

DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2009

Call to Order - 7:05 p.m. Dave Smith presiding – *Tonight's meeting is dedicated in loving Memory of Glen Kearney who passed away recently.*

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

Board Members Absent: None

DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson, Executive Director and Kathy Yoshida, Director of Interpreting Services

Visitors: Dean Sytltebo, Jennifer Jubb, Tim Jubb, CJ Mayfield, Tami Garcia, Mindy Blancett, Nancy Kanta, Jovette McCallon, Marilyn McCallon, Janet Drane, Annette Carter, Amanda Bosworth, Melissa Andrychowicz, Lori Botelho, Jeanette Vestal, Dylan Geil

Interpreters: Pam Warkentin and April Davies and SSPs, Brittany King and Erin Uribe

Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) –

Marilyn McCallon – Invitation to attend Glen Kearney's memorial service at Fresno Deaf Church on Friday, April 18 at 1:30 p.m. and will have a dessert fellowship afterwards. Please bring a dessert to share with everyone. Very proud of the success of the Movie – Legend of the Mountain Man at Fresno Deaf Church – we broke a record with attendance for other cities in the state of California. So that shows that Fresno is a good town with record attendance! Now look forward to May 1 – the May Day Garden Party with dancing and wine. – (RD) Board clarification – we need to make it clear that the party is not a DHHSC event. This event is being hosted by independent parties and businesses who want the proceeds to be donated to DHHSC. Purchase of tickets need to go through that host and are not available for sale through DHHSC. The party will be held in a person's home – on their private property; this person does not have a direct affiliation with DHHSC.

Jovette McCallon – Friend of DHHSC – have some concerns about the Booster Club – would like to see reports going on how we are doing. We want to keep this momentum going to keep people motivated by seeing how much we have raised. Please keep sharing how we are doing and if people have stopped raising money can still donate.

Lori Betelho – Treasurer of ASL Club of California State University, Fresno – presented DHHSC with a check for \$1,000.00 specifically to establish and Arts/Crafts program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Board presented the ASL Club with a Certificate of Appreciation. We are very grateful for their support.

Janet Drane – Concerned about the booth fee for Valley Deaf Festival – encourage DHHSC to compare the cost of the booth based on the number of hours that VDF is open. – MB responded – most booth fees are \$200 or more. We did change the fee from last year but still trying to offer a cost that is reasonable but still less than other events. If there is still a concern please meet with me individually.

Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent

Approval of **March 10, 2009** - Board Minutes – approved by consent as read

President's Report – DS

Lot of things going on here and a lot of business to take care of tonight.

Vice-President's Report – BM

No report

VII. Secretary's Report – RD

No report

VIII. Treasurer's Report – JE

Profit and Loss statement available to share more at next month's meeting

Motion to send a letter to CPA from the board that he needs to provide a monthly report to the board and to include what we want to see with specific deadlines. M/S/P

(DS) This shows that there are advantages and disadvantages to having an accountant on staff. Hope that we hire one some day.

IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson

A. Susan G. Komen Foundation gave us a renewed grant of \$15,000.00 – an increase from last year's amount. We have been able to do some wonderful things with that project.

B. Valley Deaf Festival, June 6 – Board will be called upon to help with food for that day. Dave asked that we invite Christy to help us out again. Add this to the Board retreat agenda. BM- we need to separate food and dessert tables.

C. We are still waiting for responses from 2 other grant proposals that have been submitted.

Committee Reports –

Personnel Committee – DS - none

Bylaws Committee – RD - none

Fundraising Committee – AV

Book Faire with Barnes and Noble – the flier is already made, will have them available. Deaf-blind support group can pass them out Mother Father Deaf Day and will have time to pass that out at that event as well. May 23, 2009 – all day event.

Cookie Dough – Poster is ready and so people can look at the poster, and a community email has gone out. We will be selling until April 27. Will have two weeks to submit the order and then receive the tubs of cookie dough and then we will have pick up times here at DHHSC on May 12 before and during the board meeting.

Fresno Deaf Church – RD presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Nancy Kanta on behalf of Fresno Deaf Church (FDC). DHHSC wishes to thank Fresno Deaf Church for being a long time supporter of our agency and this recent event and donation of \$1,000.00 is greatly appreciated. We asked Nancy to please share this Certificate with Pastor Keith Catron and the members of FDC. We learned that this was the first time in history for an agency/organization to raise money from ASLFilms and turn around and donate the money to someone else. We feel very fortunate to have been the recipient of FDC's generosity. FDC expressed that they hope to do something for DHHSC every year.

Building Fund – RD wanted to clarify to the public that there is no longer a "DHHSC building fund." The Board approved that in 2003 for 3 years and then renewed it up to 2007. Therefore the campaign is now over. That mostly consisted of the Tile donations. We only have two orders that we are waiting for and then that opportunity will end. The Booster Club is the new effort that is being done to raise money to support the programs and services of DHHSC. This is not for the building. There is no more building fund. We thank all the people who did donate to our Building Fund.

Booster Club – now have 72 members raising \$2,551.00. Mindy Blancett said that there is a lot of confusion in the community about what the Booster Club is for and why DHHSC is doing this. Mindy added that there is a rumor that DHHSC is going to close down. DS responded that we are not in danger of shutting down, the money that we generate through Booster Club allows us to do other things with our services, repairs, etc. Grants are used for specific purposes the Booster Club allows some flexibility to be used for other things that are not covered by grants. Mindy said that there seems to be a problem amongst the board that needs to be resolved. A discussion ensued about some of the individual board members who are also involved with the Booster Club. Board members asked Mindy to be more clear as her comments were very vague and confusing. Mindy said that there is an accusation that a specific board member is stealing money from the agency. RD stood up and disclosed that statement was a rumor that started several years ago and is completely false. Mindy confirmed that this rumor still exists in the community because RD is involved in the Booster Club. RD thanked Mindy for coming forward with this information. Board members and visitors spoke up in support of RD's integrity and will take the input into consideration.

XI. Outreach Committee –

MOO - Read report from for Merced Outreach Office - Becky Sortwell (report available on file)

SVO - Peter Moreno is the new person appointed by the Advisory Council in SVO to serve as Outreach Committee for our south region. Peter teaches ASL at COS on Tuesday nights and therefore is not able to come to board meetings

CCO – not sure how they are doing – they haven't picked a liaison yet, board will communicate with CCO staff that they need to appoint someone from their Advisory Council soon.

XII.General Board Comments –

a. RD presented the following comments/concerns:

1. Welcome back from vacation to Michelle – hope you had a nice time.
2. Thank you Jesse for sending me the list of staff training needs – will discuss at board retreat . Would like to ask Jesse to reverse the order by which you can find minutes on the Board's page on the website. MB will let Jesse know of this request.
3. Went to cancer workshop – wonderful collaboration with GLAD and record numbers for attendees. Nice to be involved and volunteer my time to be there.
4. Leadership team is hosting April 25 picnic, hope all attend and represent DHHSC board – wear your t-shirts.
5. Went to SVO carnival – awesome job! A lot of fun, diversity, variety, food, etc. Great turnout for first year – hope funds renewable and can do annually to support South Valley area families. Focus is on families with children ages 0 to 5. A lot of Deaf Involvement!
6. Audit report – changes made – need to review again and make sure we are in compliance before year-end. John E and myself can meet with Michelle but ideally the board needs to set up a Finance/Audit Committee to work with executive staff each year on any issues that arise from audits and to assist in preparation.
7. Concerned about leadership training in May –there has been no publicity and we need to get word out ASAP
8. We need to start working on year end party for Booster Club will need committees for Entertainment, location, activities, awards, invitations/rsvp/food, sponsors and booth. Volunteers are needed. If anyone is interested please see me.

b. Board approved postponing Rummage Sale to October 2009

c. Tami Garcia – I go to the leadership meetings 2 times a month – we have a small group and it has been hard to recruit others, we are doing our best. On April 25 we are hosting a picnic, food and drinks and we are doing this with Mother Father Deaf Day or CODAs. It will be in Clovis at Letterman Park. Picnic starts at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. I don't have much information about the upcoming 2 day training.

d. Nancy Kanta – I have some ideas on how to recruit more people for leadership program: go to FDC, pass out fliers, and Hoover HS lets you go in for leadership training, also go in and give fliers to students and FCC too. DS – Skippy Sumner set up Deaf Professionals Happy Hour – anyone know about that? I will ask him about that. Might be another place to recruit people for our leadership training.

XII.Unfinished Business –

A. **Board Retreat – Approved by consent to have the retreat May 9 – 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. - board only.**

XIV.New Business –

A. *SaveMart SHARES program* – People use the SHARES card when they go shopping at Save Mart, Food Maxx, Smart Foods, and others that are part of the chain. When you go shopping you will give the card to cashier, show that it is from DHHSC, then 3% your purchase will go to DHHSC – several people have recommended that DHHSC sign up for this program. It is an automatic contribution – we don't have to do anything extra to get the funds. At the end of every month they give us a check from the profits. ***Motion to research and bring information back to the board in the summer. M/S/P***

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

In memory of Glen Kearney, will accept donations to the DHHSC interpreting department

Jovette McCallon – I am concerned about the comment about what is going on with DHHSC and the confusion with the board and booster club – can you make yourself more clear (posing the question to Mindy). **Mindy Blancett** – I am telling you what I am seeing from the community, you need to ask the community. **Marilyn**

McCallon – the mission and the goal of agency is to offer support to the community. In the past, we could go to DHHSC and ask for help with interpreting or help with getting a job and DHHSC would guide us on what to do and how to do it. Most Deaf people know DHHSC is the place where they can get support. If we don't have DHHSC

then how can we get interpreters, get jobs, etc. That is what you can say when people talk about DHHSC in a negative way. This is where we go to learn how to do things ourselves, and where we find good leadership. We have a board that looks out for our needs and keep this agency running. If we don't have a board then we don't have a DHHSC. Then what will we do? We must have a board and must have people to come, share and get involved to keep this agency going. This is the heart of the Deaf Community. Help us explain to people why we are here. **MB** said that we here at DHHSC work as a team keep each other accountable, we have information from the Booster Club by names and amounts donated. All this information is carefully documented. **Jovette McCallon** said deaf people expect things to be given to them for free, if we don't work together to generate money for DHHSC then the agency may fold. We need people and their support; sometimes we have to be willing to pay when we come to various events. When we have an event that is FREE we have a big crowd show up. If we charge, people don't show up. How does that look on us when people are just looking for FREE things? We all have enough money to live and we need to support our agency and manage for better living for ourselves too.

XVI. Announcements –

All events are posted on HYPERLINK "http://www.dhhsc.org" www.dhhsc.org

Parenting counts workshop, Friday, April 17, 2009 11am to 12pm

Ready to Learn Workshop on Friday, April 24, 2009 (teach reading and critical thinking skills for parents to learn how to read to children)

Family Picnic/MFDD on Saturday April 25, 2009 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Letterman Park

ASL Storytime on Saturday, April 25, 2009 2 p.m. at Barnes and Noble – Storyteller – Becky Sortwell and Sabrina Strickland

XVII. Adjournment - **8:32 p.m.**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: May 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. DHHSC – Fresno

Minutes approved on May 12, 2009

Submitted by Rosemary W. Diaz, Secretary

PAGE

PAGE 5

Approved April 14, 2009 DHHSC Board Minutes

