



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES September 13, 2011

- I. Call to Order – **6:32** Rosemary W. Diaz presiding
Board Members Present: Rosemary W. Diaz, President (RWD), Ronald Reagan, Vice-President (RR), Jonathan Silva, Treasurer (JS), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), John Eberwein (JE), Laura Casuga (LC)
Board Members Absent: Beatrice Bejar (BB), excused
Honorary Board Members present: Martha Colletti, Reno Colletti
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Jesse Lewis (JL), Operations Director, Lisa Huffman, ASL teacher and breast cancer educator
Visitors: Lezonda Munyaradzi, Marilyn McCallon
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Nikki Wolfe
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) –Marilyn: Martha thanks for spaghetti dinner, dessert auction went well, and people enjoyed bingo. Martha: harder this year to get donations for dinner, but managed.
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent
- IV. Approval of **June** Board Minutes – approved with formatting changes
- V. President’s Report – RWD
- A. ACT meeting will be on September 20 at 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- B. Went to CAD conference in August - worked on bylaws and got an award for my work on the bylaws - thanks to my experiences here at DHHSC and on the Board that equipped me to do this project and celebrate this award with all of you. The conference itself was very successful and the big thing was how to use social media to get community action going as well as information out to our Deaf Communities. Dr. Klopping, former Superintendent of CSD (CA school for the Deaf) Fremont shared stats that 92% of Deaf children go to mainstream while 8% go to schools for the Deaf. Of the 92% who are mainstreamed, only 8% pass the CAHSEE (High School Exit Exam) and of the 8% who attend schools for the Deaf, 40% pass the CAHSEE. This has prompted statewide discussion on strategies of what to do to address the importance of sending a loud and clear message that American Sign Language is a human right and the natural language for our Deaf Children.
- C. I will be resigning from the board on August of 2012, if not sooner. I have been working on recruiting three different people. One person has not responded, one has declined as wrong time, and one is still considering the opportunity. Remember our goal of having 12 members by January 2012 - 12 in '12.
- D. Thanks for teamwork on the community comments meeting. All went well. RWD thanked everyone individually for their contributions.
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – RR no report
- VII. Secretary’s Report – SS no report
- VIII. Treasurer’s Report – JS
- June, July and August** Financial Report distributed and reviewed.

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Checking/savings balance:	\$363,835	\$348,594	\$492,670
Accounts receivable total:	\$299,836	\$204,534	\$264,774
AR grants:	\$210,594	\$139,487	\$181,027
AR interpreting:	\$89,241	\$65,046	\$83,747
Accounts payable:	\$13,016	\$4,045	\$5,495
Mortgage payable:	\$167,872	\$165,617	\$164,617
Board private fund:	\$2,657	\$92	\$1,037
Profit/loss	\$73,264	(\$24,353)	(\$10,516)
Grant awarded	\$650,564	\$650,564	\$650,564
Grant spent	\$650,564	\$56,842	\$118,362
Unspent balance	\$0	\$593,721	\$532,201

Jon proposed not using the projector for the treasurers' report, and also giving the report only quarterly as a summary. Every month board members will get an emailed copy of the report, also hard copies available to the attendees monthly. The secretary will include the report in detail in the minutes. M/S/P The Board raised \$850 at the August meeting for the private Board fund.

IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson

A. We have had many staffing changes recently, which have been challenging for us, but our DHHSC team has been very supportive and positive during the past few months. Each person was willing to take on more responsibilities until the positions were filled. Staffing changes include: Shannon Simonelli resigned in July to become the new City of Fresno ADA Coordinator. Collaborative relationship: Becky Edens-Paul and Erin Uribe became full-time by also becoming joint interpreter coordinators. Becky resigned as Breast Cancer Educator. Catherine Ingram is the new Breast Cancer Educator for Fresno, alongside our current Breast Cancer Educator, Lisa Huffman. We have added Shelley Stout to become another Breast Cancer Educator for five hours per week to serve the Visalia area as needs arose. Shelley Stout is now full-time Client Services Specialist (CSS) for the Visalia Outreach Office, which we very much appreciate as it assists with meeting increased clients' needs and keeping the Visalia office open 37.5 hours per week. David Denton resigned on July 31st as our HR Specialist. Kyra Schleaf is now part-time HR Specialist and part-time AR. Beth Lilley resigned as CSS from the Merced Office in July. Because Angelica Martinez was recently accepted into graduate studies in social work, she moved into the part-time CSS role. Amanda Sortwell is now the new Coordinator of Client Services for the Merced Office, and her first day will be Sept. 2nd. With all the changes at the Merced Office and being short-staffed, I would like to thank Cheryl for going twice a week to serve clients there.

B. DHHSC was just selected as 2011 Community Impact Partner by United Way (UW) of Fresno. This means we now qualify to apply for specific grants through UW of Fresno, which we hope to do for youth services.

C. I just completed the Community Leadership Academy in August, provided by RICV (Resources for Independence, Central Valley), as I want to more effectively serve on the Disability Advisory Commission.

D. On July 20th I attended Airport 101: Risk Communication Workshop to represent the D/HH Community to discuss communication access. This is part of emergency preparedness training.

E. On Aug. 11-12, Paul, Diana, and I attended Global Leadership Summit, and we obtained so much amazing yet practical information we can apply to DHHSC and how we serve our community. I plan to incorporate the information in Staff Development Day.

F. On Aug 19th, Jesse, Lisa Painter, and I attended a CLSAT (Communication and Language Skills Assessment and Training) meeting in Modesto. We met with Kimball and other CLSAT instructors and administrators to share ideas and strategies to improve our program. The meeting was beneficial in that we learned new techniques and methods, while sharing our own experiences and challenges. This was a great networking opportunity for us, and I appreciate the other CLSAT instructors working with Lisa so they can support each other in this challenging area.

G. On Aug 24th, Cheryl and I attended the 50th Anniversary of Combined Federal Campaign kickoff, where we had a DHHSC booth and brief presentation about our services. This is where we try to convince government workers to select DHHSC as a “charity.” While at that event, we were approached by UW to set up yet another booth at an AT&T fundraising event. This is also where we share information about DHHSC’s services. A big thank you to Lisa Huffman and Catherine Ingram for accepting that last-minute assignment as it’s a great way to increase our visibility, especially to convince people to donate to us.

H. August 24th was also a busy day for DHHSC as Paul attended a Water Disaster Emergency Preparedness meeting in Madera and Diana attended a workshop on Medical Issues for Low-Income Families, provided through UC Merced.

I. In August, Kathy Yoshida attended a Deaf Blind meeting in Oakland, to discuss how to distribute funding and equipment for the DB in the state of California. Thank you, Kathy, for going to represent DHHSC.

J. I am also excited to share that I will be attending a **“Getting Real II” Promising Practices in Inclusive Emergency Management for the Whole Community** in Washington DC. My team, which also consists of Sean Johnson, Shannon Simonelli, and Bob Hand, were among 400 applicants from 35 states, 4 territories and the District of Columbia, and we were selected to attend! This is an amazing opportunity for DHHSC and for me to represent the D/HH Community. This will be a three-day interactive training conference for disability leaders and emergency preparedness officials from Sept. 12-14, and I will be leaving on the 11th and returning on the 15th.

K. On Sept. 25, I will be going to Sacramento to serve on the Parent Resource Guide Committee for California Dept. of Education, per Nancy Sager’s invitation. It is an honor and privilege to be involved in these national and state activities for the D/HH Community.

L. We also want to share that Melanie from Dept. of Social Services, our major funder, will be visiting our four offices from Sept. 20-22. We have begun preparations for her visit, including ensuring all equipment and furniture are inventoried and that our offices are clean and organized.

X. Operations Director’s Report – Jesse Lewis

A. Recently in the Visalia office, we gave presentations to local organizations it would be great to build relationships with, including local chapters of Lions Club, Kiwanis, and Moose International. These clubs were very welcoming, glad to learn about us, and had a lot of great questions about our D/HH community and about DHHSC’s services. We would like everyone to consider joining clubs like these. They have expressed willingness to make sure meetings are accessible for members. Lions Club in particular

donated \$500 to our fundraiser for the Visalia office. Let me explain more about the fundraiser. Recently we had our 10th anniversary party in Visalia to celebrate that office, and we decided to make it a fundraiser. We had a very successful event, a nice dinner where many wore costumes, and we included both live and silent auctions. The funds we raised for that fundraiser will support a program in the Visalia office. Right now we are getting feedback on what kind of program is most needed there.

B. I want to share with you also two staffing changes. Shelley Stout, our CSS in Visalia is now full-time. This means we not only have a lot more hours available for services, but that she's also going to be able to have regular workshops similar to what Fresno has now. This is a great increase in services for the South Valley community.

C. In Salinas, we recently selected Jacque Fitzpatrick as our new CSS. Jacque had already been working with us as a temporary employee for many months, providing excellent services while getting to know the community. She was one of several applicants for the position, and we feel very confident that we chose the most qualified applicant. We welcome her to the DHHSC team.

D. I would like to make sure all of you have noticed DHHSC's new brochure, which you can find at the front desk. If you haven't seen it, take a moment to look. We feel this brochure is more professional than we have had, and hope that it helps get the word out about our services.

E. More good news to share is that we finished our recent fiscal year's report to DSS and I'm happy to let you know that we did very well in meeting our goals. DHHSC has had yet another year of strong services, and we are always appreciative of our community.

F. We received a grant from Area 8 Sequoia Board in the amount of \$4,500. This is money we applied for to set up a special program called Youth Employment Services (YES) which is for D/HH high school teens. DHHSC staff in Visalia, Fresno, and Merced will be reaching out to high school teens and providing services to prepare them for working in the future. Our hope is that by the time they finish high school, they feel more ready for either getting a job or going to college for more preparation for their careers. We feel it's very important to provide these services early, rather than waiting until they become adults and need a job immediately.

G. Deaf Awareness Week. There is a flier for Fresno events. Visalia also has a Pinky-Ann performance. Saturday 2 special events: first one in the morning for Deaf youth is a special day camp from 8-noon for ages 7-17 D/ HH/CODA. Consists of horseback riding, grooming and feeding horses. Cost is \$30. There are spaces left. In the afternoon is the annual adventure park fundraiser.

XI. Committee Reports –

- a. Personnel Committee – RWD—no report
- b. Bylaws Committee – SS presented the revised Article VIII which changes the structure of the Advisory Council. M/S/P
- c. Fundraising Committee – JS explains how DHHSC fundraises under the DSS umbrella and must be related to education and services. The Board can fundraise for other purposes, and is not limited by the DSS rules. He had a committee of 3, now is a committee of one. Frustrating. Thinking of collaborating with Fresno Fair and offering a show. Not feasible for this year. Wonders of the Animal Kingdom event: sponsor issue. Maybe in December. Also investigating a possible Fresno Bee benefit for Deaf Awareness Day, like the one for Valley Children's Hospital—papers cost \$1. RWD: Sweet Tomatoes October 6 Thursday 5-8 pm 20% of proceeds to DHHSC. Please distribute fliers to everyone you can and the other offices as well.
- d. Grant Monitoring Committee – RWD-- no report

- XII. General Board Comments – RWD asked RR to please contact BJ re attendance.
- XIII. Unfinished Business – none
- XIV. New Business – none
- XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –Marilyn asked JS when the event in December might be. JS: Second week, maybe Dec 12. Gift wrapping event was not profitable so will not do again. Martha Colletti: educated a lot of people about DHHSC in the process of getting donations.
- XV. Announcements –
 - A. Deaf Awareness Week—please attend events and recruit for Board members
- XVI. Adjournment – **8:16**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: October 11, 6:30 to 8:30 @ DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary