



**DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 12, 2011**

- I. Call to Order – **6:35 pm** Rosemary W. Diaz presiding  
Board Members Present: Rosemary W. Diaz, President (RWD), Jonathan Silva , Treasurer (JS), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), John Eberwein (JE)  
Board Members Absent: Ronald Reagan, Vice-President (RR), Laura Casuga (LC)  
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Susan Coulter, Lisa Huffman  
Honorary Board Members: Martha Colletti  
Visitors: Marilyn McCallon, Lindsay Cowin, Jacquelyn Rubolcosa, Jeannie Wong, Erin Wong  
Interpreters: Nikki Wolfe, Pam Warkentin
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) Martha Colletti requests handicapped-designated parking for DHHSC. She is also concerned about the grafitti on the sign out front.
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent with one change: to approval of March minutes instead of February.
- IV. Approval of **March** Board Minutes –M/S/P
- V. President’s Report – RWD  
The next Addressing Captioning Meeting will held be on April 20 at DHHSC at 4 p.m. I did serve as a language model at Norseman doing storytelling which was a wonderful experience, then got to see all the kids again at Celebration of Diversity. It was nice having the president and first lady of Gallaudet here to visit. Board members are reminded to recruit one person onto the Board by December. I am working on my person.
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – RR absent
- VII. Secretary’s Report – SS no report
- VIII. Treasurer’s Report – JS  
**March** Financial Report distributed and reviewed.  
Checking/savings balance: \$446,492  
Accounts receivable total: \$256,968  
    Accounts receivable interpreting: \$127,219  
    Accounts receivable grants: \$129,749  
Accounts payable: \$1,257  
Mortgage payable: \$177,515  
Board private fund balance: \$3,047  
Per profit & loss statement (overall): \$88,359  
Grant awarded for 10-11                   \$650,564  
    Grant spent up to 3/31/2011           \$487,873  
    Balance (unspent) for 3 months       \$162,690
- IX. Executive Director’s Report – Michelle Bronson  
**A.** Concern about \$1 billion in First Five funding being taken by state of California, which may affect our LEAD grant in Merced and our mini-grant in Fresno. Mini-grant for First Five Fresno approved for Deaf Children's ASL Festival on May 21st from 10

a.m. to 2 p.m. Event will include Deaf daughter/hearing mother motivational speakers (Katie Murch and her mother, Lesa), bounce house, signing clown, games, and activities. We would like to thank First Five of Fresno for funding this special event

**B.** Received Susan G. Komen for the Cure grant for fourth year for total of \$16,603.00. We would like to thank Susan G. Komen for the Cure for continued funding of our C.A.R.E. (Cancer Awareness and Recovery Education) program. The new grant entails setting up two health fairs here at DHHSC, sending a Deaf/HH breast cancer survivor to the monthly Survivors of Sisterhood luncheon with an interpreter, and providing in-service training to local medical specialists who work in the area of breast cancer.

**C.** Our Deaf Women's Leadership Conference on March 19th was a success. I would like to thank First Lady Vicki T. Hurwitz for being our keynote speaker, and she did a phenomenal job of sharing her experiences as an advocate and volunteer in the Deaf Community. She was very inspiring, and I hope we are all inspired to serve our community and not be afraid to attain our full potential. I would like to thank staff who assisted with putting on this special event and to those who attended. We raised \$1,183, which will be saved for next year's conference. Thank you!

**D.** We really enjoyed participating in the Celebration of Diversity event at FSU on March 21st. We would like to thank Nan Barker and Rosemary for including us. I enjoyed the opportunity to network with teachers, and I was able to expand on DOR and DHHSC services to some teachers.

**E.** I would like to thank Cheryl Parreira for doing a booth at CUSD "Evening with the Agencies" last Wednesday and for doing a booth recently at Reedley College as part of Disability Awareness. She will also be doing a booth this Saturday at Vintage Days as part of domestic violence (DV) awareness and agencies that serve victims of DV.

**F.** I would like to thank Beth Lilley, client services advocate in Merced, for doing a presentation on DASH to United Way Merced last Saturday. I'm keeping my fingers crossed we receive this grant for the third year, and we've added new topics, which include human trafficking, domestic violence, child safety, etc.

**G.** Lisa Huffman will be participating in First Five Fresno Children's Movement this Wednesday. This will be a great opportunity to network with First Five staff and other local agencies. I appreciate staff becoming involved with many community projects and events, especially with their already heavy caseloads.

**H.** I will be doing a presentation on Deaf Culture and the Psychosocial Development of the D/HH for a rehabilitation counseling class at FSU this Thursday. I look forward to this opportunity as I enjoy meeting with professors and students, especially when providing info on the D/HH to future VR counselors.

**I.** On Wednesday I will be doing a presentation on DHHSC services and how to collaborate with local community resources at Kids' Inspirational Day Camp. I am very proud of Angelica Martinez for hosting this annual event.

**J.** Sorenson has informed us that they will be sponsoring us for VDF again this year.

X. Operations Director's Report – Jesse Lewis

**A.** You know that our planet needs a lot of cleaning? It's true, the Earth, the plants, the sky. We need to practice cherishing our environment. The city of Visalia has set up an important event. On Saturday April 16, Earth Day, in the morning from 8am to 12pm you can join for a chance to become involved. You can volunteer to help clean the environment. We'll pick-up trash and clean near Mill Creek, Visalia. We'll plant local flowers and other plants. After we clean up, we can look at informational booths. Also, for those who register at 8, lunch is provided for free by the city. Meet at the Intersection of Johnson St and Dolner Street in Visalia. Are you motivated to join DHHSC and

support the environment? Join us!

**B.** One month left for our Lose to Win weight loss competition. I want express my desire for all of you to have a healthy month. Think positive, think healthy and good luck!

**C.** DHHSC is sending representative staff to a conference regarding High Speed rail. HS Rail will go through California from Sacramento to LA. DHHSC wants become a consultant and advise California on Deaf/HH needs for what to include with HS rail. We submitted a proposal for them to consider hiring DHHSC as consultant. We don't know yet if we will get the contract.

**D.** We also developed a proposal for Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) to provide Independent Living Skills services for their clients. If we get this, it will be an excellent partnership with CVRC!

**E.** Salinas office expanded their partnership with CTAP. Now CTAP has open hours to meet with clients at DHHSC Salinas office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday every month. Clients can test equipment, get approved, and get equipment fast!

**F.** Tomorrow, Merced has its 4th annual Inspirational day camp for Deaf/HH kids. Michelle and I will both go to support staff. We're proud of all their hard work for this event.

**G.** All week long, the DHHSC website will be improving. We will soon see an exciting new design, so watch for that!

**H.** April 20th from 1pm to 3pm here in the Fresno community room we will have a discussion about a Deaf mentor program. Please join us, we want your ideas.

XI. Committee Reports –

- a. Personnel Committee – RWD finished with evaluations for both Michelle and Jesse-- should be finished by next week. No major concerns.
- b. Bylaws Committee – SS Sue and Jesse are in the process of re-working the bylaws to allow for changes in the AC as approved by the Board last month.
- c. Fundraising Committee – JS Wonders of the Animal Kingdom on July 23. Flyer to be disseminated next week. 3 pet stores. Kenneth McNeil has own TV show and will be attending. 4 sessions from 9-5 @ DHHSC. Also investigating restaurant fundraising. The rummage sale is April 29-30. We still need volunteers to help. Please donate items. There will also be a bake sale by Deaf-blind group.
- d. Outreach Committee – CCO, MOO, SVO This committee will be removed once changes in the AC take place.
- e. Grant Monitoring Committee – RWD Reports are good, money is being spent.

XII. General Board Comments – LC called senators regarding First Five funding today.

XIII. Unfinished Business –

**A.** Economic independence within the Deaf community. JS has investigated franchise options and it looks like the chances of success are small. There is also potential conflict with our non-profit status. Cons outweigh pros. RWD—what about purchasing a U-Haul and have a moving service or a cleaning business, some other sort of business, self-run for profit? The cost of set up of a service business like this is much less. JS will investigate.

XIV. New Business –

- A. DHHSC sign—pricing on sign could be \$4000. Discussion regarding using board private fund for this. Will take wood sign down, replace with a temporary vinyl sign.
- B. Technology grant: MB requests to apply for a grant that is available because DHHSC provides health related services: \$38, 350 to cover as much technology items as possible, including new computer equipment, internet services, paying for Jerred (part-time IT

person) to install software, modify computers, set up the server, etc. and anything else needed to upgrade DHHSC's tech services.

- XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –Marilyn McCallon suggested the company 'Restore" may be a good option for sign material.
- XV. Announcements –
  - A. Rummage Sale April 29-30
  - B. Children's ASL festival May 21 @ Letterman Park
  - C. Fresno Deaf Church Easter play is on Palm Sunday
- XVII. Adjournment – **8:02 PM**

**Date of Next Local Board Meeting: May 10, 2011 @ DHHSC – Fresno**

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary