

DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2009

Call to Order – 7:07 p.m. Dave Smith presiding – *Tonight's meeting is dedicated in loving memory to Alma Sweeney who passed away in April.*

Board Members Present: Dave Smith, President (DS), Bryan Minas, Vice-President (BM), John Eberwein, Treasurer (JE), Rosemary W. Diaz, Secretary (RD), Alissa Vigil (AV)

Board Members Absent: None

DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson, Executive Director, Jesse Lewis, Operations Director, Susan Coulter, Program Manager

Visitors:

Interpreters:

Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) –

Sharon Gallagher – I want to get information about how to learn American Sign Language due to having 6 students – want to be an effective teacher and came to DHHSC to see if we taught ASL and was encouraged to come to the board meeting. Enjoy fundraising and asking for money and would love to serve on the board or do this as a volunteer. Please read my information that is on the handout that was given out and then contact me with additional information.

Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent

Approval of **April 14, 2009** Board Minutes – approved by consent as read

President's Report – DS

We just had a board retreat this past Saturday and we met all afternoon; accomplished a lot. Discussed fundraising, board recruitment, upcoming events, grant monitoring, and support for Directors and Staff, outreach services, and establishing a Roundtable, and you will see this under the Consent Agenda. Thanks to Alissa for working hard to find a place for us to hold our retreat.

Vice-President's Report – BM

Thank everyone for coming tonight. I really enjoyed the retreat with the board. We had a lot of things to discuss and a lot planned for the community for the future. We had a lengthy discussion yet still feel that we have more to discuss.

Secretary's Report – RD

Thanks to Jesse for reversing the order of Minutes available on website so that now the most recent is at the top.

Treasurer's Report – JE

Financial Report as of March 10, 2009 distributed and reviewed

Financial Report as of April 14, 2009 distributed and reviewed

Financial Report as of May 12, 2009 distributed and reviewed

Profit and Loss Statement from July 2008 through April 2009 – the above information catches up for the last 2 months of not having reports provided.

Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson

A. We just completed our 3rd quarter report to CDSS and we are right on target. We realized that we are no longer using Units of Service (as units of time) we are using actual people count which is what our database records. We are behind on our CE (Community Education) counts but with big events coming up during the summer we are confident that we will be on target with CE numbers as well.

B. Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Education grant was awarded - we received \$15,000.00 for a second year grant.

C. Operations Director – Jesse Lewis

we successfully obtained the following grants:

First 5 Merced County - \$25,000.00 for 3 years specifically to serve families with deaf and hard of hearing children

United Way Merced County - \$6,000.00 for one year for health and safety workshops

Booster Club - \$3,187.00 raised so far. We are seeing a small decline in participants but as of one hour ago we have an updated VLOG on the website about how to participate, how to donate on line, the prizes, and we will have a poster in all the offices, to show how much we have raised. BM asked how many members do we have. JL said we have about 70. We need to recruit more members. RD said that people are being creative to set up events to raise the money which is very much encouraged.

DS thanked MB and JL for working hard to get grants and funds for DHHSC

Committee Reports –

Personnel Committee – DS - MB and JL will have their 6 month review coming up in July 2009 – we will get feedback from staff, managers, and community.

Bylaws Committee – RD – Noticed that term “Director of Finance” still there and also a discussion needs to take place about allowing individuals who work for sponsors to serve on the board.

Fundraising Committee – AV

Cookie Dough Fundraiser – people picked up today

Bookfair this month on May 23 – can buy coffee, sandwich, or buy a book – proceeds go to DHHSC. Social time is at 11 a.m. and then at 1 p.m. – another event then at 2 p.m. will be for storytime. Kathy Carlsen will be the storyteller. We are hoping to have Linda McLaughlin with us for that day as well.

Menu for Valley Deaf Festival will be limited to pizza (cheese or Hawaiian) or tri-tip.

Rummage Sale – October 9 from 1 to 5 for community and October 10 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Approved by consent.

Outreach Committee –

New person appointed for CCO – Henry Bergstresser

General Board Comments –

RD said that she is happy to see that the morale amongst staff is up and it is nice to see smiling faces – reflects that the new leadership structure at DHHSC was a good decision.

RD shared that she went to the DOR Public Forum and submitted comments on behalf of DHHSC and the Deaf Community by providing Public Comments. A copy of her report is available if anyone would like to read it.

RD provided a thrift store update to show that the committee is still doing a lot of research. The most recent phase was interviewing various non profit based thrift stores to learn what is working and what is not. In addition we are ensuring that all of our fiduciary responsibilities are covered and they are. The next phase is to buckle down and determine what exactly we want our store to look like, develop a business plan, and some marketing strategies.

Unfinished Business –

Ratification of Motion to approve DHHSC submits RFP to EDD for part-time employment services program.

New Business –

A. Approval to change bylaws to state that Saturday meetings will be held once a year (not once every quarter) and in Fresno (or otherwise announced location) due to budget constraints and to include the new structure of outreach committee members. M/S/P

B. Consent Agenda

Board members, starting July 1, 2009, must either commit to a monthly financial contribution OR commit to creating one event that is for the purpose of raising money specifically for the Board Fund or other designated purposes.

Creation of a new role of Honorary Board Members: these members will be required to contribute \$30.00 a month or \$360.00 per year, non-voting members, but serve in an advisory capacity when DHHSC is faced with decisions that have a grand financial impact, and are invited to submit comments anytime via email or during agenda item marked, general board comments.

(Related to issue #6 below) AV- Similar to B and N – monthly events or every two months – families with deaf children can interact, for example, deaf day at zoo, deaf day at museum, different events, home depot has events for kids monthly and set those events up with interpreters. Perhaps work with Fresno State interns and pair them up with a mentor. Good opportunity for DHHSC, Deaf Community, families, and students. For example, people want to go to places like the Planetarium but never had communication access. So we can collect information on places that people want to go. So if you want to join my committee let me know.

DHHSC Roundtable: CAD, Deaf Church, various organizations in Fresno serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing will work together to consolidate calendars, work together, and share information. MB – Went to a collaborative meeting today with reps from 25 different organizations and from local Universities. EPU and Alliant University want to be part of the Roundtable. RD suggested perhaps having two different roundtables. One with Deaf – as the heart, spirit, of DHHSC and whom we serve. The other with Hearing and/or service organizations who aim to serve Deaf and Hard of Hearing who are seeking more of an educational/resource approach. AV – likes this concept.

RD explained the concept of Grant monitoring as follow: Grants require board approval and we need to have a more intimate involvement in the process of ensuring that each grant meets its goals; that grants are developed based on evidence of need; and that grants are monitored to ensure full compliance with monthly written reports that are available to the public and to the board (withholding all confidential information of course). DS – keeps staff accountable.

Motion to approve all of the items under Consent Agenda. M/S/P

RD – clarify August Tuesday night meeting cancelled. August 22 for 2 hours – 10 to 11 – board meeting, 11 to 12 will be community comments. Board will have a retreat that same afternoon to specifically review Parliamentary procedures based on Bummy's Video and also to discuss our Strategic Plan in more detail as the time allowed on May 9 was not enough.

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

Annette Carter – Want to know more about the Bummy's video related to Parliamentary Procedures. Want to see if we can avoid having events on the first Saturday of each month. RD – represent community who have a preference and economic budget reasons to have events at the beginning of the month. So we need the Roundtable and Deaf-Blind involvement to figure out what we need to do. DS – I think having events at the beginning of the month applies to everyone and all organizations based on pay check time.

XV. Announcements –

All events are posted on HYPERLINK "<http://www.dhhsc.org>" www.dhhsc.org

Parenting Counts Workshop on Friday, May 15, 2009 (cancelled last month due to presenter getting a new job)

ASL Bookfair on May 23, 2009

XVI. Adjournment – **8:24 p.m.**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: June 9 at 7:00 p.m. DHHSC – Fresno

Draft submitted by Rosemary Diaz, Secretary

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