

DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 9, 2008

Call to Order – 7:12 p.m. Dave Smith presiding

Board Members Present: Dave Smith, President (DS), Bryan Minas, Vice-President (BM), John Eberwein, Treasurer (JE), Renee Nealy, Secretary (RN)

Board Members Absent: Alissa Vigil (AV) – excused

DHHSC Staff Members Present: Danielle (Dani) Thompson, Executive Director, Kathy Yoshida, Director of Interpreting Services, Cathy Murphy, Billing Clerk

Visitors: Jovette & Marilyn McCallon, Julie Glenn, Jennifer Roberts, Tim Jubb, Tim Spires

Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Nicole Wolfe, Kendra Cronk, Janet Drane

Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) –

Cathy Murphy expressed her concern about the board of directors not doing any active fundraising and she wanted to know what the board's plan and focus for the agency was? DS explained that the board recently approved a fundraising plan developed by Rosemary Diaz and Jesse Lewis, and AV worked in conjunction with Barnes & Noble for a gift wrapping fundraiser during the Christmas season. Marilyn McCallon expressed her shock about one staff member of DHHSC being laid off. She also expressed her disappointment about not seeing any flyers for this Saturday's event; she only received an email about it. DS stated he has seen several announcements at Fresno State about the event; the ASL club and DHHSC are hosting the event. Jovette suggested posting flyers in the lobby about events. Tim Spires asked about the board minutes not being posted on the website in recent past months. RN explained that Jesse had difficulty with his email but the problem has been corrected and that all monthly board minutes are now posted.

Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent

Approval of November 18, 2008 Board Minutes – approved by consent as read

President's Report – DS

Merry Christmas everyone! DS explained that we had to recently layoff three people and that no additional layoffs are planned but we don't know yet. There has been an 8 agency coalition working with DSS to try and gain access to meetings with the Legislatures. Our lobbyist was fired because he did not do any work for us and we're doing our own lobbying; Sherry Fariha-Mutti has been helping us.

Vice-President's Report – BM

Thank you all for coming to the meeting tonight. We are all committed to DHHSC and want it to succeed. I hope there will be no further cuts in the future. You have our continued support.

Secretary's Report – RN – none

Treasurer's Report – JE

It's sad that we are facing budget cuts. We lost \$72,000 from DSS and from DOR we lost \$13,000. The interpreting department is in the black by \$16,000. The CPA is coming tomorrow.

Executive Director's Report – Danielle Thompson

A. Thank you to all the volunteer interpreters for volunteering their time; thank you very much to the volunteers and interns.

B. We've applied for several grants but have been turned down by some.

C. Related to the layoffs; we had to justify to the state how we can keep positions, we wanted to keep everything the same. We don't know what to expect for next year, maybe more cuts. We're disappointed that we lost so much money and are looking for additional funds to keep the agency open.

D. Our holiday party is this Saturday at the Fresno office from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Sorenson sponsored the holiday party so thank you to Sorenson. I hope to see you all on Saturday, Santa will be here. There is a \$3 admission fee.

Committee Reports –

Personnel Committee – AV – none

Bylaws Committee – RN – none

Fundraising Committee – BM, AV

DS reminded everyone about the Barnes & Noble gift wrapping fundraiser and encouraged people to leave a good tip

Outreach Committee – none

General Board Comments – none

Unfinished Business –

Ratified vote to approve Rosemary Diaz and Jesse Lewis' fundraising proposal to recruit 200 people.

New Business –

A. Ratification of approval to close offices on December 25th and 26th, 2008 and January 1st and 2nd, 2009.

- B.** Approval was voted to close offices at noon on December 24 and December 31st, 2008.
- XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –
Cathy Murphy asked how many grants have been denied and if the budget cuts include interpreting. Dani replied that we've applied for six grants, four have been denied and we're still waiting to hear about two; the budget includes the whole agency. Cathy suggested that all grants we're applying for be posted so the staff is aware of what is happening.
Tim Spires expressed interest in joining the board in the future but would like to know what the future plan for fundraising is. He feels there has not been much fundraising in the past year and recommended there be more. Marilyn McCallon suggested to include in the grants why DHHSC is so important; it's important for deaf parents to be kept up to date on the needs of deaf and hearing children. Julie Glenn asked about what three positions were laid off. Dani explained that it was the ILS position, office assistant and the bookkeeper. Tim Spires asked why the bookkeeper was laid off. DS explained because we hired CPA Mike Michner. He works with GLAD, NorCal, and he's familiar with how deaf agencies are run; his fees are less per month than a salaried bookkeeper. Tim also asked if the overhead has increased. DS explained we're trying to reduce the overhead.
- XV. Announcements –
All events are posted on HYPERLINK "<http://www.dhhsc.org>" www.dhhsc.org
B. DHHSC's Fresno office will be having their Holiday Party on Saturday, December 13, 2008. The ASL interpreting club will be assisting with their skills and talents.
- XVI. Adjournment – 7:52 p.m.

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: January 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Renee Nealy, Secretary

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