



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2010

- I. Call to Order – **6:33** Rosemary W. Diaz presiding
Board Members Present: Rosemary W. Diaz, President (RWD), Jonathan Silva, Treasurer (JS), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS),
Board Members Absent: Ronald Reagan, Vice-President (RR), John Eberwein (JE), both excused
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Jesse Lewis (JL), Operations Director
Visitors: Laura Casuga, Jodi Gentry, Carly Giagnani, Lori Botelho (Deaf-blind interpreter), Janet Drane, Amanda Bosworth (Deaf-blind interpreter), George Wilcox
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin and Erin Uribe (staff)
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) –none
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent
- IV. Approval of **November** Board Minutes – tabled until next meeting
- V. President’s Report – RWD
- A.** Visit to Merced DHHSC office: volunteered to clean the chairs, worked with staff to address safety issues regarding homeless people who come into the lobby area, met with local police traffic officers, met with United Way reps and they were very impressed with the new location and see that our services are truly vital and unique. Very proud of our Merced staff they are doing very well and doing their best to meet the growing demand for services with limited resources. RWD thanks Jesse Lewis for his valuable work in that office.
 - B.** Greatly discouraged about the captioning issue with our news stations and wants to ask if the board is willing to form a committee joint with the community to take some serious action to see our news stations in the Central Valley make changes to their broadcasts to make the information more accessible for us, especially in regard to emergency/live broadcasts. It is past due for this type of access. Past efforts to ask them for changes have not been successful. We need to take a "loud" more visible approach and include the Fresno Bee for media coverage.
 - C.** Concerned about the emotional and physical well-being of our Deaf high school students. We really need to do more to work with local school districts to see how we can be involved and have a direct impact on the choices they make regarding their future. Will work closely with Michelle Bronson on this effort.
 - D.** RWD went to the Visalia office for their holiday party and had a great time. The community is growing there; met many new faces which was very exciting to see. The staff and Advisory Council did an excellent job.
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – RR none due to absence

- VII. Secretary's Report – SS
A. Tami Garcia resigned from the Board and sent in her resignation letter. We are sorry to see her go and wish her the best.
- VIII. Treasurer's Report – JS **November** financial Report distributed and reviewed:
 Checking /savings balance \$381,948
 Accounts receivable \$384,154
 Accounts payable \$22,509
 Mortgage payable \$191,184
 Board private fund balance \$2,198
 Per profit and loss overall \$44,700
 Grant awarded for 10/11 \$650,564
 Grant spent up to 11/30/10 \$220,548
 Unspent grant for 7 months remaining \$430,015
- IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson
A. November 19th I attended an all-day training provided by Central Valley coalition of Human Services on "Dealing with Difficult People."
B. December 6 we submitted our Susan G. Komen for the Cure grant for the fourth year, and I would like to thank Kyra Schleaf for her tremendous assistance.
C. December 8 we assisted with and participated in the 24th annual Silent Sleigh.
D. December 10 interpreting intern fair @ DHHSC. This was a success and FSU interpreting department would like to make this an annual event.
E. December 14 Vocational Assessment and CLAST curriculum and assessment was approved in meeting with Kimball Dreihling who oversees the DOR grant. We can now

B. Merced: Merced office is doing great with both of their grant programs. They're having a great turnout there in the new office. Recently United Way Merced visited the office to meet regarding the grant program they fund, and they were very satisfied. I want to say thanks to

- staff be present and that community members be present as well to represent the needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This is an important issue for our Community.
- XIII. Unfinished Business –
- A. Upgrading ISP services and VP access for entire agency: Motion for when Telepacific contract expires in August we will negotiate a new contract with ATT. This will allow us to increase the bandwidth so all staff members can have a videophone, internet and phone services. The rate with AT&T is set for 2 years. M/S/P. RWD will contact all VRS providers and let them know our decision.
- XIV. New Business –
- A. Ratification of motion to approve a temporary position in the CCO office. M/S/P
- B. Community concerns from November Board meeting. Please see MB's report. Also mentioned maybe we could hire an interpreter to cover that meeting time so those calls do not go to the interpreting dept answering machine and get missed.
- C. Economic independence within the Deaf community. RWD discussed the possibility of purchasing a Subway franchise, which she thinks costs only \$24,000, to provide jobs and job training for Deaf community members.
- D. Recommendations based on audit report. Motion to investigate refinance of building mortgage, and first find out if there is a pre-payment penalty. M/S/P. JL and MB indicated they will respond.
- E. Postpone Board retreat date until new board members join.
- XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –none
- XV. Announcements –
- A. Wednesday December 22 there is a free Holiday luncheon from 12-3.
- B. Use the SHARES cards! This is a great way to earn money for DHHSC.
- XVI. Closed Session – none
- XVII. Adjournment – **7:46 PM**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: January 11, 2011 DHHSC – Fresno

Respectfully submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary