



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2010

- I. Call to Order – **6:36 pm** Rosemary W. Diaz presiding
Board Members Present: Rosemary W. Diaz, President (RWD), Ronald Reagan, Vice-President (RR), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), Jonathan Silva, Treasurer (JS), Tami Garcia (TG), John Eberwein (JE)
Board Members Absent: Jose Blanco (JB) excused
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director; Jesse Lewis (JL), Operations Director, Erin Uribe,
Visitors: Reno and Martha Coletti, Jovette and Marilyn McCallon, Butch Zein, Jason Jackson (Sorenson and Fresno Deaf Events [FDE]), Tim Spires (Sorenson),
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Nikki Wolfe
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) – Jason Jackson from FDE, which is not related to DHHSC. Some free events, some have a cost; the idea is to have fun and work together as a team; can be reached at Jason@fresnodeafevents.com
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent after correcting the spelling of Jonathan’s name
- IV. Approval of **April** Board Minutes – M/S/P
- V. President’s Report – RWD
- A. Thanks Jason for sharing about Fresno Deaf Events which is very beneficial to the community. DHHSC does support Fresno Deaf Events.
- B. VDF plans. Please we need rice cookers and crock pots.
- C. SHARES cards have arrived; weneed to get word out. If you run the card through the debit or charge machine it earns 3% for DHHSC.
- D. ASL Story time – feedback is very positive same as with Martha’s Vineyard. Great attendance. Need more storytellers so canhave more role models. Proposed structure: Story, related signs, story, related signs, stretching between stories to teach signs. Make sure that Deaf in audience are recognized—introduce people. Welcome guests/visitors to ensure that their experience is positive. [Jason interjected a suggestion to have FDE work with DHHSC to host ASL story time and assist with advertising and recruiting storytellers.]. Honor Michelle and Jonathan for the success of ASL story time.
- E. Please support Sorenson’s now going through difficult time with new regulations and payment scheme proposed. Request people to sign letter to FCC to support video relay.
- F. AB 2072, which deals with when and how communication options are presented to parents of a deaf/ HoH newborn, isstill in committee. DHHSC believes that as is, it will limit available options and be skewed towards an oral approach. DHHSC has taken a stand in opposition. Please oppose. Passed as is, it will be of major concern to Deaf/HoH community.
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – RR—no report
- VII. Secretary’s Report – SS—notes that board members have been given a copy of the minutes from last months’ closed portion of the Board meeting as well as a list of abbreviations of commonly referred to organizations.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – JS: Individual Board members donations are private and not to be distributed. March and April financial reports distributed and reviewed. The March report was not available at the April meeting due to computer issues.
March report: checking/savings balance=\$331,270; accounts receivable=\$330,580; accounts payable=\$6,833; mortgage payable=\$213,319; board private fund balance=\$938; profit and loss overall=\$203,061; unspent grant money=\$163,069;
April report: checking/savings balance=\$415,950; accounts receivable=\$250,409; accounts payable=\$1,989; mortgage payable=\$211,045; board private fund balance=\$968; profit and loss overall=\$188,943; unspent grant money=\$105,804;
Wonders of the Animal Kingdom: 55 in attendance (about half Deaf or HoH and half hearing). Earned \$535 total.

IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson

A. I recently did presentations on Deaf-related topics for an ASL class at Clovis Adult School, Parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children at Merced's Kids' Inspirational Day Camp, and an ASL class in Oakhurst's State Community Center.

B. I recently went to Sacramento and met with Assemblyman Tony Mendoza regarding the AB2072, and it was an enriching experience.

C. Mai Nou's last day is tomorrow, and we have posted the Client Services Specialist's position on the website. The position is part-time and in the Fresno office. We wish Mai Nou best of luck with her future endeavors.

D. Jesse and I recently did our third quarterly report for DSS, and we are very pleased that we are meeting our goals.

E. Our community room A/C was recently vandalized, and we've filed a police report and contacted our insurance.

F. We are also very pleased that we currently have 41-42 booths for VDF!

X. Operations Director's Report – Jesse Lewis

- \$2,000 grant from Area 8 Sequoia Board approved. Michelle said they applauded at the meeting.
 - When we get the check we'll order books, DVDs and other resources for the SVO (South Valley Outreach) library, but community members from all 4 offices may request materials to borrow.
 - The library is now named DHHSC Sequoia Library.
 - Family HealthCare Network in SVO area has asked us to participate in health fairs, which will be great exposure for DHHSC's services and an opportunity to educate about the need for interpreters provided at appointments.
 - We had a problem with our PayPal account expiring and it has been resolved. If anyone is interested in making an online donation to DHHSC, they can use PayPal safely and easily. See the website for the link to donate.
 - Last month, there was a request that DHHSC contact nursing homes to provide community education for purposes of system advocacy. Our offices have begun to do this and will schedule presentations first chance nursing homes give us.
 - The advisory council in SVO has requested that there be one joint meeting each year, and I will explain more later in new business.
 - For the LEAP program in Salinas, we had sent a request for \$5,000 matching funds to a bank in Monterey, but they turned down the request because they had previous commitments. They encouraged us to apply again in the future.

- Regarding system advocacy, our offices have continued efforts to build relationships with local fire departments and police departments. We recently gave a presentation to Tulare County Police Department. We have also shared the new Visor cards with Police departments so they're aware of what the cards look like in advance. We recently received a donation from a donor who wishes to be anonymous to use for having new visor cards made with both English and Spanish. We've finished making an edited version and will make sure it meets the donor's satisfaction, then will order. These cards are available for anyone who needs them. A \$1 donation is appreciated but not required.
- We have started compiling a list for everything that will go into an orientation packet. Whenever someone D/deaf or hard of hearing or family of d/hoh moves to one of our areas, the goal is to be able to provide this packet of information about what is offered in the area. Examples include address of the local DOR office, SSA office, contact information for disability services at colleges, and more. If anyone has a specific request for us to consider including, please let us know.

Jesse presented 3 proposals for email options for Board members to handle the problem of inappropriate email being sent to Board members. The Board voted to create a new email address board@DHHSC.org and remove individual email addresses from the website. Rosemary will check this email address. M/S/P

XI. Committee Reports –

- Personnel Committee – RWD—no report
- Bylaws Committee – SS—no report
- Fundraising Committee – JS

The community will have the opportunity to suggest what events they would like to see. For example dance lessons, auctioning board and staff services, Blackbeard's event for a day for our community only, dinner at discounted rates at the Olive Garden Restaurant, etc...

- Outreach Committee – CCO, MOO, SVO—no report
- Grant Monitoring Committee – RWD

Jesse and Michelle are working very hard to be sure we are spending all the money allocated.

- DHHSC Roundtable – JB changed to June 26 10-12 due to conflict with FDE

XII. General Board Comments – at our next meeting Board members were asked to bring their calendars to schedule the August community Board meeting which happens on a Saturday.

XIII. Unfinished Business –

- Advisory council (AC) training: Jesse asked the 3 advisory councils and they are ok if the training is mandatory, but do not want a second event required and would like all 3 AC's to train together. They would like to know what weight will be given to their advice by the board. All 3 outreach offices have set up town hall meetings. The 3 ACs consist of between 7 and 10 members each. The cost is *estimated* at \$400 and includes mileage and food. Rosemary suggested a matching fund if the AC contributes to the money needed for training. Motion for the Board to set up a matching fund to support AC training. M/S/P

- Valley Deaf Festival: will provide list for people to vote for events;

XIV. New Business –

A. Allocation of booster club money

MB and JL are recommending a new program to benefit both community and staff: a peer education program, which is a new program they have developed to teach members of the community to make presentations for which they would be paid. There would be 30 workshops per year for each of 4 offices. Funds would be used for 1. projectors for Visalia and Fresno office 2. laptop 3. Curriculum materials 4. Payment to presenters. This is a pilot project and we will see how the community responds. M/S/P

B. Bingo: must complete form for attorney general re raffles, etc....

C. Review and dispensation of tax form 990: Rosemary and Jonathan to review, approve, and authorize MB and JL to sign and submit; will be displayed for public viewing; M/S/P

D. Relocation of Merced office: DOR wants the office moved to a place that is more accessible and visible. There are 3 potential locations. MB and JL would like Board approval in advance. This will reduce rent from \$1800/month to \$1400/month, is the same size, meets ADA requirements, has adequate parking, and is in downtown Merced. M/S/P

XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –none

XV. Announcements –

A. VDF 10-4 Clovis Memorial Building

XVI. Closed Session – Presentation by Butch Zein from ZVRS

XVII. Adjournment – **9:08 pm by RR**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: June 8, 2010 6:30 to 8:30 pm @ DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary