



**DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 8, 2011**

- I. Call to Order – **6:30 p.m.** 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: none  
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director  
Honorary Board members: Martha Coletti  
Visitors: Devin Puente, Alexandra Holt, Alyssa Jucksol, Katie Wade, Larissa Hankla, Susan Coulter, Lisa Huffman, Leslie Cox,  
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin and Nikki Wolfe
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) – none
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – amended to strike items IV and XVII M/S/P
- IV. Approval of **January** Board Minutes – M/S/P
- V. President’s Report – RWD
- A. Resigned from Fresno County ADA Committee which will allow me more time to focus on our new captioning project.
- B. Presented before the Fresno City Disabilities Advisory Commission about our concerns related to captioning. They expressed full support as did several individuals in the audience. Their next meeting will be used to establish a task force. Amanda Bosworth and Marilyn McCallon attended this meeting with me and they are eager to get involved. I want to address 4 areas of improved captioning: live news, emergency announcements, weather, and traffic. I am looking for individuals to be involved in a focus group. I want people from the focus group to watch 5 TV stations, see what is needed and report in March. The effort will be called "Addressing Captioning Together" (ACT). I have posted a VLOG on the DHHSC website. I plan to have our first meeting with community on Wednesday Feb 16 at 4 pm.
- C. Looking forward to the Board retreat this Sunday from 4:30 to 7:30 at DHHSC.
- D. Welcome to our newest member, Laura Casuga
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – RR--none
- VII. Secretary’s Report – SS All board members have a copy of the closed minutes from our February meeting.
- VIII. Treasurer’s Report – JS
- January financial** report distributed and reviewed. MB comments that we are now providing a breakdown of the AR to show a clearer picture of interpreting revenue.  
Checking/savings balance: \$476,740  
Accounts receivable: \$238,088 (interpreting=\$129,122, grants=131,945)  
Accounts payable \$0  
Mortgage payable: \$185,971  
Board private fund balance: \$2,778  
Per profit and loss statement overall \$66,781 (for 7 months)

Grant awarded for 10/11 \$650,564

Grant spent up to 1/31/11 \$387,956

Balance (unspent) for 5 months remaining \$262,607

Executive Director's Report – MB

**A.** We have hired Lindsay Johnson and Ryan Scortt as our two new part-time interpreters. Both will be receiving training in the Fresno HQ, and will rotate on an as needed basis for Visalia's interpreting requests.

**B.** We completed our DSS' second quarterly report, and we are either on or above target for our goals in each of the seven mandated service categories (Independent Living Skills, Advocacy, Peer Counseling, Communication Assistance, Community Education, Job Development and Placement, and Information and Referral). Also, our DSS' contract extension for next fiscal year was submitted last Friday, so we now await word on approval.

**C.** Jesse and I, along with some staff, met with Valerie Massey, contract administrator, from the DOR ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant on Jan. 25th to review our grant and ensure we are on track with grant reporting. We made some minor changes in our reporting methods, but we are on track, per her feedback, which was very positive. CLAST is on track to be a fee-for-service sustainable program.

**D.** The Interpreting Department and I met with Fresno County Dept. of Social Services on Jan 26th to review our three-year interpreting contract, and it was a very positive meeting. We also discussed how we can develop services within DHHSC that they can support and include among listing of available resources. Pao Ly and two other top administrators will put me in touch with their cultural broker so I can provide training on Deaf Culture and we can receive training on other cultures. Because they consolidated departments for streamlining purposes, their methods for requesting and paying for interpreters will become smoother, faster, and more efficient. They already made a big payment on interpreting services. We look forward to a positive collaborative relationship with them.

**E.** On January 28th, Rosemary and I met with D/HH administrators from Fresno Unified School District to discuss collaborative projects, and it was a very positive meeting. We will now set up one to two all-night events, one a spring dance and the other a Red Ribbon drug and alcohol abuse prevention event, to provide D/HH youth with positive, fun activities and exposure to Deaf Culture and positive Deaf role models. We will also work with FUSD on providing youth with volunteer opportunities at DHHSC's special events, such as VDF (Valley Deaf Festival) and Holiday Luncheon, which will provide youth with social and pre-employment skills. This serves to create a transition between high school and beyond, especially to connect them with DHHSC and our local Deaf Community. We are very excited about these opportunities and FUSD's support. It is important to work with D/HH youth because they are our future community.

**F.** Staff development week was, in my opinion, very positive, which Jesse will elaborate on in his report. I did a presentation on "Maintaining a Deaf-Friendly Environment," which I feel is important in providing everyone with an all-inclusive work environment and for everyone who comes into the center to have full communication access. We are, after all, communication models.

**G.** On Saturday, Fresno CAD (California Association of the Deaf) hosted a Valentine's event here at DHHSC, and it was an enjoyable fundraising social. I enjoyed seeing everyone at the event, and I am pleased that FCAD used our facility. FCAD also had Daniel G. present on leadership and media camps for the D/HH, which I think is important for our D/HH youth. I was very pleased to see five Hoover students present at the event, and we're off to a great start in working with people of all ages!

**H.** We are waiting on word from the Dept. of Children and Family Services for approval on our second proposal of continued parenting classes for a client family. DHHSC also hopes to set up a parenting skills training program.

RWD noted that the dream is to eventually build a second floor for the offices and whole bottom floor will be a community center with computer lab, etc.... We are getting crowded.

**X. Operations Director's Report – JL (via VLOG)**

Really busy month for us!

**A.** Recently we submitted a letter of interest to United Way Merced that we would like to re-apply for the grant to do a third year for DASH. They sent us approval to go ahead with the application, so that's coming up on our agenda.

**B.** We also developed a contract proposal to Central Valley Regional Center for Independent Living Skills services. If approved, that would be an excellent partnership for us to have.

**C.** In the area of employment services, we are currently in the process of developing a strong vocational assessment, with input from DOR. This tool will help us improve the thoroughness of our employment services, and will be used by all direct service providers.

**D.** I've developed a proposal for revising the structure of DHHSC's advisory councils and I'm submitting that to you today. It's my hope that this will lead to DHHSC getting a clearer indication of what the community wants and needs from DHHSC.

**E.** In Visalia, we've worked on getting our local utility companies to be more accessible to D/HH clients. Recently we provided training to California Water Company's staff and resolved problems they've had with their TTY line.

**F.** Recently we had our first part of the annual "Staff Development Week" (SDW). Examples of topics we included were: Conflict Resolution, Serving LGBT Clients, Hard of Hearing Issues and Professional Etiquette. After the two SDW days, we got feedback on the staff on how to change the format of our presentations for the future. We will be revising our plans for the March SDW to meet their requests. We are trying to learn what special skill and expertise staff bring to DHHSC.

**G.** On a fun-related topic: We had a chance to discuss Valley Deaf Festival (VDF) for this year. VDF will be on November 19th, so save the date. The staff has voted on a theme, and this year we've decided that the theme is "A Pirate's Life for me." It should be a fun event for all who come.

**H.** Last- another "Save the date": August 5 of this year, South valley office in Visalia will celebrate its 10th anniversary. We plan to have a nice dinner event at Lamplighter Inn in Visalia on that date, so please plan to join us. Thanks!

**XI. Committee Reports –**

**a.** Personnel Committee – RWD 2 year anniversary for Michelle and Jesse as co-directors of DHHSC

**b.** Bylaws Committee – SS--none

**c.** Fundraising Committee – JS This is an exciting year for fundraising. List of events planned was provided, including the 'Wonders of the Animal Kingdom.' JS needs help with contacts, volunteering, and working the events. We will discuss individual events at the Board retreat. Volunteers for this committee are needed.

**d.** Outreach Committee – CCO, MOO, SVO—none: need to get the new Advisory Council set-up established soon

**e.** Grant Monitoring Committee – RWD--none

**XII. General Board Comments –JS--ASL storytime will be moved to a different location, but for now will go with Border's beginning in April.**

- XIII. Unfinished Business –
- A. Economic independence within the Deaf community. Options: Subway, yogurt franchise. JS has researched all the details so will take the lead on this.
  - B. Ratification of motion to approve November Board meeting minutes done via email.
  - C. Selecting and approving final logo for DHHSC: sent emails out several times to have committee members vote. Received votes from all 4 offices. #6 received most votes (61). #6 is best for the internet and # 4, which received second highest # of votes (52) is best for use on a T-shirt. We should be able to adjust #6 for an outside sign on our building. Motion to use logo #6 primary for website and signs, and approve #4 for T-shirts and other appropriate items. M/S/P
- XIV. New Business –none
- XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –Larissa Hankla encouraged T-shirts to help identify community so outside people connect, suggested modification of the logo for t-shirts.
- XV. Announcements –
- A. Save the date March 19<sup>th</sup> Deaf women’s leadership conference. Vicki Hurwitz, the wife of the president of Gallaudet University, will be speaking. *He* will also be in Fresno.
  - B. DHHSC events will now be emailed on Friday to allow planning for the coming week. We are trying to avoid daily mass email.
  - C. Time with the President (of Gallaudet) Sunday at Fresno State.
- XVI. Closed Session – none
- XVII. Adjournment – **7:44 p.m.**

**Date of Next Local Board Meeting: March 8, 6:30-8:30 @ DHHSC – Fresno**

Draft submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary