



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 10, 2011

- I. Call to Order – **6:35 pm** Rosemary W. Diaz presiding
Board Members Present: Rosemary W. Diaz, President (RWD), Ronald Reagan, Vice-President (RR), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), John Eberwein (JE), Laura Casuga (LC)
Board Members Absent: Jonathan Silva, Treasurer (JS) excused
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director, Jesse Lewis (JL), Operations Director
Visitors: Elizabeth Kunz, ADA coordinator for Fresno City; Jovette and Marilyn McCallon; Becky Edens-Paul; Lisa Huffman;
Interpreters: Nikki Wolfe, Pam Warkentin
- II. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) – Marilyn McCallon is happy with the landscaping, noted that her Deaf friends in Fremont are impressed with DHHSC and Fresno Deaf Events, and congratulated Becky Edens-Paul on her breast cancer project. Becky likes the new staff board in the kitchen that addresses a new topic each month. This month it asked what Community members need. She feels like it adds connection.
- III. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent
- IV. Approval of April Board Minutes – M/S/P
- V. President's Report – RWD
 - A. ACT meeting will be tomorrow Wednesday May 10 at 4 pm: crucial day to create teams and develop an action plan to address the issues related to captioned news in the Central Valley.
 - B. Recently presented to 60 emergency responders from Fresno, Clovis, and Madera areas on working with D/HH. The training was well-received and some amazing contacts were made that will lead to increased awareness and better services for our community. Both of the above made possible by Elizabeth Kunz, City of Fresno ADA coordinator. We would not be where we are today if not for her. She is moving to Truckee next month and the board wishes to recognize her efforts as being a Barrier Buster and Bridge Builder. [Ms Kunz was presented a special gift of appreciation on behalf of DHHSC].
 - C. Volunteers from FSU always see how positive and crucial DHHSC services are. We are creating allies through courses and DHHSC has an opportunity to hold onto these allies and truly create a community of support. We continue to find ways to appreciate and recognize our volunteers.
 - D. Rummage sale was fun. Thanks for all the donations and volunteers who helped. Board took over bake sale at last minute—thanks. Need to work at bringing in bigger items—furniture, electronic appliances, sporting goods. Profit \$ 735.45 Money will go into the Board private fund and be used for the sign out front.
 - E. Remember each Board member will need to bring in one more Board member by December. Please email me the names of who you have contacted.
- VI. Vice-President's Report – RR no report
- VII. Secretary's Report – SS--no report

VIII. Treasurer's Report – JS (by MB)

April Financial Report distributed and reviewed.

Checking/savings balance: \$451,237.

Accounts receivable (AR) total: \$258,220

AR interpreting: \$137,086

AR grants: \$121,133

Accounts payable: \$8,122

Mortgage payable: \$173,156

Board private fund balance: \$4,077 (includes profit from rummage sale)

Per profit and loss statement (overall): \$102,743

Grant awarded for 10-11: \$650,564

Grant spent to 4-30-11 -\$549,156

Balance unspent (2 mo) \$101,407

IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle

A. I did a presentation about DHHSC services and how we can. On April 13, both Jesse and I attended Angelica's Kids' Inspirational Day Camp in Merced, and Angelica worked really hard on hosting this fun event. We had a good turnout and had some new booth people. Jesse and I collaborate with local professionals for the D/HH Community.

B. The next day on April 14th, I did a presentation on Deaf Culture and ASL for a VR class at FSU, and we had a good discussion about how future VR counselors can serve the D/HH.

C. Jesse and I also submitted a mini-grant to Sequoia Area VIII called "Youth Employment Services" (YES!). The goal is to have a Client Services Specialist from each office, with the exception of Salinas (out of the Central Valley), visiting local high schools for a minimum of 2 hours a week to provide pre-employment services. If approved, we will also set up an employment fair in which local D/HH professionals can meet with students to discuss different jobs and fields.

D. Speaking of grants, I would like to clarify that we did receive the full requested amount for our C.A.R.E. program funded by Susan G. Komen for the Cure, in the amount of \$33,206.00! I was initially told half of that amount, but it turned out that was the amount of the first installment check.

E. On Monday April 25th DOR had a state plan meeting via satellite from Sacramento in which they discussed new goals. I did share some feedback on the new goals, which included having VR counselors knowledgeable about different cultures and communication needs, engaging employers to achieve quality employment outcomes for persons with disabilities, and quality employment outcomes as measured by wages, employer-provided benefits, and consumer satisfaction. This is important to our D/HH Community because of need to find jobs that match their interests and abilities, not just because a job is available. I also added it would be beneficial for DOR to start outreaching to middle schools to plant seeds of future employment goals, not wait until junior and senior year of high school.

F. On April 28th, I joined FSU webcast from Washington to discuss Deaf Education and how we can improve our system here in California. We provide at the state many services Washington is trying to set up, such as collaboration with the schools.

G. On May 4th, we had our quarterly meeting with DOR to review our CLSAT program, and we are right on track and making good progress in meeting our goals. Thanks to Lisa Huffman for her work on the ASL classes.

H. Last week, Paul and I finalized our third year contract with First Five of Merced for our LEAD program.

I. David and I have been buying trees and flowers to start planting in the front and side of the building. Some plants have been transplanted to other side and back of building. All the roses and some of our queen palms have already been planted, and we just purchased three different kinds of purple flowering plants this afternoon. We still have a ways to go, but we are making progress. Thank you, to our Board of Directors, for making possible the beautification of our building!

J. Staff changes: Diana Lee is a full time employee and will begin offering parenting classes, work with CPS, and develop other grants. David Denton will begin working full time to take some of the work burden off of Paul Barnett. Nicole Bruno from Salinas is leaving.

X. Operations Director's Report – Jesse Lewis

A. I'll start with happy news to share. We recently learned that United Way of Merced County has approved to fund \$3,784 for our third year of the DASH program in Merced that focuses on safety and health education. We are thrilled to get this for a successful program.

B. Recently, I advertised a special meeting on April 20th to discuss ideas for a Deaf Mentor program. We would benefit from feedback, and it would also help us to know how many Deaf community members are interested in becoming mentors. Unfortunately, no one from the community came, only staff. We will consider setting up another meeting, unless anyone has a better idea to recommend.

C. Michelle and I completed our Quarterly Report to DSS's Office of Deaf Access as required, and we feel positive that we will meet our goals. Our numbers show that our staff is as busy as always.

D. A short update regarding our SDD last week. We had a good day of training, though some technical difficulties. We were able to successfully include the Salinas office staff through using video on the laptop and a videophone as well. We are going to work on finding ways to make the process work more efficiently.

E. Recently we met with DOR and learned about a service we would like to provide: Workplace Adjustment Training. A Workplace Adjustment Trainer would work to find businesses willing to let the trainer bring a deaf client to the business to work there free of charge. The trainer and the client would both be paid by DHHSC, not the business. We would then be able to bill DOR for the services provided to the deaf client, which would cover the cost.

F. In April I also attended Merced's Inspirational Day Camp for Kids. There were a great number of people there, and we appreciate the hard work that staff put into making this possible.

G. If you haven't seen our changing web site, please take a look. It is still being fine-tuned, but you can see new features and a great design by Keri Marion Design. We welcome feedback anytime.

I. Lose to Win: Jennifer Hernandez won gym membership. Congratulations!

XI. Committee Reports –

- a. Personnel Committee – RWD-- JL and MB evaluations very good. Recommended removing this committee as it only used to evaluate the directors. Motion to remove this committee and change it to an ad-hoc committee. M/S/P
- b. Bylaws Committee – SS-- Recommends to do approval via email of bylaw revision to assure input from JL regarding AC
- c. Fundraising Committee – JS (report given by RWD) Has recruited 2 people to help with the fundraising committee. Wonders of the Animal Kingdom is on track for July 16—requesting Board help with the event.
- d. Outreach Committee – CCO, MOO, SVO –no report
- e. Grant Monitoring Committee – RWD—no report

- XII. General Board Comments – RR: Agrees with YES program and recommends encouraging youth to find actual jobs in the summer. Issues around this were discussed. Marilyn advocates educating parents about importance of getting their kids working as opposed to collecting social security.
- XIII. Unfinished Business
 a. DHHSC sign: motion to use Board private fund to purchase sign (have one bid for \$4000); M/S/P MB will present different sign options to Board. It will be lit from the inside.
- XIV. New Business –
 A. workplace adjustment training (see item X.E.) The purpose of this is to make it easier for the employment specialist to place people in the community, as there is limited success placing deaf people in jobs. Risk: if person does not complete, then we receive no reimbursement from DOR, which should be more than our expense. ***Approve***
M/S/P
- XV. Public Comments-none
- XVI. Announcements –
 A. Deaf children’s ASL Festival May 21 from 10-2 @ Letterman Park. Inspirational speaker, signing clown. Focus on children ages 0-5.
 B. Dr. Henry Klopping, superintendent of California School for the Deaf in Fremont, is retiring after 36 years. DHHSC will consider how to honor him.
- XVII. Adjournment – **8:12**

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: June 14, 2011 DHHSC – Fresno

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary