



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2012

- I. Call to Order – **6:32 pm** 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), Beatrice Bejar (BB)
Board Members Absent: Laura Casuga (LC), excused
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Jesse Lewis (JL), Operations Director, Susan Coulter, Catherine Ingram, Amanda Soto;
Visitors: Shane Frazel, Nancy Lopez, James McGuire, Jill Nolen, Kimmy McCormack, Cassie Mathison, Anna Griggs, Skippy Sumner, Teresa Contreras, Galen Brodsky, Jimmy Bronson, Jessica Vasquez, Melanie Peters, Maggie Snyder, Michelle Tindall;
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Nikki Wolfe
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) – Shane Frazel: There are a large number of hearing individuals here, but we need more Deaf community members. RWD great thing for AC to address, also will put on agenda for April.
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent
- IV. Approval of **February** Board Minutes – M/S/P with corrections
- V. President’s Report – RWD
 ACT meeting next week Tuesday, March 20 @ 3:30. TV stations will be here. Channels 47, 30, 24 & 26 as well as PBS and Univision, have all been invited to meet the Deaf community. Thank you to Sorenson for providing free pizza to those attending. Please come. MB and I are working on D/HH children’s education project. We are meeting with the Board of Education and will relay info. We want the Deaf community to show up. Large numbers are impactful. Save the date: April 25 in the afternoon.
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – RR: RWD and I have interviewed 2 candidates for board membership last month and will discuss that during the closed session this evening.
- VII. Secretary’s Report – SS no report
- VIII. Treasurer’s Report – JS
 Financial Report distributed and reviewed.

Checking/savings balance	\$353,834
Accounts receivable total	\$328,283
AR grants	\$178,289
AR interpreting	\$149,993

Accounts payable	\$664
Mortgage payable	\$142,512
Board fund private balance	\$3027
P/L overall	\$17,492
DSS grant	\$650,564
Spent	\$445,601
Unspent	\$204,962

MB: waiting for a few grants to be received.

IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson

A. On Feb. 28th I attended an ODA (Office of Deaf Access) Meeting. We discussed when to do budget modification or amendment, and basically we are advised to check with DSS prior to doing either, but it is clear we are not to move funds from direct to indirect costs or vice versa. The budget amendment process takes 3 months. We must be stringent in compliance with our budget.

B. Deaf Coalition wants to partner with ODA on three projects, 1) working with the Department of Corrections to install VPs to provide access and change or eliminate the orange jumpsuits, [SS asked why this was an issue and MB indicated that Deaf inmates think orange jump suits are often perceived as sex offenders] 2) work with hospitals on providing live interpreters, not VRI (video remote interpreting) and 3) updating the ODA website to include direct links to the deaf agencies and other state deaf resources.

C. On February 16th I attended a City of Fresno Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting and made some great contacts. We are now listed as an emergency contact for the D/HH community for interpreting.

D. On February 17th we had a DOR meeting and modified our CLSAT program to shorten it to three months with very specific goals, including teaching terminology as it relates to specific job choice and workplace. In addition, Kimball plans to return in April to certify DHHSC in providing Work Adjustment services.

E. Also, on February 17th RWD and I had a great meeting with Valley Children's Hospital to discuss how DHHSC can partner with them in providing resources to parents of D/HH children. I felt it was a great networking opportunity and they were very positive about referring parents to DHHSC for services and ASL classes, in addition to inviting us to be part of their Parent Panel. We provided brochures. There will be a panel of professionals including a Deaf person to interact and provide resources for parents of newly indentified deaf children.

F. For our recent SDD, we had training on Elder Abuse, Autism/Asperger's Syndrome, and Down's syndrome. Down's syndrome Association is very interested in having Lisa Huffman teach ASL classes to their clients at their facility, and possibly renting our community room for their events.

G. Last Thursday I did a presentation for a Rehabilitation Counseling class at FSU about Deaf Culture and ASL.

H. I hope to see you at our Deaf Women's Conference on March 21st! It'll be a fun event, and we have a wonderful presenter scheduled to discuss courage in taking risks.

I. We applied for Cancer awareness recovery education program again but just found out we were not funded by Susan Komen this year. We thank them for their support over the last few years. The Breast Cancer education program is shutting down as of the end of March. All 3 staff

members involved in the program are aware of the grant termination. RWD asked MB to appeal the decision.

X. Operations Director's Report – Jesse Lewis

A. The spring edition of The Deaf Bee is now online. Please take a look. We have lots of informative articles about various topics that I think you will all appreciate. If anyone has a topic request for the next issue, please let me know. Next addition this summer--contact me if you have ideas.

B. Our South Valley Outreach office in Visalia feels a move to a new location is necessary, and we would like to move this summer on July 1st with the new fiscal year. We are in need of a larger office that would allow us to have more room for community events and workshops. The small space available in the current office is not well-suited for workshop events. We also need more space for our ESS to work when he sees DOR consumers. Currently there is no private space available and our office doesn't meet DOR's expectations. We would appreciate the Board's support. Before any new lease is signed, we would seek DSS and DOR approval of the new office location.

C. AC update- As you know, each of our 4 offices has an AC meeting regularly to represent the community's needs and concerns and to give advice to DHHSC. After each meets, they contact me to give me the summary. I would like to update you for each office's AC: Fresno: 4 reps: Marilyn McCallon, Jason Jackson, Justin Blanco, and Annette Klein. Last month was the first meeting in which I explained how the AC functions, what is expected of AC members, and answered questions. The next meeting is tentatively set for March 20th, depending on whether two of the members are available. In that meeting, I will provide a demonstration of how the AC meetings can be facilitated by the four members.

Visalia: Our recent meeting was postponed and we are waiting for their response on rescheduling a meeting for this month.

Salinas: At the last meeting, the AC got feedback on recent events. Comments were positive, feeling that they were drawing larger numbers. The AC also discussed finding new members to join at the Town Hall meeting, due to one member leaving. AC members and staff had a discussion to clarify the changes made in the AC structure. We are still going through a period of adjustment. We need 2 more members.

Merced: At the last meeting, there were concerns expressed about the community computers having a virus. AC members suggested that the computers be replaced, possibly by having a fundraiser if necessary. There was also a request that we try to get the Merced Library to have a VP installed in a private room for the community to use. The last request was for a new sign for outside the office that would be more visible. We have since been able to fulfill this last request and are in the process of addressing the others.

D. Update regarding the Public Service Announcement (PSA) project: I have found a possible funding opportunity but the details are not announced yet. They should be posting new information by the end of this month. In the meantime I will look for other opportunities.

XI. Committee Reports –

- a. Bylaws Committee – SS no report
- b. Fundraising Committee – JS

Wonders of the Animal Kingdom has finally been scheduled for July 14-15. If you are interested in this project please get in touch with me.

- c. Grant Monitoring Committee – RWD no report

- d. Personnel Committee (ad hoc) RWD & LC: We have met with JL and MB. We have one more meeting.
- XII. General Board Comments – SS: I attended California annual Hearing Loss Association conference in Oakland. All Cinemark in California are now closed captioned for every movie. The closest one to Fresno is in Hanford. Regal and AMC are still planning on doing it nationwide. 80-90% of movies have captioning ability. BB notes that some movie theaters have complained about lack of attendance at captioned movies so have stopped providing in Merced. SS: I will be presenting at the Breast Cancer Health Faire Friday on how to reduce recurrence risk with a healthy lifestyle. I recently attended a play at FSU after trying to get access for 5 months. They gave me a copy of the script, only allowed me to attend dress rehearsal, and sat me up in a corner with a lamp so I could read the script. Very frustrating. One of RWD’s classes at FSU is taking on theater access there as a project.
- XIII. Unfinished Business –
 - A. Employment in Deaf community. DREDF is a resource. Sue can send information to Shelley Stout, President of the Central Valley Chapter of CAD.
- XIV. New Business –
 - A. AC list of questions to present to the community and permission for video footage and releases: Shane Frazel suggested a video. What problems are you having in your life that you need help with, that DHHSC is not dealing with effectively? The Board will discuss this further by email.
 - B. Request for Board approval for Monterey Peninsula Foundation grant for the CCO. This will provide teen services including preparation for life after HS. The grant will cover staff time and expansion of hours, travel and supplies. Referrals will come from schools. The grant will eventually expand to the SVO. M/S/P
 - C. MB requested permission to book the 30th anniversary celebration for DHHSC during either the month of May or September 2014. M/S/P Funding for the event is via sponsorship and ticket sales.
 - D. Elections of new Board members (closed session). At the conclusion of the closed session the Board announced it had elected David Denton. We are seeking additional D/HH members at this time as the by-laws require 51% D/HH membership. Once we have added a new D/HH Board member, we can add additional hearing members, as we currently have a qualified hearing person interested in Board membership.
- XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) –James: Is it a requirement for Board membership to know ASL? RWD: No, need to remember that this agency serves Deaf and Hard of Hearing as well as hearing constituents and our board membership needs to reflect that as well as long as we maintain 51% D/HH membership. James: Would like to see the Board members try to be a part of the Deaf community. JJ: re Anniversary event please contact me now for sponsorship. There are not enough open captioned movies at the old Signature Theater. Contact the corporate office if you want more movies. There are a dwindling number of people attending events.
- XV. Announcements –
 - A. Fresno Deaf Events: Saturday bowling 10pm -1 am
 - B. ACT Tuesday, March 20 @ 3:30
 - C. Rummage sale this Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - D. Breast Cancer Health Faire 10-2 this Friday

XVI. Closed Session – Board roles and responsibilities

XVII. Adjournment – **8:51 pm**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: April 17 6:30 to 8:30 DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary