



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2012

Dedicated in loving memory of Bob Hyatt

I. Call to Order – 3:55 p.m. Rosemary W. Diaz presiding

Board Members Present: Rosemary W. Diaz, President (RWD), Jonathan Silva , Vice-president (JS), Laura Casuga (LC), Beatrice Bejar (BB), Amanda Sortwell (AS), Shane Frazel (SF)

Board Members Absent: Sue Stone, Ron Reagan, Jill Nolen, all excused

DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Jesse Lewis, Kathy Yoshida;

Visitors: listed in community comments

Interpreters: Suzanne Conway, Nikki Wolfe, Erin Uribe

RWD welcomes everyone and let's everyone know that they will receive a Bingo card for attending the board meeting, and one for attending community comments – all others \$2. Announces it is her final meeting. Asks everyone to remember Bob Hyatt today, who passed away last month. Board members introduced themselves. Three members not here: Ron Reagan, overtime at the post office, Sue Stone on vacation, Jill Nolen at a wedding. David Denton stepped down last month – wants to say he was very sorry he was unable to commit to the Board. There are new shirts for Board and staff – blue for Board and brown for staff. Pins worn by Board members are in appreciation for DHHSC staff to Board for serving on the board.

II. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent

III. Approval of July Board Minutes – M/S/P

IV. President's Report - RWD

Rosemary discussed the roles she played on the Board and who will take over. Leadership group – role is to coordinate and develop leaders. Amanda Sortwell and Shane will take over. Chair 2 committees – grant monitoring and personnel. New president will select new chairs for those committees. Last month visited all 4 offices. Board retreat August 5th at DHHSC, developed many goals and worked on strategic plan. Discussed fundraising efforts, finding new ways to find funding. Goal is 12 board members by the end of 2012. Board members will make a VLOG, explaining who they are, which will be posted on DHHSC's website.

Rosemary presented the Friend of DHHSC awards:

1. United Way of Merced County. Selected them because they have been a longstanding supporter of the Merced office, given over \$45,000, allowed the Merced office to develop new programs, hold workshops, and have Deaf events. Community views them as warm and generous. Many organizations ask them for money, but they continue to support us and it has made a difference. Thank you to United Way for encouraging us and helping us take the

agency to the next level. Fred Buckingham accepted the award on behalf of United Way of Merced County.

2. Shannon Simonelli – used to work for DHHSC and now works for the City of Fresno. Endlessly creative, makes things happen. Has improved access to public meetings providing interpreters, seen improvements in captioning, involved with FEMA, attended national conference and helped put together a team of us to go, worked with the police academy, very professional, always positive, always trying to figure out a way that the Deaf community is a part of what she does. Shannon accepted the award with great thanks.

Update after employment meeting in Feb – CADCV: Jason Jackson (JJ) reported. He has been with CADCV Fresno chapter 1 year. Jason took up the project after the February meeting. He met with groups in Merced, Visalia and Fresno starting meeting the first week of June. Had a meeting on June 28 in Fresno – no one showed up, not even 1 person. Rescheduled for July 19th – 4 people attended that meeting. Established task force. He met with MB & RWD last week. Not a DHHSC project – got MB and RWD’s advice. Sent an email to Elena Gomez and asked for a meeting. Primary focus will be DOR, then non-members of DOR (EDD). RWD asked how they communicate with the public. JJ said contact him or Shelly Stout or Michelle, who can pass on the information. Shelly Stout – President of CADCV also works at DHHSC; need to make sure to keep those 2 roles separate. Any concerns or problems or issues contact Shelly or Jason. Jason commented that it is a long process. It is CADCV’s responsibility – not DHHSC or the Board – to take up employment issues for the Deaf community, because DHHSC has a contract with DOR, so makes it complicated. Amanda Sortwell introduced herself as the new DHHSC Board president.

V. Vice-President’s Report – JS

Jon discussed what it means to join the Board at DHHSC: a lot of communication, email back and forth, meetings. Everything starts with an idea. You may have great ideas to bring to the Board. Board is here to help the deaf community, working together.

VI. Secretary’s Report – SS absent, no report

VII. Treasurer’s Report – David Denton resigned as treasurer. Have hard copy to give to everyone. As of July 31st, we have \$315,000 in the bank, which is good. We just began new fiscal year July 1st. Now have \$588,000 as balance on the contract.

Checking/savings balance	\$314,651
Accounts receivable total	\$299,661
AR interpreting	\$97,092
AR grants	\$202,568
Accounts payable	\$6,216
Mortgage payable	\$126,939
Board private fund balance	\$122
Profit/loss	\$518
Grant awarded for 11-12	\$650,564
Spent	\$62,303
Unspent	\$588,260

VIII. Executive Director’s Report – Michelle Bronson

I would like to thank Monterey Foundation for funding our GOALS (Gaining Opportunities after Leaving School) program for our Salinas office, which is in the amount of \$10K. The goal of this grant is to work with students transitioning to life beyond high school. A big thank you to Jesse for writing this grant.

Jesse has also written another grant called ROCK, Reaching Out & Communicating with our Kids. This grant is similar to our current LEAD grant in the Merced Office, which provides ASL

classes and family intervention services. We applied through Bank of the Sierras and we are waiting to receive word on whether it has been accepted.

A big thank you to Harvey for getting the lobby TV hooked up and for being available to supervise staff so I can focus on developing presentations and training to represent DHHSC.

On July 12th, both Cheryl and I attended a team-building workshop provided through our HR firm, Sierra Partners. Much of our work consists of working with people, so we wanted to apply effective tips on developing teams in order to accomplish new projects and goals for our agency.

On August 16th, Kyra and I attended training provided through Central Valley Coalition of Human Services on HR laws and common personnel challenges. We really enjoyed that training and felt it benefited us in terms of how to ensure we are in compliance with constantly-changing HR laws and that each case is unique—there is no one answer that fits each case.

On August 6th, I presented to more than 70 employees who work for the City of Fresno and received very positive feedback. I would like to thank Kathy for voicing for four total hours during the two back-to-back presentations. I would like to thank the City of Fresno for this opportunity, and I'm happy to say I have been invited to present again on Oct. 29th.

I am confirmed to present for Madera Emergency Preparedness Committee on Sept. 25th in Oakhurst and the 27th in Madera on how to work with D/HH individuals in emergency situations and shelters. While I am grateful for this opportunity as it will bring \$4K to DHHSC, I find this to be a challenging experience because each session has to be 4 hours and include activities. I am currently working on a prezi presentation for this purpose and for DHHSC to use in future emergency preparedness workshops.

On August 11th, the Visalia office hosted their 11th Anniversary Pizza Social, and it was a very nice event. We had more than 22 people in attendance, most of who were from Porterville. We have observed that the Porterville Deaf Community is growing, and Shelley has secured space at an EDD office in Porterville to start offering one-on-one services twice a month. The days she will work in Porterville also coincide with the Starbucks and restaurant socials, so Shelley will be able to network with community members there. Thank you, Shelley, for working to provide much-needed services in that particular area.

I would like to thank Christina for doing an ASL video on ADA access for the City of Fresno on August 17th, and to Shannon Simonelli, our City of Fresno ADA Coordinator, for developing this video project.

Lisa Painter has been hard at work on developing an ILS curriculum for a new program that will hopefully be officially approved in November after DHHSC completes its DOR review.

I am thrilled that we will again be offering a Living with Hearing Loss workshop, starting on August 28th, with Susan and Lynn Toschi. A big thank you to both Susan and Lynn for starting up this group again, and it will be offered the 4th Tuesday of each month. We want to serve our HH community members, so please spread the word!

Just to let you know, on September 8th, United Way of Fresno has selected our site to do volunteer work, which will be repainting our lobby, community room, bathrooms, and conference room to even out the color and patch holes. I am grateful as it is important to me that we take pride in our agency, our offices, and especially our staff!

Paul recently completed CERT training so he is up-to-date on emergency preparedness information. It's wonderful having someone on staff who is experienced in this area.

IX. General Board Comments –

RWD recognized all the DHHSC management and staff at the meeting. Thank Beatrice for her service this last year. Thank you to Laura for 2 years service.

X. Unfinished Business –

- A. Change of time for Board meeting: AS moved that the day and time of Board meeting be moved to Thursday or Friday, same time. SF seconded motion. AS – as a grad student

- only available Thu or Fri evenings. JS – struggled with 2 things – attendance from community members and establishing a day and time for Board meetings. Not comfortable with making the decision to change the day without all Board members present. JS asked if we can discuss this through email so we can include all Board members. AS – maybe just change time. SF moved that the discussion be moved to email, JS second. SF’s motion as a friendly amendment to original motion. M/S/P
- B. Handicap parking: Received a bid yesterday to have 3 spots next to each other, space between each one to allow for van access and wheelchair access, providing 2 handicap spaces. Cost \$4333.00. JS moves open discussion to review the bid for the handicap parking. Discussion: JS – 3 or 4 months ago Martha & Reno Coletti offered \$1000 toward handicap parking effort, Board would assume the rest of the cost, \$3,333. Board account currently stands at around \$4000, would leave us with \$700-800. Several months ago asked that we seek various companies support, but they are unable to help at this time. We can move forward, using the Board money, and then replenish with donations if we get them in the future. RWD – community members said that it seemed like a lot of money. JS – longstanding issues – handicap parking and lighting. SF – don’t know the history behind the lights, but concerned about giving that much money for parking if lighting is a big issue. JS – how many bids for the job (asking MB). MB – contacted 3 different businesses, only 1 returned call. The respondent’s bid would do everything. We are currently out of compliance. Level concrete, fix painting, fix height of signs, paint new handicap areas in front of doors. JS – heard more complaints about the parking or the lighting? MB – more about parking, been an issue a longer period of time than the lighting. RWD – we must be in compliance or we risk losing funding. JS – concerned because we have only one bid, how much effort was made to get in touch with companies. MB – we have tried very hard, would like to have someone to do everything, not just paint. Discussion closed. Motion to approve the bid to move forward with the handicap parking project. M/S/P
- C. Business venture: RWD – considering different business ventures – Subway, coffee shop. Will put on hold until Board is more settled and continue discussion later.
- XI. New business:
- A. Bylaw conflicts: Bylaws say person becoming an officer must be on the Board for a year and anyone who has worked at DHHSC must wait a year before joining the Board. Need to waive those 2 sections of the bylaws. JS – moves that we proceed with waiving the bylaws for the 1 year requirement to join the Board before becoming an officer and the waiting time for staff to join the Board of one year. M/S/P. RWD clarifies that this is a one-time waiver for the current Board.
- B. Develop a list of action items from Community comments: Tabled.
- C. Approval of Strategic plan 2012: Will disseminate 9 goals to the community, working more w/ D/ HH children and their parents, HH people, improving board and staff relationship, more board involvement at events, streaming board meetings live, more deaf events. Motion to approve the strategic plan for 2012. M/S/P
- D. Election of new treasurer: tabled.
- E. Election of new president: JS – nominates AS as president. AS gave background on herself – BA from Gallaudet, working on MA at Fresno State. Know the community here very well. Really interested in being president because want to take the Board to the next level. Voted in as President. AS officially takes over the meeting. RD officially resigns position as president. Marilyn McCallum presented RD with a gift.
- F. Appointment of Committee chairs: defer discussion to email.
- XIII. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –

Jason Jackson Fresno Deaf Events will also donate \$250 toward handicap parking after movie fundraiser. Shelly Stout - CADCV would also like to donate to handicap parking – will talk to other officers and let you know how much. Debra Martinez – concerned about DOR, JJ says to join task force looking into it.

XIV. Announcements –

A. Board presented RD with gift. JS gave comments of appreciation for her service.

B. Susan Coulter – 4 announcements:

1. New group Sign and Sew Guild, raffles tickets available for the quilt, winner drawn at picnic on September 22nd. Karen Reveal donated a quilt to be raffled off. The Sign & Sew Guild donated a second quilt. If you want more information see Susan Coulter.
2. Living with Hearing Loss, working with Lynn Toshi on the group.
3. This Tuesday morning from 10 – 12 here at DHHSC Kathryn is presenting a workshop about prostate cancer. We broadened our cancer education to include men.
4. Zumba exercise class – Thursday 5:30-6:30, \$10.

XV. Adjournment – 5:50 p.m.

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 12, 2012, DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Laura Casuga, DHHSC Board Member