



**DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
(October 14, 2014)**

- I. Meeting called to Order at 6:12pm
- II. Board Members Present: Jonathan Silva, Vice President (JS), Chad Catron, Treasurer (CC), Melissa Sortwell (MS), Tess Contreras (TC), Brianna Berg (BB), Jill Nolen, Fundraising Committee (JN), and Justin Gaines (JG).
- *Board Members Absent: Sue Stone (SS)- excused
Michelle Bronson, Executive Director (MB) [Excused Absence]
- *Visitors: Bryant Jolley, Beatriz Preito, Virginia Ozuna, & Shawn Hunt
- Interpreter: Pam Warkentin, Nicole Wolfe, Beatriz Prieto and Lori Bothelo
- III. Public Comments – none
- IV. Approval of Agenda Items – JS: I motion to move the audit report to the top of the agenda.
- V. Audit Report Conducted -passed
- VI. Approval of September Board Minutes – JS: In the Board Minutes from last month there were 2 issues: one of the interpreters named was Nicole Wolfe not Kristen. Also, the next meeting date on the agenda should have been today October 14. -accept as corrected.
- VII. President’s Report – The President and Vice President Reports will be combined this evening. In an announcement related to the Board, our Secretary who is absent tonight will take an extended leave of absence. The time she is on leave will not be part of the term she has left. When she comes back, she will resume that time. Also, we had 3 interviews, but they are not yet ready to commit, so in 2015 a couple of them might be ready and we will hopefully have a full board, so I encourage any who are interested to join. Michelle Bronson is sick tonight and will not be here. I recently asked Melissa to take over temporarily for Sue and she agrees to, so no Secretary Report tonight.
- VIII. Vice-President’s Report –see above
- IX. Secretary’s Report – MS: none
- X. Treasurer’s Report – CC:
September Financial Report distributed and reviewed.

Checking/savings balance	\$ 349,255.64	As of September 30 2014
Accounts receivable total	\$ 268,766.47	
AR grants	\$ 148,354.88	
AR interpreting	\$ 120,411.59	

Accounts payable	-\$ 5,920.19
Board private fund balance	\$ 990.36 Year To Date Balance
Profit/loss	\$ 28,519.88 (for 3 months)
Grant awarded for 14-15	\$ 650,564.00
Grant spent up to 09/30/2014	\$ 120,062.26
Grant (unspent) for 9 months remaining	\$ 530,501.74

JS: Chad, I am looking at your report, and the money has seemed to be increasing -very nice to see.

XI. Executive Director's Report – MB (relayed by JS)

Funding Updates:

I would like to thank Marty Pigott for her very generous donation of \$1,500 to our Literacy Program. This supports Lisa Painter's part-time position as Literacy Specialist and we are very appreciative of Ms. Pigott's support in providing literacy services to our community. We recently begun a 3-hour a week contract with Washington Union High School for literacy services as well, which also supports Lisa Painter's position. I would like to thank Jesse Lewis for submitting the Ray Charles Foundation grant at the end of September. This is for literacy services provided through all four of our offices, so we are keeping our fingers crossed. Jesse Lewis attended the mandatory Susan G. Komen grantwriting workshop on Sept. 27th, and they discussed how they have changed their target populations, which means people with disabilities are now no longer one of their focus groups. This was how we have been able to apply for and receive funding for our two breast cancer programs, CARE and BEST. Jesse and I will soon meet with the two BEST Facilitators to discuss whether we should try applying again next year. Another concern is because we recently completed our mid-year report for Susan G. Komen, and many community members have stated that they are already familiar with the breast cancer workshops and services and are not requesting appointment accompaniant, which is one of the major components of the BEST program. In addition, we will focus on outreaching to our D/HH Community for breast cancer survivors and meeting all the grant goals, but we need to really consider if it would be beneficial for our agency to apply again for next year. The grant is due in December, if we do decide to apply.

Fundraising Updates:

I would like to thank Jill Nolen and Shelley Stout for working with me on the Blackbeard's Family Entertainment Center fundraiser on Sept. 20th. We sold 3-hour unlimited attractions wristbands for \$20 each, and the combined food and wristband sales totaled approximately \$758.80. A great fundraiser for the first time we hosted this kind of thing. We are considering whether we will do it again next year or try something new. Our 3rd Annual Deaf Community Picnic generated \$606.98 in food and raffle ticket sales. We had approximately 173 people in attendance, and we co-hosted the event with Fresno Deaf Events (FDE) and California Association of the Deaf-Central Valley (CADCV). Some members from Hand on Hand, including Justin Gaines, volunteered their time with cooking the food, and I would like to express my appreciation for everyone involved with hosting this event. We also had two booth sponsors, Lyft and Heart Cruises, and I appreciate their support.

Event Updates:

On September 26th, our Salinas Client Services Specialist, Rochelle Greenwell, hosted a "Thrive with your Deaf Child" event, which was a success. Approximately 40 people were in attendance, and the two panels consisting of parents of D/HH and Deaf adults were great. Rochelle did a wonderful job presenting on Deaf role models, language acquisition, ASL as a visually, accessible language, etc. Harvey, our Services Personnel Director, and I were there to provide Rochelle with support and to meet the Salinas D/HH Community. It was a great event.

Susan Coulter and Taylor Galanti hosted Fall Fest on Oct. 4th as part of their BEST program, and it was a fun event. Thirty-five people, including children, came and participated in games and activities. Information on breast cancer was also provided at the event. A big “Thank You!” to Susan and Taylor and all the volunteers who made this event possible. That same weekend was the California Hands & Voices Moms’ Night Inn, and we had twelve mothers of D/HH children from throughout the state of California, including one local mom. It was a great opportunity for me to meet these mothers and introduce DHHSC services and our sister agencies. Many did not know about the Deaf Coalition or the services we provide, so as both a Board member and E.D. of DHHSC, I wanted to expose them to Deaf Access Programs because we can provide them with much-needed support and resources, in addition to being positive Deaf role models and language models to their children. While Hands & Voices respect all communication modalities, it was interesting to note that all the mothers at the event were learning signs. Many felt alone, so it was good for them to come together and share experiences and frustrations. It was the goal of the Hands & Voices Board to provide them with a safe place to vent and discuss what is available to them in their respective areas.

Training Updates:

Many of our staff recently toured the Poverello House during October SDD to see what is available to community members in need of housing, food, clothing, DV services, in addition to other needed services. It’s such an amazing place and we want to ensure we utilize a valuable resource if needed.

Some of our staff also attended a court-advocacy training workshop that same day to gain a better understanding of how the court system works. It is important that we provide our clients with current information and quality advocacy services. Two staff, Cheryl Parreira and Shelley Stout, and I are currently attending five classes on mental health issues provided by National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The three-hour classes are provided each Thursday morning during the month of October, and they cover different perspectives of mental illness, how to support the diagnosed individual, and the family members. Some of our clients have mental health issues, and because this training is free, we want to utilize this opportunity to increase our understanding and knowledge of this area. On September 22nd, I co-presented with Dr. Nancy Delich in Dr. Steve Robert’s class about Changes in Technology for the D/HH, which also incorporated information on Deaf Culture and ASL. That class consisted of more than 90 students, and the 2 ½ hours passed quickly. We received many positive comments, including from six audiology majors who now want to learn ASL.

XII. Committee Reports – none

a. Bylaws Committee – none

b. Fundraising Committee –The Soak Me Pah event numbers of participation were similar, but this year the emails and registration were very overwhelming so that was exciting and I was satisfied with the turnout result. We generated great funds with that event - I look forward to it next year. I would also like to thank Beatriz Prieto, she was my “right hand woman”, and Virginia Ozuna, Richard Ortiz, and Katherine Ingram. I am so thankful for each and every one of those volunteers. JS: Jill, every year the board handles the food as we will this year. The theme is the 50’s so we are trying to match that -expect an email from me soon discussing that. JG: Just an FYI that I received an email in regards to milkshakes etc, so the Deaf/Blind support group can also be involved to help out with food too. JS: So is there a specific person to contact for the Deaf/Blind support group? JG: I am the person you would talk to since I am the head of the group.

c. Grant Monitoring Committee – none

XII. General Board Comments – JS: Remember last month we talked about the 7 major concerns from community comments? The Board will be getting together to develop an action plan soon.

XIII. Unfinished Business – none

XIV. New Business –none

XV. Public Comments -none

Public comments end.

XVI. Announcements –JG: I want to announce and encourage you to come tomorrow from 10-2pm for the Deaf/Blind support group -it will be a spa day. We also have tickets being sold for the Halloween party on October 31. It will be \$7 prior or \$10 at door. There is also an upcoming workshop by Lisa Jordan, who runs services for the disabled and travels as an advocate. I expect that DDHSC will be attending that event to learn more and expand on our profits

XVII. Adjournment – 6:53pm

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: (November 11, 2014 at 6:00pm) DHHSC – Fresno

Draft submitted by Melissa Sortwell, temporary DHHSC Secretary

*******GET SIGN-IN SHEET*******