

1 **GREATER LOS ANGELES AGENCY ON DEAFNESS, INC.**
2 **Executive Agency Board of Directors**
3 **Wednesday, April 28, 2010**
4 **MINUTES**
5

6 **President Kurs called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. A quorum was present.**
7

8 **I. ROLL CALL**
9

10 Board Members Present:

11 David Kurs-President, Stephen Schultz-Treasurer, Fred Lovitch, John Arce, Robert Sidansky, Robert
12 Sutton, Deborah Merryman
13

14 Ex-Officio:
15

16 Absent:

17 Etta Stecker-Vice President, Sheri Hithe-Hultgren-Secretary, Modela Kurzet, Jonathan Weiss
18

19 Visitors:

20 None
21

22 Staff Present:

23 Dr. Patricia Hughes
24

25 Interpreters:

26 Barbara Mathis and Laura Ripplinger
27

28 Recording Secretary:

29 Jainah Ranger
30

31 **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of November 10, 2009**

32 Page 3, Line 40 spell out "FMO" "For Males Only"

33 Sidansky moves to approve the minutes with corrections. Schultz abstains. Sutton Seconds. **MSC.**
34

35 **III. OFFICER'S REPORTS**

36 President's Report:

37 Kurs mentioned Hithe-Hultgren's email suggesting the possibility of having the Board Meeting on a
38 different day of the week. Kurs suggested moving the Board Meetings to Saturdays mornings for a
39 breakfast meeting. Saturdays would be difficult for most Board Members as they have other obligations.
40 Perhaps Board Meetings could be moved to a different week day but not Saturdays. Hughes mentioned
41 that it may difficult to get interpreters as the interpreters for board meetings are already scheduled for the
42 year. Sutton moves to change Board Meetings to the last Thursday of the month starting in June until the
43 Board Meeting needs to be changed again. Merryman seconds. All oppose. Motion failed.

44 Kurs is not able to go to the House of Blues (HOB) but encourages Board Members to attend or to make a
45 donation. Sidansky will not be attending the HOB as he will be volunteering at the Strawberry Festival.
46 The site visit from The California Community Foundation (CCF) on March 29, 2010 went well. Kurs
47 attended the site visit as CCF required one Board Member to be present. CCF wants GLAD to update
48 GLAD's Five Year Plan. The Five Year Plan has not been updated since 2003. We need to create a new
49 Five Year Plan with precise goals. Hughes said that CCF wants us to complete the Five Year Plan by
50 November 2010. The grant is about \$37,000. Kurs would like to see an improvement in Board

1 participation/donations.

2
3 Vice President's Report:

4 No Report

5
6 Treasurer's Report:

7 Schultz referred to the Controller's Report **as of today's date** was given to the finance committee with the
8 following information -

- 9
- 10 • **Overall cash position today** for DAHC, GLAD and LifeSigns is **\$1,182,970**.
 - 11 • **Overall accounts receivable balance** is **\$772,617** which comprised of **GLAD balance of \$288,247**
12 and **LifeSigns balance of \$484,370**.
 - 13 • **Overall accounts payable is \$24,842**.
- 14

15 Financial reports **as of 3/31/10** was given to the finance committee presented by our controller with the
16 following information –

17
18 Consolidated profit and loss for year to date (**nine months ending 3/31/10**) shows **a profit of \$198,067** as
19 compared to a **profit of \$93,379 a year ago**. The reason for our profit for the past seven months is due to
20 the generous donation of \$150,000 from LACD for the for the new annex building.

- 21 • **GLAD's year to date revenues as of 3/31/10** was **\$2,894,548 which is \$37,449 more than prior**
22 **year**.
- 23 • **LifeSigns's year to date revenues as of 3/31/10** was **\$1,859,651 which is \$89,930 more than**
24 **prior year**.
- 25 • **GLAD's 3/31/10 aging accounts receivable balance** was **\$451,732 as compared to 1/31/10**
26 **balance of \$750,648**.
- 27 • **LifeSigns's 3/31/10 aging accounts receivable balance** was **\$516,935 as compared to 1/31/10**
28 **balance of \$457,834**.
- 29

30 The refinance for the GLAD building is finally completed with a 6.5 % interest rate.

31 Arce stated that it looks like GLAD's donations are up due to LACD's generous donation of \$150,000.
32 The Finance Committee discussed putting the \$150,000 into a restricted fund account.

33
34 Secretary's Report:

35 No Report

36 37 **IV. CEO'S REPORT**

38 This month is full of email flurry on 24/7 basis in regards to AB 2072. AB 2072 was passed in the
39 Assembly Health Committee. We tried to either make amendments to the bill or kill it. AB 2072 is to give
40 parents of deaf/hard of hearing babies' information on hearing loss. The problem with it is that it is one
41 sided. Parents get information from audiologists who are not trained to discuss Language acquisition.
42 Audiologists usually recommend cochlear implants creating false hopes for parents into thinking that their
43 babies would be cured. We want the Department of Education oversee this program and ensure that
44 parents are receiving proper information so they can make informed decisions. We need to know how the
45 state can be assured that the information being provided to parents is comprehensive, evidence- based,
46 unbiased, and accurate.

47
48 Background on this AB 2072 is that Assembly Member Mendoza from Norwalk representing some of OC
49 and LA was recruited by a group of organizations representing parents and schools who believe in oralism

1 and are vehemently against American Sign Language. Mendoza authored an amendment that favors this
2 group without consulting with other stakeholders like us who have more experience in education for
3 children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

4
5 I serve on the core group working on drafts and letters; thus, for the flurry of emails. There are 12
6 members on the core group and over 100 readers. Mendoza will meet with some stakeholders in
7 Sacramento on this coming Wednesday. Mendoza is interested in having a meeting for Southern
8 Californians; thus, I extended an invitation for him to use GLAD facility for the meeting and the tour, too.
9 Right now I am working with his deputy director in identifying a date to meet and hopefully here at
10 GLAD. We will be uploading a new letter in our webpage for people to send letters to Assembly Members
11 to kill the AB2072 if Mendoza continues refusing to make changes.

12
13 We might have a meeting at OCDEAF and it was just decided today.

14 15 *GRANTS:*

- 16 • City of Palmdale is recommending that we be awarded approximately \$14,000 instead of \$10,400.
17 The council will meet and vote on May 5th
- 18 • California Wellness will announce around June 18th
- 19 • California Community Foundation will announce in June.
- 20 • National Campaign - the application is due June 1st or June 8th, it depends on which tier we choose
21 to apply.
- 22 • Employment Development Department application is due May 14th.

23 24 *Human Services*

25 The Clothesline Project was a big success. We had over 40 T-shirts painted by community members
26 expressing their feelings about domestic violence. We had information provided regarding types of
27 violence and where one can go for help in both the written form, pictures, and through ASL DVDs.

28 29 *Hard of Hearing Program*

30 We are receiving consumers and other service providers asking for information on low-cost hearing aids
31 and repairs (sometimes due to Medi-Cal cuts).

32 33 *Parent Connections*

34 We met with over 30 parents at Holy Angels Catholic Church.

35 36 *DAHC*

37 Residents are asking for a donation of a treadmill or Body Flex Power for them to help improve their
38 physical and spiritual well-being. It is very challenging to seek donations from companies.

39 40 *Employment Development Department*

41 It has been very challenging placing jobs in this economy. For example, last year Anaheim had 19
42 placements and as of March 31st, we had 4 placements.

43 We sent EDD staff to different job fairs, recruitment fairs and referred some consumers to Department of
44 Rehabilitation to take advantage of their OJT (On Job Training).

45 46 *Legal Cases*

47 The challenge is getting the timeline of events that had taken place from the client. Also, to make sure the
48 consumer answers the question asked. Our advocates work closely with consumers who need lawyers
49 preparing the case, timelines, and other fact findings, making it easier for the attorney to accept our cases.

1 It is not easy to find pro bono attorneys or attorneys who are willing to do it on contingency fees.

2

3 *Health Education*

4 Community Challenge Grant (CCG) exceeded the goal by having 123 students enrolled in an 8 hour
5 workshops in February. 51 students completed the entire program.

6

7 *Ryan White:* We started our 20th year of Ryan White CARE Act in March 2010. This program is to
8 provide interpreting services to different HIV/AIDS clinics that have clients who are deaf/hard of hearing.

9

10 *Breast Cancer*

11 Komen: 6 month surveys collected: 42/40 (105% goal met) – completed

12 CBCRP: 12 month surveys collected: 161/200 (81% goal met)

13

14 *Human Resources*

15 As of April 23, we have 73 employees and one part time employee. We have 3 job openings which are:

16 Community Interpreter – LA

17 Job Developer/Interpreter – Crenshaw

18 Community Advocate – Riverside

19

20 We will have 11 employees cover the Deaf Nation booth on May 1st.

21

22 *Public Relations*

23 *House of Blues* – Sunday, May 16th

24 I am concerned because we are nearing May 16th and we sold 97 seats. We paid for 150 seats; however,
25 we can go up to 200 seats. It would be nice if more Board Members purchase tickets. 2 board members
26 have purchased tickets. Thank you.

27

28 Event flyers have been mailed. We are still seeking additional sponsors. Bob Hiltermann confirmed as the
29 event MC and Lexi Marman and Brian Michael Cole will perform a duet (song signed in ASL).

30 We are still looking for a celebrity. One celebrity expressed an interest; however, was called out of
31 country. Lupe Ontiveros is helping us recruit some of her friends.

32

33 House of Blues is supposed to be our biggest fund raiser event, so please make it happen.

34

35 *Eyes of Deafness: photography by deaf and hard of hearing adults*

36 Select prints from Eyes of Deafness exhibit will be featured at HOB event.

37

38 *Vagina Monologues*

39 Vagina Monologues in ASL featuring an all Deaf Cast and voiced by hearing actresses and interpreters.

40 300 attended the show

41 230 attended the VIP after-party reception (people paid extra to attend this)

42 \$3,633 net profit

43 Thanks to 3 Board Members who attended the show and I hope they enjoyed the show.

44 Both afternoon and evening shows were sold out. The funds from Vagina Monologues went to GLAD's
45 domestic violence program. Possibly GLAD could have a show every two years. Sheree Devereaux (the
46 producer), actresses, voice actresses, and stage crew did a wonderful job.

47

48

49 *See What I'm Saying*

50 GLAD Night was on March 27th at 730 pm show

1 Huge success – packed theater

2

3 *Annual Report*

4 The Annual Report draft should be ready for Board review by Wednesday

5

6 *Deaf Nation*

7 We will have 3 booths on May 1st at the Pomona Fairplex

8

9 *Deaf Asia Festival*

10 We will have an information booth at Deaf Asia Festival on June 12th in downtown LA

11

12 *Magic Mountains*

13 Saturday, June 5th

14 GLAD/WRAD co-hosts

15 Tickets are on sale now

16

17 Web advertising rates have been posted on GLAD’s site

18

19 *LifeSigns*

20 Filled Requests 1,418

21 Cancellations 140

22 No Interpreter Available 45

23 Emergency 144

24

25 *Misc*

26 Annex Project: We got four Architect Proposals for Annex Demolition. We will select one and make a
27 recommendation to the City of LA end of next week. We will need to find out what the community wants
28 for the Annex building.

29

30 *Health Insurance Selection Process:* May is our open enrollment month. It is challenging because the rate
31 has increased by approximately 8%. We want to give as much as we can to the staff due to no salary and
32 COLA increases in couple of years.

33

34 *Quarterly Staff Meeting*

35 We will have our quarterly staff meeting on May 5th and will be serving Mexican food to staff. We will
36 announce the two Health Insurance options to the staff and go through the series of benefits that we have to
37 offer.

38

39 *VCC (Visual Communication Center)*

40 The VCC is finally becoming a reality. Sorenson came on April 27, 2010 to check out their kiosks.

41

42 *ADWAS (Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services)*

43 We had sent two staff from the Riverside office and two staff from the Los Angeles office to ADWAS in
44 Seattle for an in depth training on domestic violence. Marylyn Smith, the directors of ADWAS, came last
45 week for a two day training. On the first day there was training for advocates and directors. The second
46 day there was a meeting with different agencies, shelters, including Peace Over Violence. The meeting
47 was very productive.

48

49

1 **V. SUBSIDIARY REPORTS**

2 LIFESIGNS Chair Report:

3 Arce reported the Board met on March 17, 2010. LifeSigns and NexTalk have been looking into the
4 possibility of establishing VRI software for local hospitals that allows instant access to interpreters through
5 the use of a webcam for deaf patients until an interpreter can physically arrive.

6 LifeSigns has funds set aside for interpreting CEU workshops and is looking into the possibility of
7 becoming a sponsor of CEUs.

8 There is an individual that is interested in joining the LifeSigns Board and will be attending the next Board
9 Meeting.

10
11 DAHC Chair Report:

12 No Report

13
14 CODIE Report:

15 No Report

16
17 TRI COUNTY Report:

18 Sidansky mentioned on May 15th and 16th Tri County GLAD will have a booth at the Strawberry Festival.
19 The booth will be next to the children’s area and will be selling strawberry popcorn, mint lemonade and
20 other strawberry related foods. Sidansky encouraged Board Members to attend the Strawberry Festival on
21 May 15, 2010 and then House of Blues on May 16, 2010. Tri GLAD is working with hospitals to provide
22 better services for the deaf and hard of hearing community. The Director at Tri is constantly obtaining new
23 clients and does a wonderful job.

24
25 OC-DEAF Report:

26 Sutton reported last month that Deaf Awareness Day at Disneyland had a good turn out. Unfortunately, a
27 board member who works for Disney is no longer interested in participating on the OCDEAF Board. The
28 next Board Meeting is April 30, 2010.

29
30 **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

31 Finance Committee Report:

32 Sutton reinforced that the Board needs to be donating a 100% for the Annual Campaign and for the House
33 of Blues. Lovitch suggested announcing the Annual Campaign six months earlier instead of in December
34 so the Board has more notice. Hughes will remind the Board to donate a 100% in the fall. Discussion
35 ensued.

36
37 Governance Committee:

38 No Report

39
40 Nominations Committee:

41 Kurs mentioned the Nominations Committee is currently looking at two possible individuals for the Board.

42
43 Personnel Committee:

44 No Report

45
46 Fundraising Committee:

47 Hughes reported that GLAD will not be having the Taste of Eagle Rock this year due to lack of funding
48 but GLAD will be having the annual Luau on Saturday, August 21, 2010 and House of Blues on Sunday,
49 May 16, 2010.

50

1 **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2 Arce proposed having a sub committee for the new annex building after the demolition of the old annex
3 building is complete. Hughes stated that GLAD and CDD (Community Development Department) are
4 working together on selecting an architect for the demolition.
5

6 **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

7 None
8

9 **IX. PUBLIC INPUT**

10 None
11

12 **X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

13 Deaf Nation is this Saturday, May 1, 2010 in Pomona. Hughes will be attending the NAD conference in
14 July.
15

16 **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

17 Meeting adjourned 9:25pm. The next Board Meeting will be held May 26, 2010 at 7pm.
18

19 _____
20 Hithe-Hultgren
21 Board Secretary
22
23