



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2013

- I. Call to Order – 7:10 Amanda Sortwell (AS), president
Board Members Present: Jonathan Silva , Vice-president (JS), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), Shane Frazel (SF), Jill Nolen (JN)
Board Members Absent: none
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director; Susan Coulter (SC)
Visitors: Mary Krebs, Tabithe Dubois, Janel Birrenkott, JD Davis, Marilyn McCallon
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Erin Uribe
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) – Marilyn McCallon: There was a 2nd break-in in the parking lot. We need more lighting and patrolling during evening meetings. People are afraid to attend evening meetings. SC: Francisco should be doing that. I need to remind him. Marilyn: thanks for fabulous holiday luncheon.
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent
- IV. Approval of **November** Board Minutes – correction of interpreters.
- V. President’s Report – AS
 Happy New Year! Please sign from the front of the room.
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – JS no report
- VII. Secretary’s Report – SS no report
- VIII. Treasurer’s Report –
November and December Financial Reports distributed but not reviewed.

	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Checking/savings balance	\$439,093	\$226,095
Accounts receivable total	\$277,265	\$405,665
AR grants	\$121,350	\$231,219
AR interpreting	\$155,914	\$174,446
Accounts payable	-\$4,134	-\$7,822
Mortgage payable	\$116,738	zero!
Board fund private balance	\$1,241	\$1,302
Profit/loss	\$25,661	\$8,895
Grant awarded	\$650,564	\$650,564
Spent	\$267,678	\$324,185
Unspent	\$382,885	\$326,378

- IX. Executive Director’s Report – MB
 A. Funding News: We were approved for our LEAD grant through First Five Merced for the next 3.5 years for a total of \$87,500. We are thrilled and would like to thank First Five Merced

for their continued support of our wonderful program. A big thank you to Jesse for writing this grant and to Paul and Kyra with assisting with needed information.

B. Unfortunately, Fresno Regional Foundation did not approve our grant, and we will request feedback on our bid so we can study their comments and prepare for reapplying again later this year. Since the average literacy is 4th grade for D/HH we should be good candidates for this grant.

C. As you may recall, our DSS RFP (state funding) bid was due on January 3rd, and we sent our bid via Fed Ex overnight mail on Dec. 26th. We hope to receive news, preferably approval, sometime next month.

One side note I'd like to include about the DSS RFP is that I had to attend a pre-bidders conference on 11/27 in Sacramento, and I learned that Communication Services for the Deaf based in South Dakota may also apply for the same funding. One of their representatives, Faye Kuo, has requested copies of our quarterly and year-end reports, which are public records. She has done the same with our sister agencies, and we are keeping a wary eye on this competition. Hence, Jesse, Kyra, Paul, and I worked diligently on ensuring we completed a thorough, solid bid to show our history of serving our region and our ability to best serve our local D/HH Communities. I just want to keep you aware and informed. CAD is speaking out. We have investigated that organization to some extent and have discovered that they often operate at a loss and have multiple family members working in the organization. Their strategy is to underbid, or in the case where there is a fixed amount, to offer more services.

{Board members questioned MB re the seriousness of this threat and it was felt that DHHSC is in an excellent competitive position.}

D. Staffing News: We are thrilled that Christy Burke is back with us for 30 hours a week and sad that Monica's hours have been reduced to 10.5 hours per week.

E. Training Updates: I attended a Program Evaluation workshop on Nov. 15th, which provided more information on how to write more detailed grants that funders are currently seeking.

F. Diana Lee, our Coordinator of Client Services, recently attended a workshop that focused on updates on Human Trafficking. She did an excellent job of sharing this information with us last Friday during Staff Development Day. She also presented on Effects of Divorce on Children, information which she obtained from another recent workshop. This is one way our staff can bring back information from their trainings and workshops.

G. Office News: Our Visalia staff moved into their new office on Dec. 6th, and while it looks very nice, the staff has been without internet for more than a month now. It's been very frustrating for them, and AT&T finally did their site visit yesterday to start the hook-up process. However, they still need to complete a few more steps before the internet is accessible. I appreciate our staff being so patient, but I am not pleased with AT&T services and plan to lodge a complaint.

H. Event Updates: Our four offices hosted holiday events, and all have been successful. Fresno had approximately 180 people attend our 4th Annual Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 19th, and Shelley and our volunteers did a marvelous job of coordinating the event. Visalia and Salinas also had 40 or more people in attendance (on Dec. 15th), and it was such a joy to be able to express our appreciation to our community members by providing a festive meal and event. I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, and donors who made these events possible, including our signing Santa! Thank you to Jill for overseeing our silent auction and raffle prizes!

I. Every year DHHSC is involved with Silent Sleigh, which took place on 12/12, and we had fun interacting with the D/HH children and school personnel. We were responsible for providing the games, and we all had fun. The only challenge was that it was also pouring rain that day, so we got wet! Can't really complain because it has only rained twice in the 26 years we've had Silent Sleigh.

J. We are now working on finding a site for VDF (Veterans Hall is not available when we need it) and our DHHSC Team just voted on a theme of “Times Gone By, Times to Come” for our 25th Annual VDF. We need your help with collecting photos of the past 24 VDFs to showcase our history.

K. In addition, we are now checking out sites for our 30th Gala, which will take place next year. I will soon be forming a committee to start planning for this special event. As you can see, we have two special events coming up!

Committee Reports –

- a. Bylaws Committee – SS no report
- b. Fundraising Committee – JS Profit of \$200 at Wonders of the Animal Kingdom event in December. New energy and hope for 2013!
- c. Grant Monitoring Committee – JN no report

XI. General Board Comments – none

XII. Unfinished Business –

A. Ratification of change/time for Board meeting due to students’ changing schedules.

XIII. New Business –

{Break for closed session, new Board member}

A. New Board member: The Board of DHHSC welcomes new Board member Christian (Chad) Catron. He wants to support DHHSC; is a 3rd year Deaf education major at FSU.

B. Rummage Sale. MB: It is tradition that Board hosts this; good way to earn money. Last year it raised over \$800. It is a lot of work. Friday afternoon is for D/HH, Saturday all day is open to the public. It is a great for the community to buy things they need.

Request April 5 & 6. M/S/P

XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –Marilyn: Regarding the DSS bid competition: Should we share that info with Deaf community at large. What can the community do? MB: there already has been a community response. President of CAD filed a complaint and wrote a formal letter and they said they would not apply at this time. Next 3 years, could apply, so need to be vigilant. When we need more community response, I will notify the community. Mary Krebs: What would be the impact if we lost those funds? MB: would need to rely heavily on other grants, increase fundraising, and downsize. Our mortgage thankfully has been paid off.

XV. Announcements –

A. Martha’s Vineyard April 13

B. Women’s Deaf Festival will be in May sometime

XVI. Closed Session – (Board roles, fundraising)

XVII. Adjournment – **8:10.**

**Date of Next Local Board Meeting:
Wednesday, February 13 7-9 pm @ DHHSC – Fresno**

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary