



## DHHSC BOARD MEETING AGENDA

11 AM, Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- I. Call to Order –  
Board members Present: Steve Longo, Serena Johnson, Trisha Houston, Patricia Parker
- II. Approval of Agenda Items
- III. Auditor's report
  - a. Positive net gain ~\$79,060 \$1.1 million unrestricted. \$34k donor restricted (VDF, Women's Conference, etc)
- IV. Approval of September board minutes
- V. Approval of October board minutes
- VI. President's Report – Trisha Houston
  - a. Rough year personally, and difficult time transitioning due to COVID-19. DHHSC is recognized throughout the valley, and has been recognized by various agencies and Fresno State. Recognition of racial disparities and the board supports and stands behind the movement to impact and affect positive social change. The board is here to listen and is willing to have uncomfortable conversation.
- VII. Vice President's Report – N/A
- VIII. Secretary's Report – Serena Johnson
- IX. Treasurer's report – Steve Longo
  - a. October – February were able to match funds. So far everything has been on track. Report is available for individuals to see.
  - b. Martha's Vineyard had one of the biggest turnouts ever, was impressed by the outcome. Have booths outside, instead of everything inside. 549 attendees earned ~\$2,000  
\$74 bookstore  
\$128 DB bake sale  
Quilting raffle \$95 Will need a bigger venue  
need to update computer system and server due to issues encountered with slow internet speeds. Malware caused problems and we were able to get fixed. We moved server host to different website to make it more secure.
- X. Executive Director's report– Michelle Bronson

## **Budget Updates:**

We got grant funding from several sources, of which we are thrilled! We received:

- \$4,000 from FSU's Humanics Department's Students4Giving for EDD interpreting services and interpreting services for Deaf staff as needed
- \$5,000 from Stevenson Philanthropy for our Salinas' ROCK program
- \$5,500 from United Way Tulare COVID-19 Fund (to do online D-Well health and safety workshops)
- \$9,000 from NorCal as part of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) funding to establish and operate the statewide LEAD-K Family Services project
- \$10,000 from First 5 Fresno for PraiseKODA support group/activities (to be spread out over two years), which also meets one of our Board's Five-Year Strategic Goals
- \$125,000 from EDD Wagner-Peyser Funding to continue our EDD services

We are, of course, thrilled and will put the funds to good use. We are appreciative of any funds we receive during the pandemic, especially with donations primarily focused on COVID-19 related needs, not the usual services and programs.

We recently applied for grant funding through United Way Merced and Cigna Foundation. We will soon apply for funding for Helping Hands (services for the DeafBlind and Deaf and Hard of Hearing senior citizens) through Hearst Foundation. We are being currently reviewed by Harden Foundation to continue our Deaf Access systems advocacy program offered through our Salinas outreach office.

We also received approximately \$1,650 in #GivingTuesdayNow on May 5th for two new laptops to be purchased for use by DHHSC staff, especially for remote services and videos. Many of our laptops are old and broken now. We're slowly replacing them one by one whenever possible.

## **Staffing Update:**

Our new Merced Client Services Specialist, Mariel Fabiola Ortiz-Herrera, will join us on July 1<sup>st</sup>, when all four of our DHHSC offices reopen.

## **Agency Updates:**

We will reopen our offices July 1st. We are now focusing on getting all four offices outfitted with shower curtains (recommended by other professionals to save on money; cheaper than plexiglass) to serve as dividers and with COVID-19 signage and floor markings. We also ordered plexiglass to be installed on our HQ's lobby counter and are still waiting for some parts, which are on backorder. We are also ordering no touch thermometers to be used with staff and clients, but for clients, they will be by appointment only until we can safely reopen our building (when it is approved for more people to enter the building, such as our community room). Before staff and clients are allowed inside the building, all must have their temperature checked and complete daily logs relating to COVID-19 symptoms. These procedures will also

keep us in compliance with health and safety laws relating to COVID-19. If any shows a fever and/or COVID-19 symptoms, clients will be sent home and encouraged to see their doctor, and staff will be sent to Concentra to be checked.

With so many people nervous with large indoor events and gatherings, we have canceled VDF and Holiday Luncheon this year. Hopefully, we will get donations and sponsorships then. None were coming in this year because of COVID-19. In the meantime, we will work on offering online events, especially during Deaf Awareness Week.

Since mid-March when we closed due to COVID-19 and shelter-in-place orders, we have been working hard on switching over to Zoom for appointments, classes, and workshops. We use Zoom for our weekly staff meetings and used Zoom for our all-day workshop with Sharon Neumann Solow last Friday. We also use videophones, Marco Polo, FaceTime, etc. to keep in communication with our clients, and for those without internet access or mobile devices, our staff will conduct home visits, as long as both they and clients are not exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms. Some will even go up to the window, if neither staff nor clients are comfortable meeting inside. For home visits, staff are required to wear masks and practice social distancing. Our services remain the same, except for community education. However, we plan to start offering more soon through Zoom as our staff are becoming familiar with the Zoom features.

We are sad to have had to cancel so many events the past few months but everyone's health and safety are our top priority. We are just thankful that we have been able to continue providing services, albeit remotely.

- XI. Fundraising report – N/A
- XII. General Board comments
- XIII. Unfinished Business
  - a. Approval of section one ratified bylaws
    - i. Motion to approve section 1 by Serena 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patty
    - ii. No discussion. Passed motion to allow meetings 4 times a year.
- XIV. New business –
  - a. Propose meetings be virtual to increase member recruitment by SL
    - i. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Serena
    - ii. Discussion: will allow us to recruit members from other areas (e.g. Merced, Visiala) Also if a board member is ill and unable to attend, virtual meetings will be a more viable option for individuals. Motion passed unanimously.
- XV. Public comments: 3 minutes
  - a. One host signing, one person moderating; Suggestion of 1 week advance notice; For next board meeting will plan to have 2 intern students moderating chat. Social media (twitter link) is not working. Board meeting flyer needs to add email address (boardpresident@dhhsc.org)
- XVI. Announcements
- XVII. Closed session (if needed)

XVIII. Adjournment-