



## **DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

### **September 14, 2010**

- I. Call to Order – **6:38** Rosemary W. Diaz presiding  
Board Members Present: Rosemary W. Diaz, President (RWD), Ronald Reagan, Vice-President (RR), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), Tami Garcia (TG), (JS), John Eberwein (JE)  
Board Members Absent: Jonathan Silva, Treasurer (JS), excused  
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Jesse Lewis (JL), Operations Director  
Visitors: Jennifer Roberts, Jovette and Marilyn McCallon, Janet Drane, Martha Coletto, Gloria Olea, Arly Olea, Susan Coulter  
Interpreters: Pam W, Nikki W; SSP's: Beth L. and Lori B.
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) –Marilyn McCallon: good comments about the new Deaf Bee/weekly digest. Re landscaping upgrade she would like to have a meeting set up to discuss options. RWD noted that city of Fresno wants us to keep the redwood trees for shade and to save on AC. Janet commented about the Deaf/blind trip to Shaver Lake. She also asked about setting up a video camera in the front lobby to verify who is here and to help clarify misunderstandings and document confrontations. RWD indicated that this is probably too expensive. Marilyn also suggested collaboration with Oakland's' Deaf/blind community.
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent
- IV. Approval of **August** Board Minutes – postponed as Sue forgot to send
- V. President's Report – RWD
1. Deaf Bee- well done for fall issue
  2. Thanks to seniors: money raised donated \$500 for landscaping which helped us pay off the project. With the money raises from the spaghetti dinner, the dessert auction, and the Board fund we have met our goal. Board contributions allow us to do other things to meet needs that DSS does not cover or in case of budget impasse.
  3. October board meeting - should we cancel? We don't have a budget passed and it costs money to have a board meeting. This is the longest wait ever in California for a passed budget.
  4. Regarding our financial picture right now: are we going to have to make some cuts? Michelle indicated that with our savings we are fine for now
  5. Request to go to RICV dinner: did not receive a motion. I was planning to go on my own expense, but with injury and difficulty driving may not.
  6. Change agenda item re: VRS provider. We are not choosing a VRS provider. We are looking for financial support for us to have better ISP services. I hope the board will consider changing the item to something else such as upgrade of ISP services and VP access for entire agency.
  7. JE is going to the open house in Merced. Hopefully he can recruit some Board members there.

8. AB 2072 is on the governor's desk. It is better, but please call and encourage him not to sign it. The Audiologist's group fortunately changed to a 'no' stance.

VI. Vice-President's Report – RR--none

VII. Secretary's Report – SS--none

VIII. Treasurer's Report – MB for JS

**As of August 31** Financial Report distributed and reviewed: Michelle indicated that the goal is to not touch our savings, even though the budget has not yet been approved. She is not yet worried. Monthly expenditures are <\$100,000.

Savings: \$275,000. Checking/savings balance: \$353,826. Accounts receivable: \$230,604. Accounts payable: \$9,772. Mortgage payable: \$198,320. Board fund private balance (held for landscaping): \$1,331. Per profit and loss: \$32,660. Grant awarded for 10-11 (not yet received): \$650,564. Grant spent up to 8/31/10: \$126,296.

IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson

**A.** Rachel Smith resigned as ES, so now the position is open. We wish her the best with her future endeavors

**B.** Beth is now part-time CSS and Merced interpreter. We studied the interpreter position and have found that a full-time position is not necessary at this time. Combining CSS and interpreter position at this time saves the agency money, but we can expand the interpreter position later if needed

**C** Rep at Combined Federal Campaign on Aug 25th to bring awareness about DHHSC's services and hopefully encourage government workers to select DHHSC as a chosen charity

**D.** Developed Service Delivery Plan with North Star Family Center to provide ASL classes

**E.** Cheryl, a community member, and I will be attending a CalViva Health meeting this Thursday to rep needs of D/HH

X. Operations Director's Report – Jesse Lewis

**A.** We have a new Deaf Bee online, as some of you have noticed. I'm glad you've enjoyed it. I hope you will take the time to look at the Spotlight on Staff that is also online, that has details about each DHHSC staff person. I asked a variety of questions and got interesting responses to share.

**B.** After the recent Community Comments, we changed the evaluation form slightly to be easier to follow. We also now have a VLOG online to match the evaluation form. Viewers can watch the video and then answer the questions on the form, or submit a video response to me at [jessel@dhhs.org](mailto:jessel@dhhs.org). We also have a video with a survey for community members to answer. Please take the time to view and let us know what you think about each question.

**C.** Later on in the board meeting, we are asking for board approval to seek a grant for Deaf-blind services. The funds would be partially for increasing the number of SSPs for our deaf-blind clients by offering more training and also to offset the costs involved with providing more interpreters for events. SSP's and interpreters are two separate functions. We did a cost analysis of how much DHHSC will pay per year to be fully-accessible for the deaf-blind clients and it's about \$31,000. A grant could help us with this cost, and we're glad to be able to make our events accessible. The interpreting department is already doing some extra training, ½ day/week for Deaf/blind interpreting.

**D.** We are doing a Flashmob ASL performance during Deaf Awareness Week. This will be an unannounced performance of an ASL song, in the middle of the day, with a group of deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing individuals together. If you want to join, please attend our practice session this Friday morning at 9:00 am here in the community room.

*E.* Last, I want to share with you that the Salinas office has been hosting ASL classes for police officers and correctional officers from Soledad prison. We're glad to contribute to deaf awareness in our local police departments!

- XI. Committee Reports –
- a. Personnel Committee – RWD--none
  - b. Bylaws Committee – SS--none
  - c. Fundraising Committee –MB for JS re shares card, waiting for an additional \$300, hoping to get before Deaf awareness week. Can be please passed out to friends
  - d. Outreach Committee – CCO, MOO, SVO report from Visalia office. RWD needs to figure out how to help the outreach offices not feel so disconnected from the Fresno office. Will forward this report to the Board.
  - e. Grant Monitoring Committee – RWD concern re Susan Kommen grant--want to make sure that when we make changes that we formally notify them in order to request budget modification, get approval, etc well in advance. Michelle reassured Rosemary that they have had open, ongoing communication with the Kommen staff and they are aware of DHHSC's plans.
  - f. DHHSC Roundtable – RWD August 25, good positive meeting, busy fall, many events but no conflicts, one massive calendar,
- XII. General Board Comments – motion to cancel October board meeting M/S/P. SS could not remember when we had voted to use the Board fund for landscaping but was assured by the rest of the Board that we had.
- XIII. Unfinished Business –
- A. VRS providers: A needs list will be provided to each of the VRS providers. Motion to change name of agenda item to upgrading to ISP services and VP access for entire agency M/S/P.
- XIV. New Business –
- A. Vacation request for Jesse Lewis.* This is for when the adoption of his daughter is final—not sure when that will be. SS asked why he could not take FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) time and was told that only applies to agencies with >50 employees. M/S/P
  - B. Grant for Deaf/blind services and SSPs.* Jesse provided a chart with figures for regular monthly needs for Deaf/blind interpreting at DHHSC functions which amounts to a monthly cost of \$2,620 and an annual cost of \$31,440. This is for 1-2 attendees at functions and takes into account the volunteer interpreters. There is currently no money to pay them, but we need a program to train more SSP's, not only for interpreting but also for ADL's. These are 2 separate functions. The interpreting department is currently providing training for SSP's ½ day/month. Motion to apply for a grant. M/S/P
- XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –none
- XV. Announcements –
- A. Deaf Awareness Week (every night week of September 20)
  - B. Rummage sale Friday October 1 and Saturday October 2. Need volunteers.
  - C. Mexican art museum. Susan Coulter has set up a visit of the Mexican Art Museum on Friday this week. Anyone interested in attending will meet at DHHSC and go together.
- XVI. Closed Session – none
- XVII. Adjournment – **8:16**

**Date of Next Local Board Meeting: November 9, 2010 @ 6:30 @ DHHSC – Fresno**

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary