



DHHSC BOARD MEETING AGENDA

6:15pm, Tuesday, September 10, 2019

- I. Call to Order - 6:18
Board members Present: Serena Johnson, Trisha Houston, Steve Longo, Patty Parker.
- II. Approval of Agenda Items
- III. Approval of Community Comment report
- IV. President's Report - Trisha Houston
 - a. We will need to recruit because Lynn's term is ending soon. Until we reach a quorum our board meetings will be informational only. Maya theatre seating has changed but we contacted them and it is now on a first come first served basis.
 - b. VDF food needs to be decided.
 - c. We would like to have a fund raiser at Panera and do a meet and greet in neutral territory.
- V. Vice President's Report -
- VI. Secretary's Report - Serena Johnson
- VII. Treasurer's report - Steve Longo
- VIII. Executive Director's report- Michelle Bronson

Budget Updates:

We successfully closed out the CDSS contract for 2018-2019 and were able to zero out the remaining balance. We are now undergoing our annual audit and hopefully our auditor can share the results at next month's board meeting.

We have been approved for another year of funding from Fansler Foundation to support our ROCK and YES! programs. We are grateful for their ongoing support. This is the fourth year of funding, I believe.

We have also received another year of funding from Harden Foundation for our Deaf Access grant for the Salinas office, which is to provide systems advocacy.

Smart & Final awarded us \$250 in literacy funds to be used during our ASL Summer Program in August, and we purchased books and reading-based games for the children

who participated in our ASL Summer Program. We appreciated Smart & Final's support in continuing our literacy efforts with D/HH children.

We would also like to thank Central California Women's Conference for funding another year of deSIGN art workshops for women and children. We used some funds to bring Jaclyn Vincent, a Deaf artist from Riverside, to do a painting workshop in August, and we had about 27 people in attendance. It was a fun and successful event, and we hope to do that again!

Staffing Updates:

As I shared at last board meeting, Omar Ruiz resigned as our EDD Employment Specialist, and since then, our Fresno Client Services Specialist, Viridiana Alvarez, has requested to be transferred to that position due to her past experiences as Job Developer. She is doing a terrific job at EDD, and we are currently advertising the Client Services Specialist position. This particular position works with senior citizens and we hope to add LGBTQIA services as well because of some community requests.

Agency Updates:

As some of you may be aware, our CPA, Michael Michner, passed away in August, which is a huge loss to our agency. He has been our CPA for many years and also our Deaf Coalition's CPA. We are looking into who can serve as our CPA as needed. In addition, I just learned today from a colleague that the Michner family is planning a Celebration of Life/ Memorial Service for Michael is scheduled for Sunday, October 27 at 1:30 at our Temple. Once this is confirmed and I receive the flyer, I will distribute via DHHSC's social media platforms.

On October 3rd, Marla Hatrak will be coming to Fresno to provide Deaf Coach training to our Client Services Specialists who provide ROCK services. This training is a statewide approach to preparing and readying all Deaf Coaches to work with families with D/HH children in achieving language milestones.

Upcoming Events:

We are currently gearing up for our Deaf Awareness Week activities scheduled for September 15th-21st. Each of our four offices has events planned so please check out our website and social media platforms for updates.

We are now working on a new Fun-Raiser for #GivingTuesday that will take place on Dec. 3rd, the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (this year it happens to fall in December instead of late November). We have the fundraiser postcards ready, and we ask all staff and board members to each recruit at least five people to donate funds towards the #GivingTuesday fundraiser. Personal invitations tend to work best, and we all know many people, such as family members, friends, colleagues, etc. We have two

goals for this Fun-Raiser: Family Services and DBSG/SSP services. Please help us spread the word and meet our goals!

- IX. Fundraising report - N/a
- X. General Board comments
 - a. We are working on the social media policy and once we have that, will develop a website for the board.
- XI. Unfinished Business
- XII. New business
 - a. Fundraising opportunity
 - i. Possibly a team based scavenger hunt (city wide) including recycling for extra points.
 - b. VDF Planning
 - i. Discussion of the issues with buying warm pizza in the morning and it sitting all day. It was fine in the morning but as the day wore on, it became an issue. President suggests ordering pizza in batches. Also suggests that we somehow tie in to the theme of Candy Factory
 - c. Recruitment of new members (video script)
 - d. Make plaque in honor of Michael Michner for his years of service
 - i. Moved by Steve, 2nd by Patty. Estimated cost is \$100-\$200. Unanimously approved. Move amended to include using board funds to purchase plaque.
- XIII. Public comments: 3 minutes
 - a. Placing a plaque on the wall in memory of Michael Michner
 - b. There is a need for more Deaf interpreters. We want to work toward making Deaf/hearing interpreting teams the norm. Several individuals in the area have been trained, but the opportunities are not available. More thought should be given to including Deaf interpreters. Michelle indicates that VRI interpreting is taking over the field and businesses are resistant to hiring live interpreters. We need to educate Deaf individuals about their rights and many are passively accepting how the system is. Rosemary clarifies that the role of an SSP and a Deaf interpreter are completely different. There are still misconceptions in the community about the role of a CDI. Steven indicated providing a brochure but a vlog might be more accessible.
- XIV. Announcements
 - a. Deaf awareness week flyer is available
- XV. Closed session (if needed)
- XVI. Adjournment-7:15pm