



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2015

- I. Call to Order – JS @ 6:08
- II. Board Members Present: , Jonathan Silva, VP (JS), Sue Stone, Secretary (SS), Chad Catron, treasurer (CC), Melissa Sortwell (MS), Justin Gaines (JG)
Board Members Absent: Jill Nolen (JN), excused
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson (MB), Executive Director,
Visitors:
Interpreters: Erin Uribe, Pam Warkentin
- III. Visitor Comments (3 minutes per visitor) none
- IV. Approval of Agenda Items – approved by consent after removal of PR committee
- V. Approval of May Board Minutes – approved M/S/P
- VI. Vice-President’s Report – JS
Let you know that Board meetings are every other month, but we meet with management on the off-months. Currently the focus is on fundraising. Need to be sure we have funds for the program where we go out to community members homes to teach sign. Looking to “go fund me” and working with someone who is good at that. No catastrophic issues. Board needs to support staff and help them maintain a balance. We have an interview tonight for a prospective Board member, 2 on day of Community Comments, and one in September. All 4 are deaf so excited about the prospect of getting new Board members. Tess Contreras has resigned due to family and work responsibilities, thank her for her support and wish her the best. Some comments in the community in regards to our meeting and some individuals who do not like that we are holding it every other month. We did ask the community about the change and the majority was in support of our decision. We decided to move to meeting every other month as we did not have a large number in attendance. It has been mostly students who come. We feel that this is an additional opportunity to interact with management and stay on top of things at DHHSC.
- VII. Secretary’s Report – SS no report
- VIII. Treasurer’s Report – CC
May Financial Report distributed and reviewed. In good shape. Working with Paul to end the fiscal year. JS AR is high. MB numbers are about the same, we are in the hole for the first time. Have made the necessary adjustments so this does not happen again next year. As of yesterday we are only \$3000 in the hole. Switching from ATT to Comcast and health insurance costs have gone down.

Checking/savings balance

\$282,810

Accounts receivable total	\$266,527
AR interpreting	\$131,242
AR grants	\$135,285
Accounts payable	\$(13,937)
Board private fund balance	\$2,411
Profit/loss overall	\$(28,331)
Grant awarded 2014-15	\$650,564
Grant spent	\$568,724
Grant unspent	\$81,839

IX. Executive Director's Report – Michelle Bronson
My July ED Report

Funding Updates:

I am pleased to share that we received the United Way of Merced funding for our Youth Employment and Education Services (YES) in the full requested amount of \$6,000. I would like to thank United Way of Merced for their continued support of DHHSC, especially with this new program replacing the recent Spending and Saving within Means (\$WIM) program.

We are applying once again for a Fresno Regional Foundation High Impact-Accelerator Grant, which will focus on providing ASL and literacy services to Deaf and Hard of Hearing children ages 0-5 and their families, with the flexibility of serving children up to age eight. This grant focuses on getting children to read at the third grade reading level by end of the third grade, but we want to primarily focus on children ages 0-5 so that we can focus more on intervention services without promising that we can get our children to read at the third grade reading level by end of the third grade, but could work with children up to the age of 8. The Letter of Intent is due tomorrow, which we submitted today. This grant application is not new as this is our third effort, and I will keep you updated. We are asking for \$100,000 over 2 years.

Agency Activities:

We hosted our YES! Career Fair on May 20th, and we had approximately 46 students in attendance. Students from Lindsay, FUSD, FCOE, FCC, and Merced came, and we had booths with different D/HH professionals in varying fields to share about their work experiences. We also played an employment-related YES Feud, which was fun. Panda Cares from Panda Express donated lunch for our event, which was wonderful! I would like to thank Panda Express for sponsoring our event and hope they will sponsor us again next year.

I attended the two-day Wellness Recovery Action Plan training at Fresno State towards the end of May, and the information was greatly beneficial. I plan to order the workbooks for staff and provide that same training during our September SDD. WRAP focuses on how we can take care of ourselves on a daily and weekly basis and how to recognize when we are nearing our breaking point. The workbook also outlines our preferred "caregiver" and what we would like done if someone needs to take over our care during the time we are recovering. This self-care is important, and staff can also apply this training in working with clients because many become overwhelmed with their challenges and not recognize their coping strategies and triggers. This is

one of the newer approaches in the mental health field and empowers people to focus on their recovery.

On May 28th, Shelley and I were invited to present at a Parent to Parent Night with Breann Crump from FUSD and Lori Ann Infant Program. It was a wonderful experience meeting 15-20 parents and even two Spanish-speaking fathers have expressed a change of view in learning ASL; they were initially resistant to learning ASL and wanted their children to learn how to lipread and speak. After we discussed the benefits of ASL and the importance of providing all D/HH children with all communication tools, not just one approach over the other, more parents seemed receptive to learning signs. I would like to thank Breann Crump for inviting us to meet with the parents of D/HH babies and toddlers, and we plan to host another Parent to Parent Night this fall.

On June 9th, our DHHSC staff and volunteers assisted the D/HH program at Norseman Elementary School with their "Game Day" and they had a lot of fun interacting with the children. This is one example of how we maintain our relationships with local schools, which is also one of the things Fresno Regional Foundation looks at when considering grants.

Cheryl recently signed a script for "The More You Know" PSA about children developing compassion and acceptance for people of different backgrounds. It was shown on channel KSEE 24 and we will upload her video on our DHHSC website. She did a great job, and I am so proud of her! Also, a great way to boost DHHSC's visibility and awareness of the D/HH.

I would like to thank Susan Coulter for doing a presentation on how to work with the D/HH during a power outage as part of RICV's workshop on emergency management on June 26th. It is important to keep people aware of what the D/HH need during disasters, and this workshop was for those involved with disaster planning and organizations working with people with disabilities.

Lisa Huffman and Diana Davis (formerly Lee) are doing a great job with fundraising for their ASL Summer Program. They have raised over \$300 with candy and movie night snack sales. Way to go, Diana and Lisa! This money will support families with D/HH children and CODAs who want to participate in the ASL Summer Program but cannot afford the registration fee. We want to encourage families to participate in the ASL Summer Program so they can experience different fun activities together while communicating in ASL at all times. This year's ASL Summer Program will be from July 20th-24th and please spread the word!

I would like to share that I was recently invited to co-chair the CAL-ED, for teachers who work with D/HH children, planning committee. The next CAL-ED conference will be hosted here in Fresno during the weekend of Feb. 27-28, 2016 at Fresno State University. This is an honor for me to participate in the planning process, and a great way to collaborate with other professionals who work with the D/HH. NorCal was involved with last year's CAL-ED and now DHHSC will be involved as the Deaf agency from the Central Valley.

Staffing Updates:

As you know, Jody Wilcox recently resigned as our Building and Events Attendant, but I am pleased to share that Carlos Marroquin has recently joined our DHHSC Team. Welcome Carlos! He is a great worker and we are very glad to have him.

I am sad to share that Brianna Berg has just submitted her resignation as our Merced Client Services Specialist, and her last day is this Friday, July 17th. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best on her new adventure.

Go fund me staff/board made a video to upload Friday to go Fund me. It is for the SSP program as those funds have been depleted.

XI. Committee Reports –

- a. Bylaws Committee – SS no report
- b. Fundraising Committee – JN absent, no report
- c. Grant Monitoring Committee – JN absent, no report
- d. Outreach Committee SS questioned what happened to the Outreach Committee during her 6 month leave of absence. Jesse Lewis is now imparting that information at the Board/management meetings.

XII. General Board Comments –

- 1) JG wants to expand Hands on Hands group. JS during staff meeting discussion re Go Fund Me re D/B SSP. Is Hands on Hands assisting that? JG yes, and is in the video.
- 2) SS made comments about her post-cochlear implant experience and the criticism some CI people have of ASL, particularly for children who have been implanted. SS's experience is that it is helpful to have as many communication tools as possible. [Editor's note: SS's Stanford audiologist is currently taking ASL at DHHSC]
- 3) JG re grants D/HH many community members finding the Board difficult to understand and to follow the processes and trying to find a way in which we can make ourselves understood by the general community. This would help to increase participation if we can make meetings more culturally friendly. Other ways to increase community participation? Food? Other professional do entertainment? Something that would draw people to the meeting.

XIII. Unfinished Business

- a. Community Comments August 15. This year there will be a slight change: no actual Board meeting, to allow more time for community comments. Board meeting will be in September. 2 hours for CC, a meal and dessert auction. No dingo. Schedule: CC 3-5, 5-6 diner 5:45 dessert auction till no later than 7.
MB: RWD is having a DI workshop for shadowing. JG shadowing helps a lot.

XIV. New Business –

- A. Approval for Merced County Community Foundation to expand a PT position in Merced County. New grant application expands a position from PT to FT because it is hard to find a PT person due to lack of benefits. It will provide for all the same services in the office. We need about \$35,000-50,000. It is also hard to find qualified people in the Merced area and transportation expense from Fresno is expensive. Have to reapply for this grant every year. M/S/P

XIV. Public Comments (specific to agenda – 3 minutes per visitor) Skippy missed the beginning of the meeting. I am concerned about vocational rehab. I met with an audiologist in management and the first question he asked do you have CI? Skippy complained about the refusal of most of medical community to accept signing. He encouraged people to file complaint re issues with DOR. MB: working with DOR management. Working with 3 students from Buchanan who have not received asked for services at DOR.

JG in D/B group there are 12 of us and we are going to WA for D/B conference

XV. Announcements –

- A. Art group drawing and painting, breakfast meeting July 22. Seeking people interested in art. Will determine details in the first meeting.
 - B. PEP classes have been teaching healthy eating. Trip planned to Sprouts grocery store Aug 4. Special presentation from Javita coffee, which is healthier, Tuesday July 28
 - C. 'Soak me Pah' September 5 first Saturday. Need to register on-line. \$25 with cost going up every month. No soaking this year due to the drought. Instead we will be soaking people with Deaf Culture. Using deaf trivia, games, walk/run,
- XVII. Adjournment –@7:30

Date of Next Local Board Meeting: September 8, 2015 6-8 pm @ DHHSC – Fresno

Draft submitted by Sue Stone, DHHSC Secretary