

DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2009

Call to Order – 7:14 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), Alissa Vigil (AV)

Board Members Absent: none

DHHSC Staff Members Present: Danielle (Dani) Thompson – Executive Director, Susan Coulter – Program Manager, Kathy Yoshida – Director of Interpreting Services, Michelle Bronson – Coordinator of Client Services, Catherine Murphy – Billing Clerk, Cheryl Parreira – Case Manager

Visitors: Tami Garcia, Jovette & Marilyn McCallon, Ruth McDonald, Janet Drane, Jason Jackson, Tim & Joelene Spires, Joanne Bolock, Skippy Sumner, Ray Dean, Joe & Becky Sortwell, Reno & Martha Coletti, Samuel Coulter, Annette Carter, Rosemary Diaz, Jesse Lewis

Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Nicole Wolfe, Shannon Simonelli, Lori Betelho, Becky Edens

Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) –

Marilyn McCallon made a special announcement and presented a certificate to DHHSC in honor of Jovette McCallon's 75th birthday. Jovette's birthday wish was for his family members to donate money to DHHSC; \$520 was given in his honor by members of his family.

Tim Spires stated that he heard rumors that the executive director got an unpleasant letter that included he and his wife's name; the letter was signed by his mother. He wants a copy of that letter; he says he doesn't like his reputation being smeared. Tim also said there was an email sent about his wife Joelene stating she did not want to accept a job offer on a temporary basis. He feels there should be more oversight and encourages staff to speak up and not be afraid.

Joelene Spires said that the class she previously taught was discussed in the August board minutes and that some community members asked her if she was not doing her job; maybe they misunderstood the minutes. Joelene stated that she worked very hard for DHHSC for 10 years and wants the minutes clarified.

Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent

Approval of December 9, 2008 Board Minutes – approved by consent as read

President's Report – DS

Thank you Dani for your year and a half service to the agency. This will be your last board meeting but we hope we'll hear from you.

Vice-President's Report – BM

Happy New Year to everyone and thank you for coming; I'm surprised to see so many in attendance. I want to thank Dani for working so hard and being so committed to DHHSC and serving the Deaf community.

Good luck with your new job in Japan!

Secretary's Report – RN

Thank you Dani for all your hard work and dedication to DHHSC; we appreciate you!

Treasurer's Report – JE

Dani, you will be missed very much when you go to Japan.

Executive Director's Report – Danielle Thompson

Thank you everyone for coming tonight, this is my last meeting so I want to thank everyone in the community for your support.

Dani addressed Tim and Joelene's comments by stating she doesn't know how that information got out since it was only shared with the managers and board of directors. Dani explained that the temporary position was offered to Joelene but she turned it down; it was not meant to be negative. Joelene is always welcome at DHHSC and again apologized for wherever the misunderstandings took place.

Dani thanked everyone for their time and wished them all the best.

Committee Reports –

Personnel Committee – AV – none

Bylaws Committee – RN – none

Fundraising Committee – AV

The gift wrapping fundraiser at Barnes & Noble earned over \$200 for 4 days of work. There will be another fundraiser with Barnes & Noble during Deaf History month. Flyers will be made and everyone who shops at Barnes & Noble on the designated day can bring the flyer with them and DHHSC will receive 10 to 20% of the revenue. There will also be activities for adults and children set up.

Rosemary Diaz explained the “Friends of DHHSC Booster”. This year, 2009, is the 25th anniversary of DHHSC so from January 1-December 31 we need 200 people to collect donations of \$1 per day then at the end of the year we will have received \$73,000, which replaces the \$73,000 of our budget that was cut by DSS. There are forms if anyone wants to sign up, see Rosemary or Jesse Lewis. There will be an informational meeting Thursday in Salinas and Friday in Merced; there is also a VLOG on the website. The goal is to have a party and announce who the top three fundraisers are.

Outreach Committee – none

General Board Comments – AV announced that Barnes & Noble and EPU have set up an ASL story time. Volunteers are needed to sign the stories and hearing people are needed to voice the stories. It will be held the fourth Saturday of every month, 2:00-3:00 pm, starting in February. Snacks and activities will be provided.

Unfinished Business – none

New Business –

A. Proposal by Sam Coulter to have a wine and cheese fundraising event with a live band on February 14. Sam Coulter explained that he has a local easy listening band and a friend that is a promoter. He suggested having a Valentine’s Day dance with wine and cheese, and Sierra Nut House is willing to do a no-host bar and provide hors d’oeuvres for a reduced cost. The charge would be \$70 per couple with a maximum of 50 couples, which would raise \$2500. There was discussion among the board members and Dani about DHHSC’s previous no alcohol policy since we previously had the ADPP. DS stated we need to check with our insurance broker regarding liability insurance and discuss the event with DSS.

B. Proposal to revise Executive Director’s duties and responsibilities and add a part-time Operations Director to assume some of the current Executive Director’s responsibilities. Both positions will also involve some direct client services. Michelle Bronson to be hired as new Executive Director and Jesse Lewis as Operations Director.

Michelle Bronson along with Jesse Lewis explained the details of their proposal through a power point presentation. DS then opened up questions from the audience.

Tim Spires asked if Jesse will write grants, Michelle said yes; grant writing is Jesse’s strength.

Marilyn McCallon asked how the position will be balanced fairly. Michelle responded that they will be conferring with each other and supporting each other so no one is left with the whole burden. They will be using the team approach to maximize their strengths.

Annette Carter commented that she loves the team concept and feels Michelle and Jesse will be a great team. She asked if DHHSC is mandated to post a job announcement and hire an interim director in the meantime. DS explained that according to our bylaws the board doesn’t have to post a job announcement and has the discretion and responsibility to hire someone.

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

Marilyn McCallon supports the idea of a team running DHHSC and has a lot of faith in both individuals. We need to put our faith into them and are being courageous in taking this on; we can run our agency with two wonderful people.

Becky Sortwell is in full agreement with Marilyn.

Shannon Simonelli said she has worked at DHHSC for about three years and has worked with both Michelle

and Jesse; they are her friends and co-workers and they have many wonderful qualities. She wants the board to consider their proposal and hire them.

Tim Spires said this is the first time he has heard of a “team”. It’s a very creative idea and is in full support. Rosemary Diaz said she loves and cherishes DHHSC and this will be the first time an immediate plan is in place when the executive director leaves; it will be a smooth transition. She wants the board to consider Michelle and Jesse’s proposal. She wished Dani luck as she travels to Japan.

Kathy Yoshida thanked Dani for a tough and challenging year. There were numerous issues and we’re still going to face a lot of turmoil in the next year. Kathy believes we need to have an Executive Director and Operations Director.

XV. Announcements –

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

B. There will be a breast cancer workshop next week.

C. An HIV/AIDS educational workshop will be held on January 26, 2009.

D. Please check your spam filter with your email provider to ensure DHHSC emails are not going to the spam filter or junk mailbox.

XVI. Closed Session – Personnel

Board of Directors approved the hiring of Michelle Bronson for Executive Director and Jesse Lewis as Operations Director.

Adjournment – 9:22 p.m.

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: February 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Renee Nealy, Secretary

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