



## DHHSC BOARD MEETING AGENDA

6pm October 13, 2020

I. Call to Order – 6:07

Board members Present: Trisha Houston, Serena Johnson, Salvador Garcia, Jaime Johnson-Clay, Nicole Hurt, Steve Longo, Jessica Lozano-Delgado  
Board members Absent: Patty Parker

II. Approval of Agenda Items

III. Approval of August board minutes

IV. President's Report – Trisha Houston

Fall is here, it is finally getting a bit cooler. So far, the fires around us have been scary and I hope everyone is in safe places and getting support. This report is a bit long. Bear with me please!

Today, I would like to introduce our new board members again and look forward to their future with us. Thank you all for joining us!

We have positions that are empty, Vice President, Fundraising Chair, and Public Relations. I hope to address this during the new business section.

I also was able to secure a PayPal link that makes paying board dues easier for us all. This will go a long way for us in the future. For this reason too, the section where Board dues are mentioned is in the wrong section of bylaws and should be moved into Article IV – membership instead of being in the addendum section.

Well, there was a law that passed few years ago that makes honorary and emeritus board members full members. This creates a new issue for us as we have some honorary members, Nan Barker, Marilyn McCallon, Paul Ogden, Kathy Doerksen, and Jonathan Silva. We must create a position called, "Advisors to the Board." This will remedy this situation and it will be added into the bylaws.

Next, I have reviewed the Board section on the DHHSC website and recognize that we need to do something to address the lack of information on Board members, emails, and more. This will be my goal for the next few months to develop a fully transparent and visible presence on DHHSC website. We must remove the honorary board member section and rename it. We also need to replace the bylaws on DHHSC website as that one is also a dated version. As for our current board members section, I would like to see our Job titles be generalized such as educator at higher education institution as this removes any "status quo ranks." I would love to see each board member do a brief video – "Hello, my name is ..." so people can feel more

connected to us. A picture is not enough. I want the community to feel that they can reach out to us.

Not only that, we will work on a new subset of bylaws which is the social media policy. As we are moving onwards to a future that will depend on online presence, therefore we need to be aware of our actions online that may reflect on DHHSC itself. I will be personally working on the bylaws and make sure this is all completed by December (our next board meeting). I plan to aim for Board retreats to focus on the full ratification of the bylaws. We need to revisit the bylaws and have the agency's lawyer do a review that we are doing things the correct way and in accords with the law.

Lastly, I have several students are currently working on various projects to raise awareness of DHHSC and its services, and fundraising venues. I look forward to their success and I hope you all will support them through their ASL journey and civic engagement. Attend their Zoom events. Some will do art, some will do Halloween, and some will do Yoga and more. Keep your eyes out for flyers to come. I also am the co-advisor for ASL club at Fresno State, I would also love to see your support for those students who are working hard to uplift students' spirits. They are doing a Halloween-gram event. This would be great for parents, families, and friends to cheer up the little kids during this year. The ASL club is also working with DHHSC to host a Halloween event, and all the money raised will go to DHHSC.

Make sure to go and vote! Exercise your right to vote 😊 Thank you all for listening!

- V. Vice President's Report – N/A
- VI. Secretary's Report – Serena Johnson
- VII. Treasurer's report – Steve Longo
- VIII. Executive Director's report – Michelle Bronson

#### **Budget Updates:**

We applied for but were declined by Dollar General and Monterey McGives. Competition was fierce for both grants but we will try again next year.

We're waiting to hear from First 5 of Merced County regarding parenting videos. We want to develop parenting videos for Deaf parents with hearing children so we can focus on CODA-related issues and videos for hearing parents with D/HH children. For Deaf parents, we want to emphasize the importance of not expecting hearing children to interpret for them or to assume that because they're hearing, they "know everything already." As with all children, CODAs also need for their parents to read to them, discuss schedules, teach about family traditions, etc. For hearing parents, we want to touch on SB 210 language milestones, Deaf identity formation, providing a language rich environment, etc. This will be a new opportunity for us and it would be great if we are funded.

Thank you, board members, for your recent board contributions. Our grant for Communication Assistance Program is now back under review with 100% board involvement. This grant is for our Salinas office and includes interpreting services for our Deaf staff. We should receive word in December if our grant is approved.

#### **Agency Updates:**

We just confirmed with Harold Foxx to do a live show on Zoom on November 20, 2020 from 6-7 p.m. It's \$5 per ticket and we will provide each participant the Zoom link and password once we receive payment. We also increased the number of Zoom participants from 100 to 500 for the month of November, so it is our goal to get as many participants as possible. We want to do something fun for our D/HH Community and feature a different Deaf entertainer. Please spread the word and share with your friends, families, colleagues, students, etc. This will be a fun event and would be nice if it brought in some funds for DHHSC.

Our Fresno HQ staff will plan a Holiday Car Parade on December 16<sup>th</sup> and outreach staff will plan holiday-themed Zoom events that same week but on different days. Zoom events can include holiday ASL stories, holiday-themed arts & crafts, etc. We want to do something fun and festive for the holidays. We will be sure to include different holidays, such as Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah.

In the meantime, we are working with many FSU students on various Service Learning Projects. One group is doing a yoga fundraiser on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and another group is planning a Zoom Halloween event at the end of this month. One group wants to do a soap and t-shirt fundraising project for DHHSC but details are still being discussed. One student connected me to Dutch Brothers and I will soon do a Deaf culture training with their regional managers and employees. What an exciting opportunity! The students are sure keeping us busy!

We are hosting a Zoom painting workshop this Saturday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m., funded by our Central California Women's Conference grant. We are thrilled Jaclyn Vincent, Deaf artist from Riverside area, will be leading this workshop. It's not too late to sign up!

Our staff are busy with many Zoom workshops, including Deaf Kids Chat, Deaf Tween/Teen Chat, PRAISEKODA-time parent support group and KODAs' activity group, among others. We are also working hard on our Census and CERV grants, and we will soon start our COVID-19 grant once the subcontract is signed. We also have other ongoing grants, such as our Fansler funded Deaf Thrive family services program.

In addition, we are participating in Combined Federal Campaign's focus of the week, which includes arts & culture, human rights, children and family services, education, global health, housing & shelter, mental health, etc., which includes a 1-minute video on each topic. We are matching as many of our services, programs, and events to their focus of the week so we can get DHHSC in the spotlight as much as possible. With everything virtual these days, we want to showcase DHHSC in as many ways as possible, and CFC is nationwide. This project is keeping our PR/Outreach Specialist busy!

Also, please keep DHHSC in mind for #GivingTuesday, which is scheduled for Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. We will be spotlighting specific programs, so please share our

promotions with your friends, families, colleagues, students, etc. as this is a great way to raise awareness about and funds for DHHSC.

IX. Fundraising report – N/A

X. General Board comments

- a. New board members were introduced. Salvador Garcia Mexican Deaf man from Tulare, Jessica Lozano-Delgado mother of 3 Deaf children has learned sign language through DHHSC ROCK program, Nicole Hurt a Deaf-blind individual and involved in Deaf-blind support group, from Visalia, Jaime Clay raised in Madera, previously worked for DHHSC, and now working with senior citizens. She as in Prather but left because of the fires, and is now in Chowchilla.

XI. Unfinished Business

XII. New business –

- a. Due to time constraints we are unable to discuss all of these concepts, so the board was asked what they felt was priority. SL mentioned that we should postpone voting of members until December when we know more about the board members. Sal mentioned that the current board members are under a lot of stress and responsibility with the minimal executive members. SL suggests that we not rush to fill the positions and get to know nominees. Board president mentions that there is a lot of work being done behind the scenes. We will table the discussion for now. Michelle suggests an emergency meeting in November. Trisha motions to table the discussion on voting for members. Nicole Hurt makes an inquiry about a board position of PR. Trisha indicates more discussion is needed, and therefore reiterates her request to table the discussion. Motion is seconded by SL.
- b. Trisha – Creation of new position, “Advisors to the Board”
- c. Trisha – Fill in vacant positions
- d. Trisha – New committee – Social media and Public Relations
- e. Jessica – Halloween Safety and CDC guidelines  
Tulare County has Sign Language reading time. They also recommend reverse trick or treating with cloth masks underneath costume masks.

XIII. Public comments: 3 minutes

XIV. Announcements

- a. Organization We the Deaf People is providing cloth masks and yellow cards for when individuals are stopped by police in order to prevent miscommunication.
- b. Masks and hand sanitizer are readily available at DHHSC for staff or community members in need.
- c. Tulare County has food, mask, and diapers available at the food banks.

XV. Closed session (if needed)

- a. Need for support of each board member. Bylaws have not been changed or updated because changes required at least 51% majority, and with only 4 board members that was not possible. Suggested edits to bylaws should be sent to Trisha

XVI. Adjournment-7:20pm