January for an AdHoc meeting. The board discussed fundraising ideas and findings, the Gala and establishing a planning committee, and the upcoming Walk Through Deaf History event. : This will be like Martha’s Vineyard. There will be two different time slots, and each slot will be for one group.
- B) Dates for Future Board Meetings: In the past, the meetings were on Tuesdays; however, many Board members were not available for this meeting on a Tuesday. The board members will be meeting again to settle on upcoming dates.

VI. Secretary’s Report – Patty Killough

- A) Jeff Oropeza: Jeff Oropeza, our newest staff member on the Central Coast in Salinas, has already begun making a positive impact on our community. He has met with several clients to provide support in obtaining services. In addition, he has planned and hosted a few successful events, including the annual holiday party and super bowl watch party.

VII. Treasurer’s report – Anna Virnig

- A) Treasurer’s Report: The report was shared on the screen. DHHSC’s finances are healthy.

VIII. Executive Director's report– Michelle Bronson

- A) Open Central Coast Office Position: The position continues to be open. Due to the length of the vacancy, Patty asked to confirm the requirement for a college degree and pointed out that a couple of community members expressed that they do not have the required degree to apply. Michelle clarified that applicants are required to either have already acquired an Associates degree or in the process of earning the degree. In addition, during the job interview, the applicants are asked situational questions to see how they might not only assist clients but also empower them. For that reason, applicants must prove to have problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- B) Department of CDSS: The application for a 5 year grant was completed on March 6; it was finished early, prior to the deadline.
- C) Fansler Foundation: We will be reapplying for grant funds, and the application is due on March 31. Services similar to the ROCK and Youth Employment Services programs will continue. The literacy program will be replaced with Deaf Blind services. The Fansler Foundation has provided DHHSC funding for many years.
- D) Valley Deaf Festival (VDF):
 - a) Location: The Fresno Fairgrounds has let us know that their fee increased by over \$1,000, and the deposit went up by \$300. The Clovis Memorial is not available until December 21, the Clovis Activity Center is too small, and another location was determined to be too expensive as they want \$6 for every person that we charge to enter. We would like to again offer an early bird price of \$7 and \$10 at the door. Calls will continue to be made to try to find a more affordable and suitable location.

- E) Audit: Our staff member, Cindy, has been working very hard to get our accounting caught up and support the completion of the audit.
- F) Staffing Updates:
 - a) Sharon Renee McPherson, our Communication Specialist, resigned.
 - b) Edward Camacho was hired as a new interpreter; he is working on his certification.
- G) First 5 Merced County: We have applied for this grant.
- H) Annual Love & Literacy Event: On March 9, more than 20 families attended and participated in the activities that are staff planned.
- I) Walk through Deaf History event: If you are interested in volunteering to play a character in history, please sign up. Nicole asked if volunteers for characters need to bring their own costumes, and Michelle said that DHHSC will provide the costume if they can. Also, there will be breaks and free pizza for volunteers.
- J) Renovation: The renovation will begin after the May 6 staff development day. We also need to fundraise a little more to cover the permit.
- K) National Technology Institute for the Deaf (NTID): DHHSC will be partnering with NTID again to provide a summer camp focusing on vocational training.
- L) Gala: Tickets are \$90 per person, there will be an open bar for people to purchase drinks, appetizers, a silent dessert auction, and flamenco dancers. A VLOG will be made to demonstrate appropriate clothing; clothing should be semi-formal.

IX. Fundraising report –

- A) Spreadsheet: Board members, Christian and Jessica, created a spreadsheet that organized potential sponsors by distance, the

percentage allotted by the sponsor, and more. The board will continue to collaborate on planning future fundraisers.

X. Spotlights

A) None

XI. General Board comments

A) Future Meeting Dates: Board members discussed future meeting dates. The discussion will continue among board members via text messages to determine the best dates.

XII. Old Business

A) None

XIII. New business -

A) None

XIV. Announcements

- A) Skippy from California Telephone Access Program (CTAP):
- a) Experience: Skippy has been educating the community about communication access options for 24 years.
 - b) Customer Service: Clients can call CTAP and speak with signing representatives to discuss questions or issues.
 - c) Advanced iPhone Training: CTAP does not give away or sell iPhones; however, they do provide a free two hour training for clients wanting to learn how to navigate the iPhone and its special access features.

XV. Closed session (if needed)

A) None

XVI. Adjournment- 7:56 PM