



DHHSC BOARD MEETING Minutes
6pm, Tuesday, November 8, 2016

- I. **Call to Order: Meeting called to order - 6:10pm**
Individuals Present: Board Members Present: Janice Smith-Warshaw (JSW), Joshua Blanco, Vice-President (JB), Peter Crume, Secretary (PC), Jill Nolen, Fundraising Committee (JN), Justin Gaines (JG)
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson, Executive Director (MB), Susan Coulter
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Nicole Chance, and Beatriz Martinez
Visitors: Chelsey White, Shawn Hunt, Mariana Dorsey, Bernabe Moreno, Andrea Moreno, Jimmy Bronson
- II. **Community Comments—limited to 3 minutes - N/A**
 - a. Skippy - (Revisions on Bylaws) - most of the revisions were blank. I would like to have wanted clarification on why there were not revisions. I saw in the September 13, 2016 - Public Comments that was a motion passed to that the board was going to meet every month instead of every other month. This was not an item in the new business
Tim Spires - I did make the motion, but I wasn't part of the board at that time. Skippy - Just want to make sure that things are clearly indicated in the minutes that the motion was passed and voted upon because it was not clear to me.
 - b. Skippy - (Statistics on Demographics). Also, I would like to see better documentation that categorize what type of people that are coming in such as if the person is hard of hearing, deaf, a senior citizen, a youth, or deaf-blind.
Michelle - DSS stated they were more interested in the community comments and less interested in the categories and types of people being served
- III. **Approval of Agenda Items - Proposed by JG, JB Seconded the motion**
- IV. **Approval of October Board Minutes - No changes noted. TS motioned to approve, JN seconded the motion.**
- V. **President's Report - Janice Smith-Warshaw**
 - a. I want to officially recognize two new members on the board - Tim and Lynn - Welcome
 - b. I want to announce we also have three other members interested in the joining the board. 1) Dr. Serena Johnson, 2) Sean 3) Darcy Lessard

- c. My students in my ASL 4 class at Fresno State will come have Paris Banquet from November 17th from 4:00 - 5:30
- d. Susan Colter suggested that we need more student volunteers for VDF.
- e. Taylor Chumley told me that Fox interpreting was hosting an event on December 2nd. The proceeds will be given to the R.O.C.K. program of DHHSC.

- VI. Vice President's Report - Joshua Blanco - None
- VII. Secretary's Report - Peter Crume - None
- VIII. Treasurer's report - Vacant (read by JSW)

	Through 10/31/16
Checking/savings balance (Through 10/31/16)	\$262,350.14
Accounts receivable total (Outstanding invoices not yet collected)	\$359,77.80
AR grants (Outstanding invoices not yet collected)	\$252,046.43
AR interpreting (Outstanding invoices not yet collected)	107,720.37
Accounts payable (Outstanding bills not yet paid)	-\$6,229.84
Mortgage payable (Building Loan)	\$0.00
Board private fund balance (Year to date balance)	\$1,130.16
Profit/loss Statement Overall (for 3 months)	(\$92,062.37)
DSS Grant for 16-17	\$650,564.00
Grant Spent up to 9/30/16	\$206,279.48
Unspent (9 months remaining)	\$444,284.52

- IX. Executive Director's report- Michelle Bronson
MB presented the following report -

Funding Updates:

We are pleased to share that we received an additional \$50,000 in funding from Wagner-Peyser for our EDD program. We are thrilled as this allows us to cover staff

and interpreting expenses, in addition to supplies and equipment needed to provide employment services. A big thank you to Gil Barkley for his support in receiving this EDD grant and additional funding; he went to bat for us because he understands our challenges and the needs of our D/HH Community in seeking employment.

Jesse and I will soon start working on a mini United Way Merced grant application that is due on Nov. 30th and San Joaquin Health Fund due on Dec. 1st. We will keep you posted on grants and deadlines. We just finished revising the EDD proposal to reflect the \$50,000 increase.

Fox Interpreting is hosting Night at the Fox: A Comedy Show with CJ Jones on Dec. 2nd at 7 p.m., and they plan to donate the proceeds to our Reaching Out and Communicating with our Kids (ROCK) program, which is very generous of them. We are very touched by their thoughtfulness and support of our ROCK program. They also donated two tickets to the show, and Jesse Lewis, our Project Director, will be attending. Because I will be attending CCRID's Dessert Auction that same evening, I would like to ask if any of the Board members would be interested in attending the Fox event with Jesse. It is important that we have DHHSC representatives there, and Amy, our Visalia Client Services Specialist, will be having a booth there as well.

We would like to thank Sorenson Communications for sponsoring holiday events at all four of our offices. Thank you, Sorenson Communications! Your sponsorship enables us to continue holiday traditions for our local D/HH Communities.

Staffing Updates:

We are sad to share that Hannah DeVous' last day with us was Oct. 31st. She accepted a full-time interpreting position with Fresno County Office of Education. We are very proud of her and wish her the best in her new position. We have opened the part-time staff interpreter position, so please encourage all interested persons to apply.

Jane Datsko has transferred to EDD as our EDD Staff Interpreter, so the Office Manager position is vacant. We have been advertising the past few weeks and received some great applications. We are interviewing qualified candidates and will announce the new person once we fill the position.

I would like to share that I have been appointed to DOR Advisory Committee, which will be meeting on Nov. 18th in Sacramento. Fortunately, I will be returning the evening of the 18th to be back in time for VDF on the 19th. DOR Advisory Committee meet several times a year, and I look forward to representing our Central Valley.

Agency Updates:

I am pleased to share that our Salinas Office received an award from Monterey County Committee for the Employment of People with Disabilities for employing people with disabilities and providing ongoing support to accommodate their continued

employment. The award is now proudly displayed on the lobby wall in the Salinas office. Way to go, Krystal and Wayne!

As I mentioned before, Sorenson Communications is sponsoring our four offices' holiday events, and Visalia's Holiday Party will be on Dec. 3rd from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., both Merced's Holiday Potluck and Salinas' Holiday Party on Dec. 10th from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Fresno's Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 21st from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please keep an eye out for the flyers coming out soon on our website and in community emails; Visalia's event is already posted and Fresno and Merced will soon be posting theirs.

Our Merced Office is also hosting a Thanksgiving potluck on Nov. 17th and everyone is invited to attend.

X. Committee Reports

a. Bylaws committee - No report

b. Fundraising committee -

- i. Jill Nolen (JN) - My role is to contact people and groups for food. I have made contact and placed the order, but I am not sure which restaurant will be donating. I have contacted KFC, Chick Filet and Popeyes. I still need to discuss the pricing on the food. Most of the food will be Chick Filet - cutlets - small pieces of chicken in a small box. I am not sure if we should create a meal or sell things ala carte. In the past, we've made a meal with food items, will include Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, and a drink.

Janice Smith-Warshaw (JSW) - How much are they charging?

JN - It depends on how much they are willing to donate, and then we can see their prices. Rozanda is currently making a menu for the food items.

JSW - Can you contact the manager to get a price?

JN - I will contact them tomorrow.

c. Grant-monitoring committee - None

d. Public relations - None

- i. Joshua Blanco (JB) - I move we remove the PR committee from our committee reports. Seconded by Jill Nolen. Passed by remaining board members. Motion carries.

XI. General Board comments -

- Michelle Bronson- Anyone who applies to DHHSC, we cannot have a family member serving on the board.
- Tim Spires - I understand that I might have to step down

XII. Unfinished Business -

a. Community Comments -

JSW - Here are the items suggested that they community wanted and prioritized

1. **Deafhood** - Michelle and Jesse have written for a grant for \$5,000 and are hoping to hear more from that soon.
2. **More education to the general public** - Community expressed need for more education to general public, such as police, firefighters to understand the needs of the deaf community.
3. **DHHSC needed to improve their website.** The website needs to be more clear and accessible. Jesse (Lewis) has done a good job of making changes. I have asked about an update from the board members and honorary board members. I would also like to see more deaf friendly formatting.
4. **More social opportunities for Senior Citizens.** We know and recognize the needs for transportation for senior citizens. We can't have a DHHSC van, but maybe we can set up a network to make transportation easier.
5. **Need more services for children of deaf parents.** We do provide some services for children of deaf parents, we do provide some with sign language classes, but much our involvement is through CPS.
 - a. JSW - Can we develop a camp similar to KodaWest.
 - b. MB - We have camp Pacifica and it's more reasonably priced. Kodawest is \$450-500, which is not affordable for many of our residents in the Valley.

JSW - How can we address these issues.

#1 - Deafhood - We have written a grant for Deafhood.

#2 - More education to the general public -

TS - Couldn't we write a grant

MB - It's difficult to write a grant. The funding is very competitive and since we're a low incidence population, it's very difficult because funders are reluctant to fund us because of the low numbers in the population.

JG - I wish we had more deaf leaders

MB - I agree with you, but our staff is stretched thin. We need more help.

JSW - We should try to prioritize which group we could like to provide education toward. Maybe we can partner with our leaders to provide some training

MB - We do provide some training, but there is high turnover with CPS and other similar agencies.

JSW - Do you feel like there's a need to do more training in the medical field.

MB - My dream is to get into contact with Valley Children's Hospital. They said we would get back to me and it's been several months. I then asked a student to engage in a service learning project and we're still getting the run-around. We've tried to get in contact with hearing staff members, and some do go to sign language training, but not all of them come.

JSW - Maybe we can provide some survival guide

TS - Maybe we can offer a wide variety of products. I think it helps. There was one company called Language People.

MB - Thanks Tim for Reminding me, we did have someone that just provided an ADA workshop. We also need to provide self-advocacy workshop

JSW - Maybe as MB said, she will get those bookmarks. We can set up another workshop to work on self-advocacy.

TS - We can talk about all night about ideas.

#3 - Website

JSW - Do we feel like we've done okay so far?

JG - I don't want Jesse to feel like he is the only one. I think it would be nice to let the staff also work on it, so they can also add more updates.

JSW - When you have other people, you might not have people who are comfortable dealing with HTML coding.

MB - There are three people that post: Jesse, Susan Colter, and person at the front desk.

JSW - We need to be careful about the language and the errors. We need to be careful and screen what we put on the website.

JG - My vision is that we would allow a person to add a flyer or something similar

JSW - I think we still need to be careful.

MB - Flyers are typically approved by Harvey, Jesse, Susan, and myself. We do need to screen things because they typically overlook certain things.

#4 - Services for Senior Citizens -

MB - One issue was transportation and the games we're often the same games, and the events. We did try to provide Tai Chi to the Seniors. Art Lopez contacted us and offered to provide Tai Chi classes. They agreed, then Art said he has conflicts on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

JSW - I attended the Senior groups two weeks ago on Thursday and see who might be willing to serve on the board. No one has contacted me to let me know who might represent that group.

MB - That's why I'm looking for a grant to pair Deaf Blind and Senior Citizens.

JG - It's true many senior citizens also have vision issues, so maybe we can have a meeting together.

MB - We've encouraged some of the issues to attend the deaf blind, but the problem is their transportation issues.

TS - I think maybe teaching seniors about Lyft and Uber.

Martha Colleti - Using these services is difficult because we can't communicate with the driver.

TS - Maybe we can contact them to see if they would provide a discount to Deaf-Blind or Seniors.

MB - I can check into that. In the past we had more money. Maybe that would work. I can see what the pricing looks like. What I know with the seniors is that it takes several times to make it stick. We have to find who can teach and train them. We were training one person to use Handy Ride. It didn't work. One friend is willing to drive them and that works. We can certainly try to see if Lyft or Uber would work.

Martha - We try to set up with field trips, but many are reluctant because of communication difficulties.

JSW - When I lived in Riverside, there was one person who would coordinate and then they would all get on a bus and go and then come back and then the coordinator would leave.

MB - Jason Jackson hosted Fresno Deaf Events for a long time. The first several trips were popular, but then dropped because of the price. The younger folks wanted to do more adventurous trips. The seniors wanted more laid back option. They would go and come back late and night and it was difficult for the seniors.

JSW - We need to come up with a fundraiser to help provide funds.

Martha - We also need to have a way to get folks home because they don't like to drive in the dark.

Sean - Maybe we can also have the young people drive the seniors home.

Skippy - I think it's a good idea, but we need to consider liability as a concern. We could have a sign up sheet.

JSW - I understand but the specific problem is funding.

Skippy - I agree but I we still should provide options for them.

TS - But what about a dessert auction.

JSW - I don't want it to conflict with CCRID. We could do it February.

MB - It's a good time because everyone's New Year's Resolution is over.

#5 - Need more services for children of deaf parents: JSW - I didn't realize it was so late. We should table the Coda discussion until the next meeting.

XIII. New Business

a. DHHSC Strategic Goals

b. Revising bylaws to change from four to eight DSAC members for each office

- i. MB - we would like to expand the numbers from four to eight. Here it is Julie, Glen, Beth, Tracy, Coyle

JSW - We need a motion so we can contact Sue and she can put that into the by-Laws

TS - I would like to make a motion that we can increase the number of advisory committee members to eight.

JG - I second it.

Motion passed by the board members.

JSW - Remember to add Joshua's previous language to make sure that we have gender neutral language in by-laws

c. Determine next board meeting with DHHSC staff

JSW - Could we have it before/after the Holiday Party

JN - I coach during that time.

JSW - Fine we can go back to MB e-mail idea.

XIV. Public comments: 3 minutes *specific to the agenda*

- a. Skippy - In regard to the agenda. It would be nice to have an agenda that we can view and read. As the meeting goes along I forget. I think having the meetings every month is much better because it's easy to forget.
- b. Serena Johnson - Why can't we have a bus to pick up the Seniors
 - i. MB - It's related to the liability issues. It's something that volunteers have to be willing to do.
- c. Skippy - Why not have other providers like Purple and Convo and not only Sorenson. I think we should have other community based organization. In regards to grants, I am hoping we have more grants. Maybe we can have a person specifically related to grants.
- d. MB - The structure changed, Jesse and I are co-directors, but Jesse works primarily on grants. The two of us write a lot grants. In terms of sponsors, we are trying to get out, we've contacted Sprint and Bank of America
- e. Skippy - I was just thinking that maybe we can find someone else

XV. Announcements

- a. MB -
 1. I have two announcements - Zoo activity from 9-4pm on Saturday. They will have volunteer interpreters. The Zoo keepers will have Zoo talks and be paired with the interpreters.
 2. Second announcement - VDF is 11/19 from 10-4p. It is at Fresno Fair Grounds. We also have two funerals on 11/19. Doug King, and Marlana's daughter died in car accident.

XVI. Closed session - N/A

XVII. Adjournment - Meeting closed at 7:50pm.