



DHHSC BOARD MEETING AGENDA

5pm, Tuesday, February 21, 2017

- I. **Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 5:05pm
Individuals Present:
Board Members Present: Janice Smith-Warshaw, President (JSW), Joshua Blanco, Vice-President (JB), Peter Crume, Secretary (PC), Jill Nolen - (JN), Justin Gaines (JG), Lynn Toschi (LT), Tim Spires (Absent - Excused)
DHHSC Staff Members Present: Michelle Bronson, Executive Director (MB), Susan Coulter, Harvey Bradley
Interpreters: Pam Warkentin, Nicole Chance, Beatrice Martinez
Other community members present: Denise Swangin
- II. **Community Comments**—limited to 3 minutes - None
- III. **Approval of Agenda Items** - Approved
- IV. **Approval of January Board Minutes**
- V. **President's Report** - Janice Smith-Warshaw
 - a. On April 28th, the FSU Deaf Studies program will host three different activities:
 - 1) Celebration of Diversity - we estimate a potential for 150 deaf and hard of students from the central Valley. We also have about 100 Fresno State students who will volunteer.
 - 2) Silent Garden lecture, which will focus on educating teachers, interpreters, and parents for educating Hispanic Deaf children
 - 3) 200th anniversary of Deaf Education celebration - We currently have Sorenson as our major sponsor, and our other sponsors include Convo Relay, Dawn Sign Press, and the DHHSC Board. We currently have 10 exhibitors, with the potential for 15. We have not heard yet from deaf Fresno natives, and we are still working to confirm people we have asked to serve on our panel. We also have also contacted CSD Riverside and CSD Fremont to see if they would be willing to provide entertainment. We are still waiting to hear from the middle school at CSD - Riverside. We also contacted CSD Fremont and would like to get students are from central Valley because it will be logistically easier for them to perform and then go home. Gallaudet President Roberta (Bobbi) Cordano will attend and present. The planning committee has agreed to provide Hors d'oeuvre and have no admission cost. We used funds from the DHHSC board fund to sell T-shirts at the event and use the funds we earn from

the t-shirt sales as a fund raiser for DHHSC. We are projecting to have 400-500 people attend.

Also, we need to developing a vision statement for DHHSC. We already have elevator speech, but need to establish DHHSC vision for United Way Tulare. I am looking forward to helping with the Rummage Sale.

VI. Vice President's Report - Joshua Blanco

- a. I have been in touch with community members, but they do not seem to be interested in becoming board members. We have two people interested so far - Sean and Dr. Serena Johnson.
- b. I have been planning for the deaf blind camp in the fall. I have been Involved with Justin and Nancy from Washington state. I'm in charge for activities for the week. The camp will take place during the second week in September. I will be working with Justin to see who would be willing to work as SSPs and we could do some training and instruction on how SSP function so when they arrive to camp they have some familiarity with the process. The camp will be in Oregon between Sept 10-15.
- c. Deaf awareness is the week after, so we're trying to get word out now.
- d. (JSW) - respond to need to attend three consecutive meetings.

VII. Secretary's Report - Peter Crume - No comments

VIII. Treasurer's report - Vacant (Janice Smith-Warshaw acting)

	Through 1/31/17
Checking/savings balance (Through 12/31/16)	\$285,340.56
Accounts receivable total (Outstanding invoices not yet collected)	\$306,617.41
AR grants (Outstanding invoices not yet collected)	\$185,483.56
AR interpreting (Outstanding invoices not yet collected)	\$121,133.85
Accounts payable (Outstanding bills not yet paid)	-\$2,929.56
Mortgage payable (Building Loan)	\$0.00
Board private fund balance (Year to date balance)	\$1,490.67
Profit/loss Statement Overall (for 3 months)	(\$103,016.57)
DSS Grant for 16-17	\$650,564.00

Grant Spent up to 9/30/16	\$357,245.11
Unspent (6 months remaining)	\$293,318.89

IX. Executive Director’s report- Michelle Bronson
Funding Updates:

We recently received bad news from CDSS. With CDSS not being able to fund the 8.5% Federal Sequestration, it means that the total funding allocated for the Deaf Access Program is \$4.7M instead of \$5.2M. Our agency will receive \$594,943 for the FY17/18 contract, down from \$650,564. Our management team is now exploring options and will have to make difficult decisions soon to offset the \$55,621 cut. We will keep you posted. Meanwhile, the Deaf Coalition is requesting a meeting with CDSS to protest this cut because it severely impacts our ability to adequately serve our local D/HH Communities.

Jesse and I are currently working on several grants, including United Way Merced, due March 23rd, Central California Women’s Conference (CCWC), due Feb. 27th, and Wells Fargo, due March 1st. The UW Merced grant will again focus on health and well-being, while grants from CCWC and Wells Fargo are new. We want to apply for funding from CCWC for our deSIGN Artists United group, money to provide art classes and materials to our Deaf and Hard of Hearing women and children. The focus of our Wells Fargo grant application will be on getting funding for Support Services Providers and case management for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing senior citizens and Deaf Blind.

We are trying a new fundraiser through See’s Candies. We are collecting orders from now until March 17th. We are encouraging staff and Board to participate as fundraising is becoming more important than ever!

Staff Training:

At our recent Staff Development Day in February, we had Amanda Somdal, Deaf LCSW, present on how to establish and maintain professional and personal boundaries as many of us live, work, and play within our Deaf Community. We want to ensure we maintain professionalism while protecting clients’ confidentiality and safeguarding our well-being. Because of how small the Deaf world is, it is all too easy to blur professional and personal boundaries, and we at DHHSC want to maintain high work ethics and quality of services.

Upcoming Agency Events:

As you may know, our annual Martha's Vineyard in the Valley event is on March 4th, and we need more volunteers. If you are interested, please see Susan Coulter as she coordinates this fun event.

On March 11th from 1-5 p.m., we are hosting an Employment Forum, and we will have Disability Rights California representatives from throughout the state present, to provide two workshops and to assist our D/HH Community with filing complaints against the local Department of Rehabilitation. DRC also facilitates the Client Assistance Program that deals with DOR complaints. I am excited about this event because this is a follow-up from the 2012 Employment Forum, and this time we will actually have people involved who can follow up with DOR complaints. This is yet another way we are ensuring we are taking steps to push for a positive change with our local DOR.

X. **Fundraising Chair report** - Jill Nolen - Not present (arrived after). No comments.

a. **General Board comments** - Justin. We gathering volunteers and reaching out to the community. We will have burritos for breakfast and sandwiches for lunch.

XI. **Unfinished Business**

a. **Community Comments** -

Issue #1: Deafhood - (JSW) Would like to ask the board to support bringing Deafhood to Fresno, so we can help provide a discounted price for community members.

Issue #2: Building community awareness - (MB) I believe we decided to focus on hospitals, such as Valley Children's Hospital. We need to contact Wendy Garbino so we can set up a training on how to work with DHHSC. Rosemary and Nicky have provided training in the past. It's been difficult to provide training to the police because it's not required. We've have good attendance with the Fire Department.

(JSW) - Perhaps you could do a training with Fresno State students majoring in Criminal Justice and get them when they're young.

Issue #3: Improving the DHHSC website: (JSW) The DHHSC website seems much better. (JB) - Can you remind me again on what was needed for the website. (JSW) The website needed more clarity and accessibility. Jesse Lewis made changes and updated the information on the Board Members. We also discussed during the community comments of making the website more deaf-friendly. (JB) - I've noticed some of the improvements, but I also have some issues with the weblinks in the Deaf-Blind section. (JSW) - If you and JG could provide any feedback that would help. (MB) - If there are problems with links and they need to be updated, please let us know ASAP. We would like to produce VLOGS, but it's difficult to produce VLOG with only limited staff. Perhaps some of the board members could help produce

some of them. (JSW) - I remember I made a video for the Community Comments. It was very time intensive.

Issue #4: Improving opportunities for Seniors - (MB) Shelly and Susan provide workshops for seniors every 3rd and 4th week of the month and they also work with them during their week, but the main problem is that we cannot provide transport. (JSW) - Maybe we could use the SSP as a potential source for transportation. (JG) - It seems possible that we could utilize the SSP to provide services for the Deaf-Blind community and the seniors. I think this is something we should address in the Spring.

Issue #5: Support for Deaf parents with Codas. (MB) - We received many referrals from Child Protective Services (CPS) because of Deaf parents.

- b. **Rummage Sale** - (JSW) We need more student volunteers. We have some students volunteer for Martha's Vineyard. (MB) - We need more volunteer during the week of the rummage sale, especially for Friday morning. We need volunteers and board members to help. (Susan Coulter) - We need help in the preplanning. We need a sign out in front, an ad for Craig's list, and we need to advertise in the Fresno Bee. We need 3-4 days advance notice for an online ad and 2 days for a newspaper ad. We also need to get more stuff and to solicit from the community to get higher quality items. We also need a truck to pick up furniture a few days prior to the Rummage Sale. (MB) It's best to pick up items on Thursday and Friday. Colleen Coletti will drive the truck. We need to make request to friends and family to donate to the rummage sale.

XII. New Business

- a. JB moved to add vision and strategic plan; LT seconded the motion. Motion carried by Board
- b. JSW move to determine how Board should be involved with events. JG seconded the motion. Motion carried by the board.
- c. JSW moved to develop a plan for Deaf awareness week in September. JB seconded. Motion carried by the board.
- d. LT moved to determine a date for community comments in August. JG seconded. Motion carried by the board.

XIII. **Public comments:** 3 minutes *specific to the agenda* - None

XIV. **Announcements** - None

XV. **Closed session** -

XVI. **Adjournment** - 6:05

Next Meeting: 6pm, Tuesday, March 14th, 2017