



**DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 8, 2014**

- I. Call to Order – 6:05 PM Amanda Sortwell, president (AS)
- II. Board Members Present: Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), Chad Catron, Treasurer (CC), Melissa Sortwell (MS), Brianna Berg (BB), Jill Nolen (JN),  
Board Members Absent: Jonathan Silva (JS), Tess Contreras (TC)  
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director,  
Visitors: Virginia Ozuna, Jane Parsko, Melissa Lopez, Becky Sortwell;  
Interpreter: Pam Warkentin, in an awesome solo performance
- III. Public Comments (3 minutes per visitor) – none
- IV. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent
- V. Approval of March Board Minutes – approved unanimously
- VI. President’s Report – AS Martha’s Vineyard was hosted here on March 22. Many students came and were exposed to the Deaf community and culture. I attended the ACA (American Counseling Association) convention in Hawaii. I shared information from that with MB and also plan to present on SDD. The gala was awesome. It was nice to see people who had contributed to DHHC and its history. I met a new employee today: maintenance facilities person Jody Wilcox
- VII. Vice-President’s Report – JS absent
- VIII. Secretary’s Report – SS none
- IX. Treasurer’s Report – CC  
March Financial Report distributed and reviewed.  
The totals have not been finalized from the gala.

Checking/savings balance	\$239,146
Accounts receivable total	\$369,396
AR grants	\$238,291
AR interpreting	\$131,105
Accounts payable	-\$600
Board private fund balance	\$2,110
Profit/loss	\$43,770
Grant awarded	\$650,564
Grant spent	\$499,044
Grant unspent	\$151,519

- X. Executive Director’s Report – Michelle Bronson  
Funding Updates:

Department of Social Services, Office of Deaf Access, recently notified all of us eight sister agencies that there will be a 7.2% budget cut in our funding due to federal sequestration. For this fiscal year, our state general fund is covering the difference, but for the next fiscal year, our state's general budget cannot compensate for the federal cut. Hence, our DSS budget will be reduced by \$24,179. While we are concerned about the DSS budget reduction, this news came the same day Harvey, our Services Personnel Director, shared with our management team the Comcast proposal. Money saved through switching to Comcast is nearly the same as our DSS budget reduction, so we are thankful we are not faced with drastic budget changes in our agency's general operating costs. While I am thankful that we are fine in terms of our budget, this is a good reminder for us to again closely examine how and where we can save money. Our Deaf Coalition will be meeting with DSS to discuss this budget reduction next Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. in Sacramento, and I will be in attendance.

We submitted our grant request to Fansler Foundation on March 21<sup>st</sup> and are now awaiting their response.

Jesse and I submitted our Letter of Interest for the Youth grant to Fresno Regional Foundation last Thursday and we are awaiting their feedback on if we need to make any modifications to our letter. We submitted the letter early so we could obtain feedback in time before this Friday's deadline. We are hopeful we'll have better luck this time!

#### Staffing Updates:

Krystal Rios is our temp Client Services Specialist for our Salinas Outreach Office while Rochelle is on a two-month leave.

We have hired Taylor Galanti as our new Breast Education and Support Team (BEST) Facilitator. Her first day was on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and she will be working five hours a week with us on our Komen grant.

Nat Strobel has been hired to work at the front desk here at Fresno DHHSC.

We are also pleased to announce that George Wilcox is our new Facilities Maintenance person. His first day was yesterday and we are happy to have him on our DHHSC Team.

#### Training Update:

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Leadership Training hosted by our Sierra Partners HR firm, and information included changes in management and differences between leadership and supervision. I felt the training was beneficial and validating because I have personally noticed differences in how to interact with employees of different age categories. For example, older generations prefer to follow the chain of command while younger employees prefer independence, "buy-in," and making decisions themselves or what is described as "the lower levels" of the workplace hierarchy.

#### Outreach Office Updates:

Our Salinas staff moved into new office space on March 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>. They are now mostly settled and are using wifi until we get a local IT person to do the final hook-up with Comcast equipment there. I would like to thank Wayne and Harvey for finding the new office space and for working so hard to make the move as quickly and efficiently as possible.

#### Event Updates:

We participated in Celebration of Diversity at FSU on March 17<sup>th</sup> and it was a fun event. We had staff there to have a DHHSC booth and to meet D/HH students and school professionals. It is important to me to have staff involved with local schools, colleges, and universities to show support and partnership. We want to be a resource to our community, especially to start working with D/HH children while they are still young and to expose them to D/HH working professionals.

Our Martha's Vineyard event on March 22<sup>nd</sup> was a success. We raised \$1,530.00, based on 306 paid admissions. The Deaf Blind bake sale did well too, raising \$248.25! Congratulations to

Susan for overseeing yet another successful Martha's Vineyard, and we would like to thank all involved staff, volunteers, and community members for their time and commitment. The day went by fast! FYI that was also the same day my family and I went to Fremont to see their ASL "Hunchback of Notre Dame" play, which was fabulous! It was nice to relax that evening after a busy day at M.V. A very "Deaf-Day" for me!

As you may know, our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala was on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Tickets sold out, and we had more than 250 guests. Most of the feedback was very positive and the event appears to be very successful. After all expenses were paid, our silent and live auctions brought in nearly \$4,000. We are pleased and grateful for everyone's support. It was a very busy time for us, and we would like to thank everyone who came to our special milestone celebration. I would also like to again thank all of our school, community, and business partners for the donated baskets and items. The fundraiser would not have been possible without their generosity and support. Thank you again, and also to sponsors, such as Sorenson Communications, Purple Communication, AT&T, EECU, Central Valley Mayors' Committee, Fresno SVRS Interpreters of the Fresno Center, and The Grand 1401, who all made this event possible. The Mayors' Committee and Marty Pigott also sponsored some gala guests who could not afford the ticket fee. We are blessed by the community's outpouring of support and contributions. Thank you!

#### Community Update:

We would also like to thank Cathy Middlestead for donating a beautiful quilt that incorporates Deaf Community and Cultural values. When we purchase a quilt rod, we will proudly display the quilt in our community room. It is a beautiful and colorful quilt, and Cathy's thoughtfulness reminds us of the importance of hearing allies and how Deaf Culture values can positively impact others.

#### XI. Committee Reports –

- a. Bylaws Committee – SS Jesse Lewis has some concerns about the by-laws as they impact the advisory councils. We will be discussing potential bylaw changes next month.
- b. Fundraising Committee – JN Having devoted most of her time to the gala these past months, she is still working on getting some restaurant fundraisers set up. The next one may possibly be at Chile's the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May. Once it is finalized she will send out a community email. Soak me Pah date is on 9-13-14 from 8-12 @ woodwork Park again this year. We are sharing the day with FDE's and the community picnic. CADCV is also involved. On-line sign ups just opened up. The sooner you sign up on-line the less it costs. 1<sup>st</sup> 25 people to register get a T-shirt.
- c. Grant Monitoring Committee – JN no report

#### XII. General Board Comments--none

#### XIII. Unfinished Business –

A. VRI: have had 2 workshops; the last one not well attended. There is not enough documentation of grievances. The next workshop is on April 26 from 10:30 to 12:30 and we are hoping for better attendance and more documentation of problems with hospital-based interpreting.

B. Rummage sale: June 21--we need to coordinate on tasks among Board members.

#### XIV. New Business – none

XV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) — Becky Sortwell re VRI wants to be sure it is clear in the blog message addressing the concerns and c/o that people have. It is very important that people come and document. Staff members must be available to work with people one on one to help them with the paper work.

#### XVI. Announcements –

A. May 4, 4:30 to 6:30 deaf indoor soccer @ Fresno Indoor Soccer

- B. Deaf Women's Conference May 3 (conflicts with Stockton picnic) theme is Flying Towards Success \$10/person includes lunch.
  - C. 1<sup>st</sup> annual Deaf Men's Conference June 7
  - D. April 26 FSU Silent Garden special presentation: 2<sup>nd</sup> annual silent garden lecture Let your Creativity Lead 9-4
- XVII. Adjournment – 6:52 PM

**Date of Next Local Board Meeting: Tuesday May 13, 2014 @ DHHSC – Fresno**

Submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary