



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES August 21, 2010

- I. Call to Order – **2:24** 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), (JS), John Eberwein (JE)
Board Members Absent: none
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Jesse Lewis (JL), Operations Director
Visitors: per Public Comments
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Nikki Wolfe
- II. Public Comments: see Community Comments attached document end of minutes
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – amended to include “ratification of approval of DOR funding request by email vote”. M/S/P
- IV. Approval of **June** Board Minutes
- V. Treasurer’s Report – JS
June report (Jonathan was absent for that meeting) Financial Report distributed and reviewed. Checking/savings balance: \$352,992; accounts receivable: \$210,005; accounts payable: \$1,869; mortgage payable: \$204,376; Board private fund balance: \$598; profit & loss overall: \$138,755. The grant of \$650,564 from DSS has been completely spent up as of June 30, 2010.
July report Financial report distributed and reviewed. Checking/savings balance: \$344,816; accounts receivable: \$216,466; accounts payable: \$5,038; mortgage payable: \$200,018; board private fund balance: \$699; profit & loss overall: \$25,411 (for one month). Grant status: \$62,250 spent out of \$650,564 awarded.
- VI. Unfinished Business
- a. ZVRS contract proposal: RWD postponed to be discussed under item VIIIb.
 - b. Ratification of motion to set meeting date for community meeting and a Saturday annual board meeting
 - c. Ratification of motion to allow RWD and MB to sign "cash advance" form from CDSS (California Department of Social Services)
 - d. Special meeting held on August 20, 2010 to discuss VRS proposals
 - e. Ratification of motion to apply for funding from the Department of Rehabilitation to support communication skills training program for DOR consumers.
- VII. New Business
- a. DHHSC logo: during the break a number of logos were voted on by the community, staff and Board members. A run-off was held between two clear winners and a clear winner emerged. The ‘handshapes’ will be revised so that they are clearly two ‘S-signs’ for support/advocacy.
 - b. VRS provider: motion to develop a list of needs with regards to our internet service and VPs and make new proposals to all 3 companies. M/S/P

- c. Rummage Sale October 1-2 - Fundraiser for DHHSC hosted by the board
- VIII. President's Report – RWD: rally Thursday at noon at the capital, RWD did not go and is unaware of what happened regarding AB 2072. The amendments are not in the bill that protect the needs of the Deaf community. Please call your reps and request that the bill not be passed. Mendoza added 16 items that further aggravated the Deaf community. Thanks everyone who helped with today's event. Thanks MB and JL and note that it is the 1 1/2 year anniversary of their co-leadership of DHHSC. Please appreciate all their achievements!
- IX. Vice-President's Report – RR: appeal to the community for 6 new Board members.
- X. Secretary's Report – SS: closed minutes from July 6 have been distributed to the Board members. Last night's minutes are not yet ready.
- XI. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson
- a. Thank you for attending my father's graveside service; your presence and support were much appreciated.
 - b. Invited Dr. And Mrs. Hurwitz (President and First Lady of Gallaudet) to Fresno for Town Hall and Women's Leadership Conference in March, and they accepted.
 - c. Communicable diseases and the media--explained importance of providing interpreters for live news and use visual aids/bullet points in background whenever possible.
 - d. ADA Forum--did presentation on ADA and D/HH
 - e. Attended and was invited to join Health Net Advisory Committee and need to bring actual members to share feedback.
 - f. Have contract with Child Protective Services for parenting classes
 - g. Planned DAW (Deaf Awareness Week) activities for Fresno office
 - h. Hired Rachel Smith as our full-time Employment Specialist
 - i. Sarah McQuillan's last day was yesterday--will have to open position again for interpreter in the Merced office.
- XII. Operations Director's Report – Jesse Lewis
- Visalia:** SVO office recently had its 9th anniversary event. We planned a simple dinner at a restaurant, had reserved room. We also had a live auction with Jason Jackson as our auctioneer. We're really thankful to him and to the many businesses that donated items for the auction. While it was a great event, we were surprised by the low number of attendance from the Visalia area Deaf community. More than half of those who attended were from Fresno. We could use more leadership in the Visalia area and even welcome Fresno community members to be a part of making that happen. Next month we'll have the Pinky Ann Deaf Show and also Adventure Park fundraiser, both during Deaf awareness week.
- Salinas:** Our Salinas staffs have built a strong relationship with one of the area's biggest hospitals, called Natividad Medical Center. They've been so supportive of our community's needs that they've asked for monthly trainings for their staff. We're happy to work with the hospital in making sure our community's needs are met. One challenge we face in that office is that we have a grant-funded program called LEAP that focuses on families with deaf and hard of hearing children, and we have seen a low number of families come for the services. We see a need to have a staff person fluent in Spanish to help us draw more families. We are currently working on other ways to get families involved, including sending home information with the kids and encouraging them to share with their parents.
- Merced:** Merced office is in the process of moving to a new and better office, much

more appropriate for our staff and community's needs. By September 1st, they'll be in the new office, ready to serve. Volunteers are welcome for August 29th for the last big move- if you're interested in helping, contact Angelica in the Merced office. Angelicam@dhhs.org. Merced has been holding deaf movie nights on Fridays to help with the costs of moving.

General comments: I would like to remind you that our Peer Educator Program welcomes community members to become part of this program. We want motivated community members to lead workshops on topics. For Fresno, if you're interested, see Susan Coulter, our Educational Services Manager. For outreach offices, ask any of the staff about this. We'd also welcome your feedback on this anytime!

Next month, from September 19th thru 25th is Deaf Awareness Week. Every person in our community can be a part of raising awareness about our Deaf community, about Deaf culture or ASL, about our history and more. To find out how you can be a part of this, ask us!

Last, we want to share with you that this past week, we submitted a grant application to fund a CLSAT program for the Fresno office. If we get this program funded by Department of Rehabilitation, we will open a CLSAT instructor position and begin classes for DOR consumers who would benefit from developing stronger communication and language skills to fit the workplace.

XIII. Committee Reports –

- A.* Personnel Committee – RWD No Report
- B.* Bylaws Committee – SS: RWD reported that she went to a training and learned a lot. Next month she will bring some recommendations to the board re changes in the by-laws.
- C.* Fundraising Committee – JS Fundraising Committee – JS asking for support planning events for fundraising-- no events pending currently. Blackbeards has not been set up. Tonight is a spaghetti dinner and dessert auction to raise money to improve the grounds of DHHSC.
- D.* Outreach Committee – CCO, MOO, SVO No report
- E.* Grant Monitoring Committee – RWD Grant Monitoring committee RWD have learned how to better apply for a grant in regard to how to better project how much money is needed in each line item for grants that are now going into their second year
- F.* DHHSC Roundtable Jose Blanco has resigned so RWD is taking over. Next meeting is Wed August 25 with community representatives @ 4pm @ DHHSC.

XIV. General Board Comments – none

XV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) – Jason Jackson (JJ) Re AB 2072 volunteered to provide training to community for understanding the bill and placing calls to oppose the bill.

XVI. Announcements –

- A. Deaf Awareness week is 3rd week in September. Fliers will be available.
- B. Monterey trip \$30/person seats still available see JJ. Leaving @ 6:30 from DHHSC and returning to Fresno @10 pm. 18 seats left. September 18.

XVII. Closed Session – none

XVIII. Adjournment – **5:17 p.m.**

**Date of Next Local Board Meeting: Tuesday September 14 -DHHSC HQ
from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary