

DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2008

Call to Order – 7:15 p.m. Bryan Minas presiding

Board Members Present: Bryan Minas, Vice-President (BM), John Eberwein, Treasurer (JE), Renee Nealy, Secretary (RN), Alissa Vigil (AV)

Board Members Absent: Dave Smith – excused

DHHSC Staff Members Present: Danielle (Dani) Thompson, Executive Director

Visitors: Jovette and Marilyn McCallon, Jennifer Roberts, Annette Carter

Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Nicole Wolfe, Kendra Cronk

Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) –

Jovette commented on how nice the lobby looks now; the bulletin board is more visible. Jovette also reminded everyone that DHHSC needs our continued support.

Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent

Approval of September 16, 2008 Board Minutes – approved by consent as read

President's Report – DS none

Vice-President's Report – BM

Thank you all for coming tonight. I hope we will meet your needs; please let me know if we can help.

Secretary's Report – RN – none

Treasurer's Report – JE

Report is not available; it will be reviewed next month.

Executive Director's Report – Danielle Thompson

A. We have had a 10% cut in our budget and it's hitting us hard. We lost \$72,000 from our budget. Next year there will be more cuts but we don't know how much. We've had to reduce some of our staff to part-time and will be possibly laying off one person. We are trying to keep the outreach offices open. As of January, we will not be providing vision or dental insurance coverage, we can't afford it, we will keep the health insurance. We wanted to upgrade the internet and have a video phone for each staff but we don't have the money. One positive thing is that we don't have to close our offices, just downsize. BM asked how the staff is feeling? Dani explained that it's caused stress and anxiety. It's a time of uncertainty; we don't know who is moving to part-time or which programs we can keep. Our CPA has been communicating with us daily to help us figure out what to do. We're all nervous. BM observed that we're in a difficult situation. Dani believes we can still make it but if we receive further cuts next year, she's not sure what we're going to do. Each sister agency is also getting a 10% cut in their budget. Sacramento did not think services were needed for the D/HH community. We are still applying for grants; we've applied for five but got turned down on three, we're still waiting on the other two. There's a lot of competition with other agencies; we hope we get it. We applied for a Federal grant but got turned down, it was given to Gallaudet. We also applied for the same grant as RIT. We need to do more fundraising and trying to think of more options. We are considering making ILY hands and sell them for \$1.00. We will probably increase the rent for the community room, trying to provide extra income. There are a lot of changes but we're trying to keep things positive and trying to come up with good ideas.

Committee Reports –

Personnel Committee – AV

DS and I met recently; Dani's evaluation is in progress.

Bylaws Committee – RN – none

Fundraising Committee – BM, AV

I've tried to set up a Wine and Cheese event but there's been nothing so far. We can request (by letter) to

have the event at Fresno State. Dani said we are allowed to have alcohol at DHHSC because the alcohol and drug prevention program has shut down. She suggested linking the Wine and Cheese event with a Silent Auction to have a fundraising event. AV wants to have the fundraising committee meet with the staff to come up with ideas together.

Dani said there will be an admission charge at Valley Deaf Festival next year, possibly \$2.00 for every person. Last year 450 people attended VDF. AV suggested having a bounce house and charge a minimum fee for a wristband for each child. JE suggested charging per person or per family, children's admission less than adult admission.

Outreach Committee – none

General Board Comments –

AV stated that the board needs help, needs more people to get in to work and support us. Dani said that the staff needs more involvement from the board as well. BM said he has tried to get friends to become involved. RN suggested making a list every month of what the needs are and the board can sign up. AV said to make a “wish list” and post it, also ask the Senior Citizen's group or the Deaf-Blind group for help. Dani said the SC group helps out tremendously already and she will ask the Deaf-Blind group. Annette Carter said the Deaf-Blind group meets the 2nd Tue of the month 12:00-3:00.

Unfinished Business – none

New Business –

A. Approval to move November 2008 board meeting to Tuesday, November 18, 2008. November 11, which is the second Tuesday of the month is a public holiday, Veteran's Day. JE motioned, RN seconded, M/S/P

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

Marilyn McCallon suggested having a Spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser where donations are provided or maybe a Silent Auction. Jovette McCallon recommended to request outside help for events, not just asking the board and staff. There are a lot of people in the community that would be willing to volunteer and help out. Marilyn talked about setting up a new group called “Friends of the Deaf Community” and work in conjunction with DHHSC.

XV. Announcements –

All events are posted on [HYPERLINK "http://www.dhhsc.org" www.dhhsc.org](http://www.dhhsc.org)

B. Silent Sleigh will be held on December 10 for Fresno deaf/hard of hearing school-aged children. More information will follow.

C. We need more participants in the “Leaders in the Midst” program. This is a unique, one-time grant program and all persons interested in becoming great leaders are encouraged to join. The grant ends May 30. The meetings are every Tuesday 4:00-6:00.

D. Breast Cancer Walk for the Cure 5K will be held on Saturday. For more information contact Michelle Bronson. We will have a group of D/HH persons attending the walk/run event.

E. A workshop on identity theft will be set up soon with a police officer that is knowledgeable about identity theft.

XVI. Adjournment – 8:20 p.m.

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: November 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. DHHSC – Fresno

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