



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 17, 2012

- I. Call to Order – 6:32 **pm** Rosemary W. Diaz presiding
Board Members Present: Rosemary W. Diaz, President (RWD), Jonathan Silva, Treasurer (JS), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), John Eberwein (JE), Laura Casuga (LC), Beatrice Bejar (BB), David Denton (DD)
Board Members Absent: Ronald Reagan (RR), vice-president
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB) Executive Director, Jesse Lewis (JL) Operations Director, Catherine Ingram, Susan Coulter, Lisa Huffman;
Visitors: There were 24 visitors. A copy of the sign-in sheet is filed with the minutes.
Interpreters: Kathy Yoshida and Pam Warkentin
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) –Marilyn McCallon: Fresno Deaf Women’s Conference was wonderful. Sorry I missed Martha’s Vineyard. I am still not happy with the lighting in the community room. Can we improve it? Thanks to the Board for working so hard.
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent
- IV. Approval of **March** Board Minutes – M/S/P
- V. President’s Report – RWD
1. Re lighting in this room: The 2 remaining priorities for the Board fund are the handicap parking area and lighting in the general use room. Wonders of the Animal Kingdom event this summer should generate new revenue and then we can address these additional items.
 2. DCARA gala. I made contacts with a possible sponsor and got ideas for DHHSC’s 30th anniversary in 2014. I spent time with the CEO of DCARA and made contact with the president of DCARA board. I met with Butch Zane of Deafhood Foundation who is interested in coming to Fresno and setting up a conference re Deaf culture, perhaps as a summer education series. Thank you to the board for approving me to attend.
 3. I attended a legal interpreting conference in Colorado and got ideas for best practices for our interpreting department. I will request a meeting with Michelle and Kathy. I also met with a possible emcee for our 30th anniversary celebration.
 4. I would like to see a community representative as co-chair of the gala work with Michelle so that we have a mix of staff, board and community involved in planning the event starting this fall. Please consider a theme of the pearl, as that is traditional for the 30th anniversary.
 5. Board training May 15 and 22. Not mandatory but strongly encourage everyone to be present.
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – RR absent. No report.
- VII. Secretary’s Report – SS-- Closed minutes were previously emailed to Board members, not available today, but will be redistributed via email.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – JS
March Financial Report:

Checking/savings balance	\$341,120
Accounts receivable total	\$339,620
AR grants	\$210,525
AR interpreting	\$129,095
Accounts payable	\$139,838
Board private fund balance	\$4,240
Per profit and loss overall	\$25,777
DSS grant	\$650,564
Grant spent	\$494,222
Grant unspent	\$156,341

IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson

A. We either hosted or participated in many activities this past month, including Deaf Women's Conference, Celebration of Diversity @ FSU, and Martha's Vineyard (MV). All events were successful, and we enjoyed interacting with those who attended the events. Both Deaf Women's Conference (DWC) and Martha's Vineyard were successful fundraisers and had a good turnout. Nancy Delich was our keynote speaker at DWC, and we had a dessert auction for the first time at that event, which many people said they enjoyed. Preliminary revenue is \$1981.50. MV had record attendance at 313, which was amazing. I would like to thank Susan and Carol and all the staff and volunteers for their hard work with setting up for the two events here at DHHSC. Without them, it would be next to impossible to host our annual events.

B. On March 23rd I attended Fremont ASL play Island of Dr. Moreau which was amazing. On the 24th DCARA's 50th Anniversary was totally amazing. I made some excellent contacts at both events and I enjoyed meeting with new and familiar D/HH professionals.

C. Diana Lee recently provided a presentation to Anthem Blue Cross, explaining all DHHSC's services and programs. Her presentation was very well received, and Cheryl will present to the Madera group tomorrow. Anthem Blue Cross has stated they will refer patients to our various programs and services, and we value collaboration. A big thank-you to both Diana and Cheryl for representing DHHSC.

D. We recently referred some D/HH community members to In-Home Support Services (IHSS) training so that we can expand the pool of available D/HH IHSS service providers, especially for our community members who are in need of those services. We have very few D/HH IHSS workers, but with the increasing need in our community, we want to be ready with those who can serve.

E. Disability Advocacy Team through Resource for Independence Central Valley (RICV) is now working on a public service announcement, and I am pleased that both Stacy and Shane will be involved in the filming for the typical Deaf patient in a doctor's office scenario—one in which the doctor's office refuses to write back-and-forth or provide an interpreter. It's great seeing our staff and involved community members in community projects.

F. We are sad that we are no longer able to employ Jayme Roberson due to liability issues—our staff can no longer do outside work, hence we had to use that funding to hire a professional landscaping company. On the plus side, it's the same company that services this association, so I am looking forward to a much cleaner and sharper DHHSC landscaping.

G. On April 1st, we had a United Way (UW) representative tour our facility, and she and I then met to discuss how UW can support DHHSC and the kinds of grants we are seeking. She was very impressed with our facility and services.

H. Our recent SDD incorporated information on behavior training with individuals with autism, and we also had a presenter discuss upcoming changes in health insurance laws. It is my hope that the training provided all of us staff with up-to-date knowledge we need to most effectively serve our clients. It is my goal we continue to grow as professionals.

I. On Thursday, I will be attending a DOR 2012 State Planning meeting. I look forward to learning if there are any changes in the DOR system.

X. Operations Director's Report – Jesse Lewis

A. Angelica Martinez's last day in the Merced Office is on April 30th. We wish her the greatest of success and expect to still benefit from her involvement with DHHSC even as she does her 2nd internship elsewhere. We're also sad to learn that Lynn Toschi, Merced area's Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf with DOR, finished her last day last week. We also wish her a lot of success!

B. On a happy note, we submitted our recent GOALS grant to Monterey Peninsula Foundation, so now we will wait to see if we get the grant. Think positive thoughts for us!

C. We also learned recently that First 5 Merced County is giving us an extra 6 months of grant funds to continue the LEAD program through December. Their support of DHHSC has been amazing.

D. This Saturday I will be going to Merced to present to UW Merced about our current grant proposal for the D-Well program we discussed last month. We are seeking funding.

E. I am also working on developing ideas for how DHHSC can improve our booths at events as well as promote the agency in new ways. We will share with you when any changes are made.

F. Last, I wanted to let the Board know that we have recently had a 2nd Employment Forum in Merced, and we will have a third one in Visalia on April 28th. Both events included support from CAD- Central Valley. We appreciate all the feedback that we have been gathering from our community on this important issue.

BB asked about attending some of these meetings. RWD indicated that some of them are closed meetings.

XI. Committee Reports –

a. Bylaws Committee – SS—no report.

b. Fundraising Committee – JS thanked the volunteers for the rummaged sale. Date and vendors for the animal Kingdom event are the same, though there is a conflict with NORCAL. Students from FSU and FCC are asking if we need interpreters for fundraising events. We need more community involvement.

c. Grant Monitoring Committee – RWD—no report.

XII. General Board Comments – SS motioned to amend the agenda to include ratification of an email vote to use \$3,500 from the remaining \$3,997.01 from the PEP fund (from Friends of DHHSC Booster Club fundraising two or three years ago) to use for the C.A.R.E. program. M/S/P

XIII. Unfinished Business –

a. Ratification of email vote to postpone the April 10 meeting to April 17.

b. David presented the board with a list of questions to present to the community via ASL video: M/S/P

1. What ways does the agency need to change to better serve the community?

2. What do you like about DHHSC?

3. What staff person has been of the most help for you?

4. Are you currently using DHHSC's services? If you aren't, why not?

5. Do you come to Board meetings? If not, why?

The Board will create a written statement that removes liability from DHHSC for any videos for the AC. M/S/P RWD will email us a draft.

c. Ratification of an email vote to use \$3,500 from the remaining \$3,997.01 from the PEP fund (from Friends of DHHSC Booster Club fundraising two or three years ago) to use for the C.A.R.E. program.

XIV. New Business –

A. Improving attendance at Board meetings: SS asked today's attendees to indicate if they were D/HH (a few), students (most) and/or hearing (most). JS suggested having food. LC suggested asking deaf people why they came. Shane says the key is meeting people. Board members need to get out there, meet the community, invite people. Marilyn: Perhaps adding something interesting to the Board meeting like a guest speaker. JS thinks bad idea—would take too much time. Skippie: likes the idea of brief presentations or perhaps a better day/time. LC: Thinks presentations are not appropriate for the Board meeting. James: Maybe on a Saturday have a Board meeting, speaker, food, etc... DD: same faces all the time; if we each invite one person that would double attendance. Set a goal next month to invite one person to come and see what happens. Marilyn: Deaf community in Bay area has experience of attending Board meetings and other types of meetings and are used to being involved, have confidence in themselves. It is different in Fresno. Susan Coulter: Employment seminar discussion drew a large number, perhaps a topic twice/year might improve the draw. BB: Purpose of meeting is to hear each other. Tess: share with friends meeting time and date. JS moved that we move this to a Board email discussion. M/S/P JS will start discussion via email.

B. Elections of Board officers: RR stepped down from VP. JS would like to accept nomination for VP. JS nominates DD for treasurer. Officers approved by consent. Motion to remove requirement for officers to be on Board for one year. M/S/P.

C. Change of time for Board meeting: Postpone this discussion until next month M/S/P

D. SVO relocation: There is no space for the employment specialist and inadequate space for workshops. Motion to allow DHHSC to search for a new space, hopefully by July 1. M/S/P

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

XVI. Announcements –

A. Merced DHHSC bingo night and workshop next week for DASH program. 2nd and 4th Thursday 11-2.

B. Hike led by Board member Sue Stone at Sierra Foothills Conservancy's McKenzie Preserve Wednesday, May 6 from 9am-2pm. Flier with details pending.

XVII. Adjournment – **8:09**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: May 8, 2012 6:30 to 8:30 @ DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary