



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2013

- I. Call to Order – **7:05** Amanda Sortwell (AS), president
Board Members Present: Jonathan Silva , Vice-president (JS), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), Jill Nolen (JN), Chad Catron (CC)
Board Members Absent: none
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director
Visitors: 12 visitors signed in. A copy of the sign-in sheet is included with the minutes.
Interpreters: Nikki Wolfe and Pam Warkentin
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) Martha Coletti requests that the staff park in the back so customers can park in the front.
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent
- IV. Approval of **February** Board Minutes –
- V. President’s Report – AS interviewed four new Board members and there will be a few more soon. Gallaudet University has a 1988 “Deaf President Now” panel for those who were part of that movement. Let Amanda know if you would like to see that video. AS is looking forward to the EHDI conference in AZ in April; looking to learn about how to expose D/HH children to a variety of communication strategies and bring back current info to DHHSC.
Gallaudet University has a visual language and visual learning program looking at ASL and why it is so important. AS plans to attend online and bring back info to staff.
Rummage Sale changed to May 11 due to a conflict.
A new textbook of written ASL has been released and is available to order on-line. It is interesting and might be something you might want to look into.
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – JS explained what it is like to serve on the Board, which is not too complicated. You can give ideas and help also without being a Board member, or be on the fundraising committee. You can also help to recruit additional Board members. Please share the word. Requirements: attend 2 Board meetings.
- VII. Secretary’s Report – SS Will apply to Fresno Rotary for the lighting project in the Community Room.
- VIII. Treasurer’s Report –
February Financial Report distributed and reviewed. A copy is included with the minutes.

IX. Executive Director's Report – MB

Funding:

A. We submitted our United Way Merced grant on Tuesday, and we received notification that it has been accepted for review. However, Fred Buckingham from UW Merced warned us that we will have to defend why we are asking for \$12K if we have more than \$86K in surplus funds.

Paul, Jesse, and I will prepare a defense when we have to do our presentation in April, which is basically that our profit balances out losses in some other offices.

B. Our DSS yearly contract renewal was due today (Wednesday), which looks very much like our recent RFP. We have to do a contract renewal each year, with differences in dates of holidays and variations in line items of our budget.

C. Jesse just completed an organizational profile for a new grant with Fresno Regional Foundation. We are applying for a grant to continue our Youth Employment Services (YES!) program. We had applied for a grant similar to LEAD through Fresno Regional Foundation last year, which we regrettably did not receive. However, we will keep trying our best and applying for each possible grant through Fresno Regional Foundation. We will keep you posted. We are searching for additional funding for that program.

Training:

D. Because of Cheryl's frequent attendance at Strategies Training Workshops, they are very interested in developing and providing trainings for the D/HH. Hence, they recently contacted me, requesting that they provide one free training workshop to our entire staff in exchange for our feedback and suggestions. They will come to our April 5th SDD and provide an all-day training on Essential Steps of Home Visits. This training will focus on safety, healthy boundaries, client families' needs and patterns, required documentation procedures, mandated reporting, etc. We look forward to this training and our continued professional growth, especially because many of our staff conduct home visits.

E. I will be doing a presentation at a Fresno State rehabilitation counseling class this Thursday to discuss Deaf Culture, our D/HH population, ASL, etc. This class is for future Vocational Rehab counselors, so it's a great opportunity to discuss the needs of our D/HH consumers.

F. In April and May, Cheryl and I will again do our 4-hr Emergency Preparedness training in Madera and Oakhurst to first responders, emergency personnel, etc. DHHSC will receive \$4k in payment for the training. This will be the second year of this contract, which is a wonderful opportunity for DHHSC to network with emergency personnel and educate the community on D/HH needs and importance of communication access.

Events:

G. We would like to thank Sorenson Communications for their sponsorship of our upcoming Visalia Easter Egg party. We appreciate their support as their sponsorship covers costs of food, decorations, and materials needed for the party.

H. I am proud of our staff who will be assisting at the Finding Nemo D/HH play at Norseman Elementary School Thursday evening, either by selling food and drinks or doing short skits/songs. It is fun for us to interact with D/HH children and watch them perform. I will do a brief description of DHHSC's services and have materials available for the families in attendance. Christy will also be doing a short song.

I. I also want to share that Susan and two D/HH community members are working with Christy on doing artwork as part of Art of Life exhibits, which will be displayed at the clinic on April 6th. The information has been sent out via community emails and it is open to the public. I hope you all attend and support our D/HH artists! I am proud of them for sharing their survival stories through their artwork. After the exhibit, postcards and posters of their artwork will be available for sale. Will keep you posted!

Staff:

J. Congratulations to two of our staff, Omar and Erin, as they just got married on Saturday. We are all very happy for you!

X. Committee Reports –

- a. Bylaws Committee – SS no report
- b. Fundraising Committee – JN Zoo: can't do a fundraiser because they are non-profit, but can do a Deaf Awareness Day event. 5K run/walk event. FDE agreed to partner with this the day of the picnic, which is scheduled for September 21. This event is being developed still. Want to participate in the celebration of diversity at FSU w/ D/HH children in attendance.
- c. Grant Monitoring Committee – JN There is a workshop in Merced on depression after loss.

XI. General Board Comments – none

XII. Unfinished Business – none

XIII. New Business –

- A. Elections of new Board members: discussion occurred in closed session. Two new board members were announced and told a little about themselves. Tess Contreras moved to Fresno from Hanford 3 years ago and has fallen in love with the Deaf community here. Melissa Sortwell is our President Amanda Sortwell's sister and a CODA. She is very motivated, interested in the politics of how DHSC is run, and wants to continue being a part of Deaf community.

XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) – Leana asked if the play at Norseman is open to the public. MB responded 'no'.

XV. Announcements –

- A. April 6 from 9-12 am at California Oncology art work of breast cancer survivors will be on display, including some from our D/HH community.
- B. April 13 Martha's Vineyard from 10-3 here @ DHHSC.
- C. May 18 Deaf Women's Conference. The theme this year is "confidence throughout our lives", focusing on changes women go through at different stages of life.

XVI. Closed Session – elections, budget, projects

XVII. Adjournment – **8:29**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: (insert date and time) DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary