



**DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 13, 2010**

**This Board meeting is dedicated in loving memory to Coleen Tuell**

- I. Call to Order – (6:34) 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), Tami Garcia (TG), Jose Blanco (JB), John Eberwein (JE)  
Board Members Absent: none  
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director,  
Visitors: Marilyn & Jovette McCallon, Martha Colletti, Janet Drane  
Interpreters: Michelle Ashby and Becky Hirschhorn for Deaf/blind; Pam Warkentin and Suzanne Conway for voice;
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) – Janet would like to know if we need help with VDF? Martha Colletti is concerned re email access to the Board members via the website and inappropriate content being sent. RR did receive pornographic email thru DHHSC access. Tami did also. Marilyn commented that the bingo event was popular and recommends considering bingo prior to board meetings to draw community members to the board meeting.
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent; added XIV. C. Fresno county interpreting contract M/S/P
- IV. Approval of **March 9** Board Minutes – M/S/P
- V. President’s Report – RWD  
Wishes to dedicate tonight’s meeting in loving memory of Coleen Tuell – former employee and former board member of VACC/DHHSC.  
President’s Report:  
Worked with Fresno Police Department, NE division, going to briefings early in the morning, 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. – to give a 5 minute brief presentation on the difference between Police protocol and Deaf culture – introducing the Visor program. There was a lot of support. I look forward to Captain Al Maroney – who facilitated the briefings along with Elizabeth Kunz – Fresno City ADA coordinator – to come to DHHSC on Monday, April 19 6-8 pm for a presentation. I hope we have a great turnout and encourage all Board members to attend.  
Experienced receiving jury summons for the first time with Fresno County. I was very impressed with the judge’s special attention to me as a potential Deaf juror, reminding jurors and lawyers alike that we need to take turns talking and keep in mind that we have two ASL interpreters present. I was actually sad to be dismissed, due to not being able to commit to a 3 week trial. I think it is important that we celebrate what is working and not just focus on what is not working. Explain the difference between CE (community education) and the board’s role in raising money. DHHSC staff focuses on CE – events that are designed to educate the community about various topics such as health, safety, etc. and educate the hearing community about Deaf culture, language, issues pertaining to working with hard of hearing, etc. Events that the board puts on to raise money such as “animal kingdom” etc are not considered CE if there is no element of

education. This includes movie night, pizza social, etc. Therefore we need to minimize staff time on these events. The board is responsible for fliers, publicizing, tickets, recruiting volunteers, putting on the event, setting up, cleaning up, etc. If staff assistance is needed it needs to be minimal and specific. Staff time is focused on direct services. There are 7 of us on the board; we can all do a little to help out.

Rosemary will direct Jesse to remove all board email addresses from website for now until further options can be explored. Public needs to be able to contact us but we need to protect contact information so that board members are not targeted for harassment.

Under VDF (Valley Deaf Festival) discussion:

African theme: only thing to add would be to make black beans and rice as a vegetarian/authentic dish. Need people who are willing to make food. We will have pizza, beans/rice, sodas, chips, cookies (baking), kid snacks, fruit cup. Simple menu, price list, line up and pay, bring food from kitchen. We don't have a room like we did last year, we will be serving outside. Need to get more info from Kathy. Board will be working on food sales all day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (close food area at 3 p.m.) Will rotate for 30 minute breaks. Staff/Volunteers/Board get a ticket to get one meal item and one drink for free. If they want more they will need to pay the difference. Pizza and drink. Rice/beans and fruit cup with drink. Start preparing food at 9 a.m. – rice/beans, cutting fruit and making fruit cups, setting up the food, cash box, etc. Everyone needs to arrive by 9 a.m. at Clovis veteran's building. Ask Michelle about dress code. Comfy shoes. Will keep reminders going through email.

- VI. Vice-President's Report – RR—no report
- VII. Secretary's Report – SS—no report
- VIII. Treasurer's Report – JS N/A due to computer malfunction @ DHHSC.
- IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson
  - A.** DSS grant—very pleased that we received contract for the next 3 years and placed second on the ranking list!
  - B.** Susan G Kommen for the Cure (breast cancer) grant—have received for 3<sup>rd</sup> year but do not yet know the amount.
  - C.** Sorenson grant—thank you for \$400 sponsorship for VDF
  - D.** We increased the mileage rate to 50 cents/mile due to cost of living increase and at DSS' prompting.
  - E.** We are very pleased to have recently given raises across the board to all DHHSC employees, with a few exceptions, such as those recently hired.
  - F.** The final Booster club total is \$6989.86.
  - G.** The Spring Dinner and Bingo that Fresno Deaf Events and DHHSC co-hosted on Saturday, April 10 brought in approximately \$250 after expenses. We had about 90 people in attendance.
  - H.** Two new staff members in Merced: 1. FT staff interpreter, Sarah McQuillan and 2. PT client services specialist in Merced, Beth Lilly.
  - I.** Jesse developed new client orientation packet and requesting board members to look it over and provide feedback;
  - J.** More SHARES cards coming.
  - K.** Diversified Maintenance will give us a quote for a Plexiglas sign with a motion sensor light for out front.
  - L.** Michelle recently did a presentation for IMPACT (Independently Merging Parents Associations of California) on Saturday, also on April 10. Approximately 276 people

attended. Thank you to volunteers and interpreters who volunteered their time on DHHSC's behalf to assist exceptional parents unlimited with this event.

**M.** AB 2072: DHHSC did send a letter in opposition to the bill. The computer crashed at DHHSC which delayed sending out the letter.

**N.** RE Server crash: we are awaiting work from Intuit if they can retrieve QuickBooks data. In the meantime paper checks will be issued for payroll. Because the battery is old it died before all the data could be backed up. To avoid this problem in the future we have ordered a new server and software at non-profit rates. Thank you to Jerred Horsman for helping us with this crisis.

**O.** DOR (Department of Rehabilitation) review was very positive. They requested that the board monitor DHHSC monthly reports.

**P.** VDF food idea: BBQ hamburgers and hot dogs but use creative names such as "monkey's tail" for hot dogs.

X. Operations Director's Report – Jesse Lewis, absent due to illness

XI. Committee Reports –

a. Personnel Committee – RWD—no report

b. Bylaws Committee – SS—no report

c. Fundraising Committee – JS

Reptile event May 8—selling tickets at front desk (none sold yet), 160 tickets at reptile stores sold. Will present additional ideas next meeting.

d. Outreach Committee – CCO, MOO, SVO—no report

e. Grant Monitoring Committee –RWD—no report

f. DHHSC Roundtable – JB The purpose of this committee is to have a rep from all the organizations in the community to come and share their calendars and events: 7 organizations represented at this last meeting on March 12 at which 13 people were present: FCC, Fresno Deaf church, Fresno Deaf events, DHHSC, Deaf-Blind support group, Fresno CAD, and FSU. We discussed pizza night, gathering at Coney Island at River Park and concerns about how to get info out re events. Next meeting Saturday June 12 @10 am @ DHHSC. Michelle added that DHHSC will be purchasing tickets for a captioned movie and announcing that to the community so as to increase attendance.

XII. General Board Comments – JS re issue with email. Wants to keep them on the website to encourage community contact. RWD will discuss with Jesse; perhaps keep actual addresses invisible or explore other options.

XIII. Unfinished Business

A. Advisory council training –postponed due to Jesse's absence.

B. VDF food: board is responsible. Probable menu: Black beans and rice, fruit cup with coconut, pizza, cookies, tri-tip. Volunteers will be given festival t-shirts with logos so please give Michelle your size.

XIV. New Business –

**A.** light for outside (see MB's report)

**B.** vacation request for MB: RWD expressed concern about signing contracts as that is a busy time of year. MB explained that Jesse Lewis is authorized to sign all contracts and if something needs to be signed he will come to HQ for that purpose while MB is on vacation. M/S/P

**C.** Renewing Fresno County interpreting contract for 3 years. M/S/P

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

– Marilyn McCallon wants a level 5 interpreter available for the meeting with the police officer. She had questions about staff involvement with VDF i.e. is it fundraising or education? She thinks lighting in the room at DHHSC must be improved. RWD will discuss allocating booster club funds based on MB's and JL's list of financial priorities at the May meeting.

- XV. Announcements –
- A. The movie “Gerald” (JE) will be shown in Visalia Saturday April 24. Benefits CAD. Cost is \$11
  - B. Visalia children’s carnival 10:30 to 1:30 for Deaf & Hard of Hearing families and Deaf parents with hearing children.
  - C. Monday April 19 from 6-8 pm @ DHHSC “Law Enforcement and the Deaf Community—Bridging the Gap” with Captain Al Maroney. Purpose: to share cultural experiences.
  - D. Tuesday April 20 from 9-4 @ DHHSC “Make WISE (Work Incentive Seminar Event) Connections” event for jobs resources for independence.
  - E. Thursday April 22 2-4 pm @ DHHSC: Resources for Independence, Central Valley (RICV) hosting a legislative panel to discuss economic issues focusing on people with disabilities.
  - F. Friday April 23 6-9 @ DHHSC Support Service Provider (SSP) training to become a support person for Deaf-blind.
- XVI. Closed Session – (board fund)
- XVII. Adjournment – **8:44**

**Date of Next Local Board Meeting: May 11 6:30-8:30 DHHSC – Fresno**

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary