



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2013

Dedicated to Elisa Strobel and Takeo Yoshida

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)

Board Members Absent: Melissa Sortwell (MS), Tess Contreras (TC), excused. Chad Catron (CC), unexcused.

DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Susan Coulter (SC)

Visitors: list filed with minutes.

Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Kristen Del-Rosario

II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) – Marilyn Mccallon: lighting is a huge improvement and really appreciate it. Re VRI, recently I had to take a friend to Kaiser ER. Promised interpreter but sent VRI. This is news that they are considering using VRI. Looking forward to VDF! {AS: yes this is a big concern for the Board. There is a complaint form}

III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent

IV. Approval of **September** Board Minutes – approved by consent

V. President's Report – AS: More Board applicants. Important to come to 3 meetings. Soak me Pah fundraiser was a huge success! Really enjoyed it. Picnic was awesome. Went to lecture on Deafhood—was fascinating.

VI. Vice-President's Report – JS: Reviewed requirements for Board membership. There have been some questions about the current composition of the Board with regards to the required ratio of 51% D/HH and 49% hearing. Currently we have 4 D/HH members and 3 hearing members. Reviewed community comments. There have been some complaints about the workshop topics not meeting the needs of the D/HH community. Community comments: planning a VLOG re VRI. For a synopsis of community comments see the September minutes. There were more positive comments this year.

VII. Secretary's Report – SS no report

VIII. Treasurer's Report – is available, just ask

September Financial Report was made available:

Checking/savings balance	\$324,388
Account receivable total	\$301,841
AR interpreting	\$130,118
AR grants	\$171,722

Account payable	-\$9,543
Board private fund balance	\$1,267
Profit/loss	(12,861) for 3 months
Grant awarded	\$650,564
Spent	\$167,075
Unspent	\$483,488

IX. Executive Director's Report – MB

There was a complaint at community comments that Stacy is not always at the front desk. New procedure: Stacy will be at the front desk if any staff members get a video call or have a client coming. Stacy can make copies of fliers now at the front desk. There will be a volunteer at the front desk if Stacy is on break or if she is out.

The VRI VLOG has been completed and will be uploaded tomorrow. You must be specific in the complaint form why VRI is not suitable for you.

Grant Updates:

We have applied for a grant through the 49'ers for funding for the agency as a whole, but we were declined due to many competitive applications.

We also applied for funding for our YES! program through Land O'Lakes, for which we have yet to receive a response. We are hoping to receive additional funds to continue hosting our annual Career Fair for D/HH youth.

Last Monday we submitted our United Way of Fresno grant for our Family Services Program, and we hope to receive a positive response soon.

Last week our Salinas staff, Rochelle and Wayne, met with Monterey Foundation regarding our GOALS grant submission as they did a site visit, and we are hoping they will continue funding our GOALS program. We are changing the focus to elementary age students.

Program Updates:

On Sept. 11th, our DOR team met with Rudy Maynard, Debbie Rose, and Sheila to discuss and review our proposed ILS program curriculum, but Debbie wanted some revisions made before the program is approved. We're now revising the curriculum per her recommendations, so we hope to obtain her approval soon so that we can begin offering ILS services as one of our DOR fee-for services.

Trainings and Presentations:

I did a presentation with Dr. Nancy Delich for Dr. Robert's class at FSU about Advancement in Technology for the D/HH. There were about 80 students in the class, and because I had shared about our Ice Cream Social as part of our Deaf Awareness Week taking place that same evening, some of them came by DHHSC after the class. I appreciated them coming by and it was a great way to share about DHHSC's services and events.

On Sept. 19th, I provided training on Communication and Language Access for the D/HH for Central Valley Coalition of Human Services. I explained what "effective communication" means according to ADA and different accommodations needed by the D/HH.

Staff Training:

Last Friday we had Bonnie Gibson-Brydon here to provide training on Silencing the Negative Committee: Intuitive and Inferential Thinking. Her training was great because she provided tools on how to change negative thinking into positive and how to listen for and understand the speaker's message. This training will benefit our staff, especially in how we listen to our clients and truly understand what they are saying, underneath their anger or frustrations.

Meetings:

I had a great meeting with Dr. Janice Emerzian and Ryan Blodgett last Monday on how DHHSC can provide services to FCC's D/HH students. We would like to collaborate on how to most effectively serve the D/HH, and I have offered to send one or two DHHSC staff to FCC to provide services, such as document translation, such as filing for financial aid, and peer counseling. I look forward to when we begin this partnership because I would like to see more D/HH students finishing their courses at FCC.

Office Updates:

Because the complex that houses our Salinas office was recently purchased by new owners, we have been asked to relocate. Wayne, our Coordinator of Client Services, is now working with a real estate agent in searching for a new space, and as soon as one is found, I will be seeking both the Board's and DSS' approval. Goal is to continue providing services and not have a lapse. It is on a month-to-month right now.

Events:

On Sept. 21st, CADCV, FDE, and DHHSC hosted our 2nd Annual Deaf Community Picnic. We had approximately 150 people come, and we had fun, especially with the scavenger hunt whereby participants were given a list of things to find or act out with photos documenting the findings. The first 3 teams/families to complete the list received prize baskets. We had a Mexican lunch, with many of the items donated by local restaurants. We are very appreciative of the many donations we received to make this picnic successful. We would also like to thank CTAP, Sprint, and Sorenson in sponsoring this picnic. We are already planning for next year's picnic, but hopefully in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Soak Me Pah!

X. Committee Reports –

- a. Bylaws Committee – SS no report
- b. Fundraising Committee – JN: Soak me Pah was very successful. We had 61 total participants. My goal was 50 so I am pleased! We had amazing volunteers. If you have other ideas for fundraising activities let me know.
- c. Grant Monitoring Committee – JN: looks good

XI. General Board Comments – SS: What are the barriers to people accessing advocacy services? {MB: Will be making a VLOG reinforcing our service availability. Will be getting briefed on ACA soon.} JS: Is the age limit for senior citizen group 55? {Marilyn McCollum: yes.}

XII. Unfinished Business – none

XIII. New Business –

- A. Auditor report: Gave an unqualified opinion of the audit. This is the most favorable report possible. Glad the mortgage is paid off.
- B. VDF: MB asking for sandwiches, fruit cups, chips, soda, water. Board agreed to take responsibility for the food.

XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –Marilyn McCollum: We need to know who the case managers are rather than figuring it out through the grapevine. {MB will do} Re VRI why are hospitals moving to it?

XV. Announcements – SC

- A. Friday DINGO by DHHSC to raise money for Susan Kommen. The goal is \$500 for DHHSC team. \$268 to date. \$7/person. 5:30 doors open. Game 6-8. Prizes.
- B. Race for the Cure: timed race or walk. October 26 Saturday.
- C. FDE Disney on Ice October 30 Wednesday, 7pm.
- D. Deaf night at the movies. November 1. night before VDF
- E. VDF November 2

- F. Art of Life fundraiser note cards from pieces of art created by D/HH breast cancer survivors. \$5 each.
 - G. Quilt raffle at VDF.
 - H. October 28 Salinas office Halloween Social
 - I. Visalia office November 8 from 4-8. Adventure park fundraiser (rides, like at the fair) bracelet \$20 for which you also get pizza and a drink. \$8 goes to agency.
 - J. Book fundraiser “Secrets from my Silent Eden”. \$100 each, autographed. October 30.
- SPREAD THE WORD!

XVII. Adjournment – **8:41**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: Wednesday November 13 @ DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary