



DHHSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

6 PM

- I. Call to Order –
 - A) Starting time: 6:01PM
 - B) Board members Present:
 - a) Steve Longo
 - b) Nicole Hurt
 - c) Jaime Johnson-Clay
 - d) Jessica Lozano-Delgado
 - e) Christian Gentile
 - f) Patty Killough
 - g) Ana Virnig
 - h) Christian Gentile
- II. Approval of Agenda Items
 - A) The Agenda was shared on screen.
 - B) Killough advised a date change, from Sept. 2023 to March 2023, needed for the reference to the minutes.

- C) Motion to approve the Agenda with correction was approved; none opposed

III. Approval of March 2023 Board Minutes.

- A) The Minutes were shared on screen..
- B) Longo advised of changes needed:
 - a) Change reference to “Interim Secretary” position to “Secretary.”
 - b) For the Treasurer Report, replace Longo’s name with Virnig’s name.
- C) Motion to approve the Minutes with corrections was approved; none opposed

IV. President’s Report- Longo

- A) Report shared on screen
- B) Ad Hoc Committee meetings: An AdHoc Committee meeting is a “Standing meeting.” They can be called as issues arise or as tasks are needing completion.
- C) Board Training: The dates for this training will need to be rescheduled in the Fall.
- D) Bylaws: DHHSC’s law group returned to the bylaws, and the board is currently looking them over for corrections. Once approved by the board, they will be returned to the law group.
- E) Documents: DHHSC has recently required many signatures; Longo shared appreciation for e-signature abilities.
- F) Martha’s Vineyard: The last Martha’s Vineyard event was held this last March. Funds were collected with the Square device. Different events will replace the Martha’s Vineyard in the future.

- G) ED Evaluation: We are in need of the form used previously by the board to evaluate the director. Upon receipt, the board will look it over for potential updates before it is used.
 - a) Hurt: Asked if this is a topic that should be discussed or planned further in an Ad Hoc meeting. Social Services requires that DHHSC provides an evaluation; yet, it hasn't been done for 2 years.
- H) Recent Pasadena Deaf Expo: Longo attended a recent Deaf Expo in Pasadena and was surprised by the smaller numbers in attendance.
- I) Mobile App: Information about an opportunity to test out a new mobile app that could potentially support the DHHSC and the Deaf community in keeping up with information “on the go” about events.

V. Vice President’s report- Hurt

- A) Ad Hoc April 2023: This was a successful two hour discussion and brainstorm session. Additional Ad Hoc will be planned.
- B) Board Training: Apodaca, the trainer / owner, advised that we could potentially save money on training through effective scheduling with staff. The training will be reschedule.
- C) Training for Fundraising: Seeking those knowledgeable / experienced in fundraising to train the board on how to do fundraising.
- D) Sammy’s Tacos: Great company and people in general; we want to use them again for future events.
- E) Virnig - New Treasurer: Virnig is doing a great job and has already met with Bronson, DHHSC Director. As requested by Virnig, the board will meet about VDF prior to the next VDF event, likely in October 2023.

- F) Lozano-Delgado & Gentile - new fundraising responsibilities: Both are highly motivated and have been quick to get DHHSC involved in local opportunities. They are looking into getting the board involved with Art Groove for opportunities in selling art donations and educating others about DHHSC. Additional opportunities may include a 5K run that could potentially be paired with Giving Tuesday.
- G) Art Show / DHHSC / Fresno State: DHHSC received over \$400 in sales and donations. This includes the sales of Hurt's photos and Lewis' artwork.
- H) DHHSC Women's Conference: This will be held next month, will include Sammy's Tacos, dance lessons, and an art activity.
 - a) Johnson-Clay: Recently spoke with DHHSC and was told no tickets have been sold yet. Hurt advised that she already bought her ticket and encouraged others to join.
 - b) Sanborn: Confirmed that the flyer is posted on the DHHSC website and indicated that people do need reminders. Sanborn will check to determine if online sales and in-person sales numbers can be identified separately. Tickets will also be sold that day. The online deadline is June 2nd at 5pm. Why? The registration list and count is utilized for safety reasons.

VI. Secretary's Report- Patty Killough

- A) Shared report
- B) DHHSC Staff member Krystal Rios Harris & DHHSC Intern Bec Fenn: They provide education about independent living skills and future opportunities for DHH high school students. In addition, ASL instruction and DHH support is being provided to a special education

teacher with a few Deaf students. Bec's internship just ended, and she will be missed.

- C) Hurt: Asked Killough about ASL skill level of DHH teaching staff in Salinas. Killough advised that she is unaware of ASL skill levels of teachers except for Kern working at the high school. However, she advised that the interpreters are highly skilled in ASL.

VII. Treasurer's Report- Ana Virnig

- A) Shared report on screen
- B) Review Report: The finance staff has done a lot of work; there is still a lot of work left to do to catch up. DHHSC is in good standing. The numbers are estimates right now because grants still need to be tracked and invoices are due. The report reflects Jan through April 2023.
- C) Fiscal Year: Longo and Hurt provided clarification about the fiscal year works, and that the last day is June 30.

VII. Executive Director's Report- Michelle Bronson

- A) Bronson is on vacation; Longo is reporting.
- B) Budget update: The First 5 grant was submitted to Merced. If approved, it will pay for interpreting and community education.
- C) Stevenson Philanthropy Grant: High school students chose DHHSC for this grant. It is being used for the D-Well Program and run by Salinas staff.
- D) EDD: We are awaiting EDD's response to our request for their proposal. We are hoping to get another year of funding.
- E) Staff updates:
 - a) Jessica returned as Client Services Specialist in the Visalia office.

- b) Lauren's job has ended; we are grateful to her for filling in for a while.
- c) Kayla, Salinas' Client Specialist, just shared that her last day will be on August 4.
- F) Compliance issues / concerns: None.
- G) CDSS: CDSS made their first visit to us and any of our sister agencies in eight years on April 3 and 4. The delay in visiting was due to their budget, COVID, and more. The new chief manager of Deaf services wants to get to know all sister agencies.
- H) Deaf Art Show: Fresno State hosted a Deaf art show on April 14 at On Edge, a coffee house in Clovis, and DHHSC had a booth there.
- I) DHHSC's Deaf Women's Conference: This is coming up, and the theme is Rekindling Passion for Life
- J) The 40th Anniversary Gala: This will be held in June 2024. It will potentially be held at a winery; prices are currently being compared.
 - a) Hurt: Expressed that a chair person needs to be selected for this event. This will be discussed during the next Ad Hoc meeting.

IX. Fundraising Report- Lozano-Delgado & Gentile

- A) Lozano-Delgado & Gentile meet weekly to discuss and brainstorm fundraising ideas.
- B) Lozano-Delgado: Next focus for fundraiser: Panda Express
- C) Gentile: Art Groove at the River Park venue has a vendor application that DHHSC can use to attend the 3rd Friday on a monthly basis. Gentile will attend on May 19 to observe and see how many people go, and then he will report back to consider DHHSC attending the June event.
 - a) Hurt: Advised that the board can ask for donations.

- b) Longo: Suggested involvement in another community art event as well, and will bring it up for discussion at the next Ad Hoc meeting.
- D) Lozano-Delgado: DHHSC can request donations directly from businesses. Many businesses have expressed interest; however, they require a business letter. A template needs to be created for a request letter; this will be discussed with Bronson.
- E) Gentile: Found online training about fundraising; will take it online; Lozano-Delgado is also interested.

X. Spotlights

- A) Kayla Gonzales RE: Grant Programs
 - a) Client Services Specialist for Salinas Office
 - b) Works out of the Visalia office
 - c) Kayla hosts Deaf Strong Group workshops monthly on Zoom:
 - i) Deaf Strong: Topics include learning how to budget money, understanding financial scams, learning about SSI, and more.
 - ii) Parents of Deaf Children: This is a parent support group that includes advice.
 - d) CoHosts workshops with Krystal Rios Harris
 - i) Tech Time through Zoom and in person: Teaching how to use technology, for example how to prevent identity theft, dangers of sharing information online. Meets monthly.
 - ii) D-Well: Deaf Wellness. Similar to Deaf Strong. Includes how to eat healthy, mental health, etc.. Meets monthly.
 - e) Longo & Hurt: Asked if another staff member will replace Gonzales. Gonzales advised that Rios Harris will take over the

workshops provided to the Salinas area; Gonzales will provide training. In addition, another staff member will likely replace Gonzales in Visalia.

f) Hurt: Asked if the grant money supporting the position will continue. Gonzales advised that there is about one year left for the grant to continue to support someone else in Gonzales place.

XI. General Board Comments- None.

XII. Old Business

A. Bylaws: Longo expressed that we will be continuing to work on the bylaws. The goal is to complete them by the end of May. After corrections are made, the bylaws will be sent to board members for approval and then to Bronson.

B. Ad Hoc Meetings: Longo advised that the board will continue to hold Ad Hoc meetings. Some board members expressed dates for when they are available and when they are not. Availability for the next Ad Hoc meeting will be discussed further at a later time.

XIII. New Business- None

XIV. Announcements- None

XV. Closed Session

A. Board Reports: Hurt brought up that the interpreting team really needs to be sent the reports a day or two in advance of our board meetings to prepare to interpret.

XVI. Adjournment- 7:58PM