



## **DHHSC BOARD MEETING AGENDA DHHSC Board / DHHSC Staff Meeting**

**3pm, Tuesday, July 11th, 2017**

**Meeting called to order: 3:03pm**

**Attendees:** Board Members Present: Janice Smith-Warshaw, President, Joshua Blanco, Vice-President (JB), Peter Crume, Secretary (PC), Jill Nolen - (JN), Justin Gaines (JG), (LT), Tim Spires (TS), Serena Johnson (SJ). Absent: Lynn Toschi (excused)

DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson, Executive Director (MB), Susan Coulter (SC), Paul Barnett (PB), Jesse Lewis (JL)

Interpreters: Jenny Quaintance, Sharon Renee McPherson, Kim Glenn

### **1. Financial updates**

#### **a. Grants (JL)**

- **Kaiser** – Turned down
- **UW Merced** – Received grant – D-Well (Deaf and hard of hearing Wellness). Cheryl will be doing the workshops and she will start next month.
- **First Five Merced** – Received grant – 3-year funding about \$20,000 altogether. Program called “ASL for Kids.” We will serve deaf and hard of hearing children, but because the population is small, we will also open it up to hearing children. We had to open it up to hearing children because we would have not received the grant otherwise. We included in our proposal how the grant would help hearing children. It will still benefit deaf and hard of hearing children, but we had to write it to include hearing children. It’s four-year grant, but we receive funding for the first three years. In the first year, we pay 25%, grant pays 75%,

second year, we pay 50% of costs, grant pays 50%, third year, we pay 75% of the costs, grant pays 25%, fourth year, we pay 100%, grant pays 0%.

- **EDD** – Their fiscal year is July to June – we got an extension to September 15<sup>th</sup>. We submitted our proposal, which we expect will be approved. The RFP was not released until late because the “higher-ups” had to work out the details. However, our EDD staff are covered and services will continue without interruption.
  - JSW – Is it for hearing children only?
  - JL – No, it’s open to hearing and the deaf and hard of hearing.
  - JSW – This grant would be especially beneficial if there is a hearing sibling of a child who is D/HH.
  - TS – If there are hearing children, will there be an interpreter with Cheryl and hearing parents?
  - JL - We will use interpreters for the first one or two meetings, then interpreters are requested as needed.
  - MB – Just to add, First Five is funded from the cigarette tax. The funding was put on hold in recent years, but they just recently released RFPs. It’s hard to recruit DHH kids in the Merced area.
  - SJ – Why are there problems with the Merced area?
  - MB – Merced school administrators still have challenges between understanding differences between ASL and SEE. The recent D/HH administrator insisted that Cheryl only use SEE, but Cheryl explained that SEE is a manual sign system, not a language like ASL.
  - JSW – Should we become more proactive by offering events in Merced to educate about the benefit of ASL as a language? More events or workshops?
  - MB – I think in service training would be wonderful place to start.
  - SJ – Would there be a benefit to partner with UC Merced.
  - TS – I’ve had issues with UC Merced when I’ve gone to set up services with Sorenson.
  - MB – We need to educate the public school systems, as well as UC Merced and Merced Community College.

b. CDSS (Michelle Bronson)

- Budget amendment for 2016-2017 still not yet approved – We sent a budget amendment in February and we’re still waiting for it to be approved. In regards to the budget amendment not yet being approved, it affects our ability to have our annual audit because we cannot yet close the books for the recent fiscal year.

- New division – Office of Deaf Access has been transferred once again to a new division, this time under Specialized Services. The new chief has a disability herself but the Deaf Coalition feels that she does not really understand the DHH. She kept suggesting that we partner with other people with disabilities. We explained that DHH’s needs and issues are different; it is more about language and communication access.
- Lobbyist - The Deaf coalition hired a lobbyist and he updated us that the bill to provide \$3 million augmentation will be passed, but without the funding. Once the bill is passed, it will be easier to get the budget included and passed next year. If the budget is passed, then it will go to Governor Brown for approval, but it’s a 50-50 thing. We have been warned that Governor Brown does not like annual payouts, only one-time deals. The three million dollars will be split among the eight sister agencies, and we are the second smallest one. If we do get the funding, it will only be for services and maybe for only one year.

## 2. DOR

- (MB) We now have Devin Puente who is supporting the DHH services. Sheila has been demoted and is no longer allowed to work with deaf people. Devon is technically a graduate student assistant and working with Stephanie, who is officially the counselor in charge. He is already doing a lot for the DHH community. Even though he’s a graduate student, it’s very likely he will be hired once he graduates. DOR tends to hire from within.
- a. CLSAT (MB)
- CLSAT – Communication and Language Skills Assessment and Training. Reading and Writing program for DOR only. We used to provide fee for services for DOR, but we stopped because of the agency losing money. We are still struggling with getting paid for old invoices; because we just concluded another fiscal year, DOR has to once again ask permission to use special funds to pay our old invoices. We are starting to get some payments. DOR wants all sister agencies to provide CLSAT, but DHHSC is resistant because of our past experiences with DOR. DCARA and GLAD are now signing on, but in the past, they did not want to partner with DOR because of lost revenues. We told DOR if they would give us a lump sum for CLSAT, like we do for EDD, then we would provide CLSAT classes again. DOR said they cannot do that, only fee for services. The only way we are willing to provide CLSAT again is to get a lump sum through other funding sources, which is why we are also applying for Whitney Foundation. If we are approved for Whitney

Foundation, the CLSAT portion costs about \$13,000, and we hope to match the funds through DOR fee-for-services and the rest of the money from CDSS, interpreting revenues, and fundraising.

b. Whitney Foundation (JL)

- We sent a letter of interest to them. We are applying for only \$25,000 because we have to match them dollar for dollar within the first six months. We would have \$13,000 for CLSAT and matching funds will come from DOR fee-for-services. The rest of matching funds will come from CDSS, interpreting revenues, and fundraising. We will also provide family services, such as we do with Fansler Foundation. If we receive the funding from Whitney Foundation, the money will become available Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, but DOR wanted the CLSAT program to start in August. We will start CLSAT if and when we get funding from Whitney Foundation.

3. Deaf Awareness Week – JSW –

- JSW - Deaf Awareness Week events will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> full week of September. I am not sure if it starts on Saturday or Sunday.
- JN – It depends on whether or not we have activities on the weekend.
- JSW – I would like to make sure that we all the events written down so that we can make sure there are no conflicting events. Here is what we have so far:

Deaf awareness week schedule for September

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> – Knockerball– partner with CADCV meeting / food

Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> -- Deaf Church – Activities after – Potentially church potluck

- JSW – we need to contact Keith Catron, but he’s at Gallaudet finishing up his Master’s in ASL teaching. We can e-mail him and ask.

Mon. 18<sup>th</sup> – Ice Cream Social / Interpreting education

Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> – (CI support group) –

- JSW – I will ask Lynn if she can talk about the myths and facts about CI

Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> – Movie night at DHHSC (Deaf related film)

- MB – I will contact Diana to see if she would like to host another movie night as a fundraiser for our ASL Summer Program; we have a collection of ASL Films.
- JSW – I also have a collection of different movies in ASL

Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> – Coffee Night social

Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Lenny’s show – Mr. Liva’s Show

Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Outreach office picnics / activities

#### 4. Valley Deaf Festival (JB)

a. We discussed food ideas. One idea was food truck. We also talked about cooking our own food

- MB – The Fresno Advisory Committee suggested that we cook our own food like hamburgers and good ole American Food
- SC – We need to make sure that someone gets the Food Handler certificate on site (SafeServ).
- JB – We also have the popcorn maker and we can add some different flavors.
- TS – We can use the popcorn maker on Wednesday night during DAW as a test run.
- JB – Should we have a fruit option because we had a lot leftover last year?
- SC – We should keep the fruit option because it's done well before.
- MB – Maybe we could have a fruit cup as part of the combo meal ticket.
- JSW – Will we be dressing up in costume?
- MB – It's both superheroes and villains. You can dress in either.
- SC – If easier, especially if you are cooking, you could just dress up in superhero t-shirts.
- JL – Dack Vernig will be our entertainment.
- JB – We need to do a vlog for VDF. I am willing to do one but I want to be the villain.
- MB – Dack will do the first video for VDF, but he is traveling right now. I will contact him and remind him.

#### 5. Sidewalk bids

- JSW - We received three bids.
  1. Go Concrete - \$2,000, but details of work were limited.
  2. W & W Concrete \$2,170, with detailed plan of work.
  3. K-Crete – \$ 6,480. With detailed plan of work.
- MB - The owner from Go Concrete met with Colleen, who works at the front desk. We were impressed that he came right away and he described all the details in person. The owner's wife has worked for The Arc for over 30 years, so they are very knowledgeable about working with people with disabilities. We contacted the other two companies repeatedly before they finally came out, and they were late and kept stating how busy they were. When they submitted their bids, they didn't seem very interested.
- TS – Maybe we can ask Go Concrete to submit a more detailed description. For example, I would like to know how they would handle the roots that caused the cracks in the first place.

- MB – Another reason that I like Go Concrete is that he said that he could fix some of the cracks on the sidewalk without taking out the whole sections, and he knows how to level the sidewalk with the handicapped parking.
- JSW – I think before we agree with this company, we should ask for a more detailed bid.
- TS – Agreed to second the motion to close the discussion.
- JSW – Let’s call this open to a vote from the members of the board (Six board members voted in favor. One opposed -JG).
- JSW – Board votes to accept bid from Go Concrete with one amendment that Go Concrete resubmit a more detailed description of their work to describe how they would take care of the tree roots and cracks in the sidewalk, and if they would take half payment up front and then the rest after they finish the work.
- JSW – Paul (Barnett), for budget purposes, I want to let you know that the expenses to pay for this sidewalk repair will come from the DHHSC Board fund not the DHHSC budget.
- PB – Thank you for clarification.

6. 200 years of Deaf education shirts

7. Promoting Dr. Ogden’s books to FSU students

- MB – In the interest of time, I will include points six and seven. Can those of you on the board who work at Fresno State please make sure that the Fresno State students buy up some of the extras that we have.
- JSW – Not a problem. We can also be sure to sell the t-shirts and books during Deaf Awareness Week and during the VDF.
- Jesse – One final announcement: #GivingTuesday is November 28<sup>th</sup>. Every non-profit agency comes up with their own script.
- JSW – we can table the announcement to the next board meeting
- SC – In regards to the Community Comments, our scheduled meeting is on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. We’re still waiting to hear from CADCV if we can combine our Community Comments with their meeting. They have an event scheduled on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 8-5.
- TS – I think their plan is to have their event in the morning and then Community Comments in the afternoon.
- JSW – We need to clarify with them so that way we are on the same page. We are both working on different assumptions.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.