

1 **GREATER LOS ANGELES AGENCY ON DEAFNESS, INC.**
2 **Executive Agency Board of Directors**
3 **Wednesday, November 30, 2011**
4 **MINUTES**

5
6 **President Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present.**
7

8 **I. ROLL CALL**
9

10 Board Members Present:

11 Stephen Schultz-President, John Arce-Treasurer, Fred Lovitch-Secretary, Robert Sidansky, David Kurs,
12 Robert Sutton, Modela Kurzet
13

14 Absent:

15 Mark Jones-Vice President, Barbie Gomez, Jonathan Weiss
16

17 Visitors:

18 None
19

20 Staff Present:

21 Dr. Patricia Hughes
22 Matt Brandfield
23

24 Interpreters:

25 Norman Galapin
26

27 Recording Secretary:

28 Jainah Ranger
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30 **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting of October 26, 2011**

31 Page 1, line 6, change "President Schultz" to "Vice President Jones"

32 Page 5, line 4, add "The discussion was tabled till next the next board meeting. No official motion was
33 passed."

34 Page 5, line 37, change "2002" to "1995"

35 Page 6, line 6-7, change "the board needs to make a motion and vote to approve the audit report" to "After
36 a recommendation from the Finance Committee, the board voted to approve it prior to the meeting via
37 electronic vote."

38 Sutton moves to approve the minutes with corrections. Sidansky seconded. **MSC.**
39

40 **III. OFFICER'S REPORTS**

41 President's Report:

42 Schultz reported that Weiss had called him to discuss the board holiday dinner. The board discussed where
43 to have the board holiday dinner. Discussion ensued. The board decided to have the holiday dinner here at
44 GLAD on December 14, 2011 at 6pm.
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46 Vice President's Report:

47 No Report
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Treasurer’s Report:

The handout of Controller’s Report as of today’s date was given to the finance committee with the following information -

- Overall cash position today for DAHC, GLAD and LifeSigns is \$1,376,798.
- Overall accounts receivable balance is \$1,134,512 which comprised of GLAD balance of \$557,206 and LifeSigns balance of \$577,306.

Financial reports as of 10/31/11 was given to the finance committee presented by our controller with the following information –

Consolidated profit and loss for year to date (four months ending 10/31/11) shows a loss of \$(17,673) as compared to a loss of \$(53,501) a year ago.

- Consolidated year to date revenues as of 10/31/11 was \$1,975,834 which is \$14,663 more than prior year.
- GLAD’s 10/31/11 net loss was \$(26,453) as compared to prior year net loss of \$(24,973).
- LifeSigns’s 10/31/11 net income was \$22,379 as compared to prior year net loss of \$(21,281).
- DAHC’s 10/31/11 net loss was \$(13,599) as compared to prior year net loss of \$(7,247).

Secretary’s Report:

Lovitch asked the board if he could use gmail for the board email address instead of MailStreet.com. Lovitch is having difficulty with accessing the board email through MailStreet.com. Discussion ensued. The board will use gmail instead of Mailstreet.com.

IV. CEO’S REPORT

Hughes reported that she is pleased to announce that we got a check of 44,000 from the Ahmanson Foundation to buy a wheelchair accessible van for our residents. Their project officer had a tour of GLAD and a short meeting with GLAD CEO to learn more about GLAD. We will be working with a Ford company to order the van. It is not in stock right now.

LIFESIGNS

Hughes received information from the CA Dept of Public Records on Community Services for the Deaf and Interpreting and Consulting Services, Inc’s bid proposals so she can better understand why they were awarded the majority of CA’s interpreting service contracts through the Department of General Services.

STATS

Interpreter Requests Filled	901
Cancellations	176
No Interpreter Available	38
Emergency	142

According to stats from the Kern County, the cancellation is very high. There were 88 cancelations last month, the CEO will need to look into this and hire a staff interpreter based in the Kern County.

HUMAN SERVICES

We will have World AIDS Day at BGLAD on December 1st and World AIDS Day here on December 2nd. We will have our 28th Annual Children Holiday Celebration at the Occidental College on this coming Saturday.

Success Story:

Our advocate worked with a consumer for awhile assisting the consumer with studying for US citizenship test. She passed it with flying colors. She will take the oath in Fresno.

Community Booths/Events:

1 Domestic Violence Women’s Day/Basic Self Defense Training and workshop on “Some Roses Have
2 Thorns”

3 Advocates had in house training to discuss advocacy language

4 *TRENDS:*

5 Many consumers reported that they were not happy with interpreters due to poor quality. They thought it
6 was LifeSigns but after our advocates checked out, the interpreters were dispatched by other companies
7 whose background in ASL is zero to a low minimum. Our advocates empowered our consumers to file
8 complaints with appropriate agencies.

9 Housing is becoming scarce for people who lost their houses or who could not afford apartment rent.

10 Challenges:

11 *BGLAD* community is not happy with the lack of interpreters. Most senior citizens prefer to see doctors in
12 the morning; however, most of our freelance interpreters work as school interpreters; thus, they are not
13 available till after 3 pm or on Fridays.

14 *HARD OF HEARING*

15 We have an average of 40 to 54 participants on our online support group for hearing loss through
16 Facebook. Topics were Court Accommodations, Communication at Pools/Beaches, Hospital/Doctor
17 Office Communication, Family History of Hearing Loss, and Communication with Family, and Job
18 Interviews. One of the most popular topics is “should hard of hearing individuals disclose their hearing
19 lost to prospective employers and others?”

20 We work with consumers who have the newest Nucleus 5 (N5) cochlear implants. The internal component
21 of Cochlear Components has been recalled, citing a recent increase in device failures (many within the first
22 year, after an initially successful activation and usage). Of the devices that have failed, most are
23 rescheduled for re-implantation with the older Freedom implant.

24 *DAHC*

25 We had a thorough inspection of each apartment for fleas or ants. Through the inspection, we discovered
26 two units to have moths in their kitchens but no fleas. Residents are instructed to clean up their apartments
27 and pets to be treated for fleas.

28 *EDD*

29 We managed to make 25 job placements, mostly for the seasonal jobs. It has been challenging for our
30 EDD staff to convince consumers to apply for seasonal jobs because they are more interested in permanent
31 positions which is understandable.

32 We saw an increasing concern among unemployed individuals after being long term unemployed; they
33 may lose their UI benefits. We have started up a workshop “Employment Awareness” and meet quarterly
34 so that all of their questions and concerns can be addressed.

35 We had a cancellation of 27 appointments in one of our EDD offices due to different reasons like lack of
36 money for gas, depression, and frustration. Our staff called them and encouraged them to reschedule and
37 come in to see them. Many job seekers agreed to come and keep their appointments. It is challenge for
38 our EDD staff to be creative and continue to provide moral support.

39 Another barrier is restricted budget on mileage. We have a small budget for mileage to reimburse EDD
40 staff for their travels. We have to be creative and use videophones to meet with consumers and make cold
41 calls to companies instead of visiting companies in person. We have been successful with some cold calls
42 educating employers about our services and some of them become interested in meeting with our
43 consumers. Some consumers landed jobs with them.

44 *HEALTH EDUCATION*

45 We are nearing the completion of negotiation on our lawsuit against the CA Dept of Public Health in
46 regards to our Information and Education grant. We have an outstanding issue that needs to be ironed out.
47 If everything works out, we may be able to continue our Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program on a much
48 smaller scale.

49 We raised \$1,131 from our participation in AIDS Walk last October 16th.

50 We are planning to distribute the findings of our Breast Cancer Prevention Research DVD and booklets to

1 various agencies. It was a joint research done between UCLA and GLAD.
2 Challenges: We have concerns that there are clients who have HIV/and or AIDS are not receiving
3 services through Ryan White funded HIV services. We have the contract to provide interpreting services.
4 We have contacted the funding agency Office of AIDS Program and Policy to set up a meeting to discuss
5 about educating the other Ryan White funded agencies that they need to contact us for interpreting services
6 to their clients who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or deaf/blind.

7 *HUMAN RESOURCES*

8 We have 72 employees. We have four job openings.

9 *PUBLIC RELATIONS*

10 The annual campaign mailer was distributed through mail and social media. TO this date, we have raised
11 less than \$1,000.

12 UrbanSak will continue its promotion for GLAD through the month of November. The product was
13 featured at our booth during the MATA Expo. UrbanSak will donate 15% of GLAD driven sales back to
14 support our programs and services.

15 Disney Project. The dates have been changed. We should know within two weeks on new dates.

16 Global Electronics Recycling Event – January 4, 2012

17 Green fundraising event, an e-waste recycling event is a way to raise funds for GLAD while benefitting the
18 community is set for Jan 4th 9 am to 7 pm. The event involves collecting unwanted electronic equipment
19 that would be trashed and would pose a hazard to the environment. A proceed from every item collected
20 will directly benefit GLAD as they give \$0.16 per pound to us for all TVs, laptops, PCs, and monitors that
21 are collected.

22 Global e-Recyclers will send us materials (flyers and banners) to use to promote the event to our
23 community groups. Please spread the word to the community.

24 Holiday Toy Drive – Colombo’s Restaurant will be hosting a toy drive in support of our annual holiday
25 celebration.

26 House of Blues, we need to select a date.

27 *City Hall*

28 Councilmember Huizar’s new Field Deputy and Intern visited our center and brought a framed photo from
29 the awards reception in September. Two of our residents represented GLAD by participating in
30 Councilmember Huizar’s sponsored Eagle Rock’s Veteran’s Day parade.

31 CEO attended the open house at BGLAD which was a success on November 17th. There were
32 approximately 65 people attending. The open house was from 3 pm to 7 pm. Jennifer Olson was at the
33 open house too. We both participated in the meeting with representatives from the Department of
34 Rehabilitation in Bakersfield along with Janice England, the coordinator of our BGLAD outreach office,
35 on the 18th to discuss the possibility of working together to do some work for DOR. I am hesitant because
36 it is for fee service and with my experience, agencies based on for fee services usually lose money because
37 the amount of service needed often exceeds the cost of delivering the service. We are looking at it. We
38 were approached for the same kind here and I chose OCDEAF due to space availability. We will meet in
39 December to revisit the possibilities.

40 We met with a project officer from the Weingart Foundation last week. We need to get figures back to her.
41 My goal from now on is to foster relationships with project officers from different foundations.

42 The coalition heard back from Joseph Hoffman, the chief of Deaf Access Program at Department of Social
43 Services, as he is open to meet with us sometime in December or January. Some of us from the Coalition
44 want to share our grave concerns about competitors from out of state that have been aggressively bidding
45 for services here in California. We want to be sure that there is a clause in DSS ODA RFP that will limit
46 to agencies that have provided services IN the state for certain number of years.

47 As I mentioned earlier in the report that I have received a CD of proposals from competitors for the
48 interpreting service contract, I will be reviewing them.

49 I won’t need to testify as an expert witness for the plaintiff for this time for a law suit involving a
50 university. The university and the plaintiff are negotiating right now and if they can’t agree, there will be a

1 hearing. I will then be called to be an expert witness.
2 There will be a hearing on December 1st on our case against CNN.com. If I knew that it was a firm date, I
3 would have purchased an airplane ticket in advance for it; however, I learned yesterday that it would be for
4 sure on this Thursday. The ticket would cost approximately \$477.00. I have asked Jim Brune, DCARA's
5 Executive Director to attend on my behalf. He agreed and he will bring some people with him to the
6 hearing, too. The purpose of the hearing is to determine if we have the case. CNN.com attorneys made a
7 request for the judge to dismiss our case.

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9 **V. SUBSIDIARY REPORTS**

10 LIFESIGNS Chair Report:

11 No Report

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13 DAHC Chair Report:

14 Hughes reported that the residents will be receiving a van from Ford with \$44,000 donated from the
15 Ahmanson Foundation. A new resident will be moving in after HUD certifies the resident.

16 Hughes explained to the board that the window for each resident's apartment will cost \$8,500 to reseal the
17 windows. Arce expressed concern about the cost to reseal the windows. Schultz recommended that
18 GLAD look at different funding sources such as the Ahmanson Foundation to assist with the cost

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20 CODIE Report:

21 No Report

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23 TRI COUNTY Report:

24 Sidansky reported Tri GLAD is still investigating having a deaf house at the Strawberry Festival because it
25 is expensive to build.

26 Sidansky explained that he was a guest speaker at a church in Newbury Park to discuss the grant funded
27 film about deaf poetry called Deaf Jam. Deaf Jam was showed at the church. After the film Sidansky
28 explained about deaf culture and other deaf related subjects like cochlear implants. The church was very
29 welcoming and had a lot of questions about deafness.

30 The Tri GLAD's carpet in the office was very dirty so the advisory board chipped in to have the carpet
31 cleaned.

32 Tri County GLAD has a monthly English class for the deaf to improve their English. The class is taught
33 by a hearing person that signs.

34 February 10, 2012 Tri GLAD will be hosting a fundraiser at Johnny Rockets in Camerillo. Tri will receive
35 15% of the sales. Tri GLAD will have our holiday party at the Elks Lodge.

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37 OC-DEAF Report:

38 No Report

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40 **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

41 Finance Committee Report:

42 Arce reminded the Board that it is important that all board members donate to the annual campaign to
43 reflect 100% board member participation.

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45 Governance Committee:

46 No Report

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48 Nominations Committee:

49 No Report

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1 Personnel Committee:

2 No Report

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4 **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5 *A. Setting up the Foundation Board*

6 Sutton inquired if GLAD really needed a foundation board and if the GLAD board approaches their
7 current contacts in the right way the board could raise \$1 million. The board discussed whether or
8 not GLAD needs a foundation board. Arce suggested setting up an adhoc committee to investigate.
9 Discussion ensued. Sutton moves to table setting up a foundation board for now and later if the
10 GLAD board can set up a foundation board if needed and to remove from the agenda and minutes.

11 Kurs seconded. **MSC.**

12 *B. Annex Lot*

13 Kurs moves to plant grass and add sprinklers to half of the lot and leave dirt for the other half for
14 event parking. Open discussion. Hughes explained to the board that to plant grass and install
15 sprinklers system the City of LA would require a permit because GLAD is located in a mixed zone
16 of residential and business. Hughes will need to find out if the lot can be used for parking and if so
17 then GLAD will have to add lighting for the parking lot. Discussion ensued. Schultz suggested
18 that the grass be planted by using seeds. Sutton moves the board authorize Hughes to spend up to
19 \$8,000 to choose either grass or gravel. Sutton withdraws his motion. Kurs withdrew his motion.
20 The board agreed to table what to do with the annex lot till next board meeting once they know the
21 exact cost of grass or gravel to cover the lot.

22 *C. Memorial Guidelines for the GLAD Property*

23 Sidansky reported that he will work on memorial guidelines for the GLAD property during his
24 vacation.

25 *D. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA Proposition 63)*

26 Arce mentioned that LA County received funding from MHSA. Hughes has met often with Marvin
27 Southard from Department of Mental Health to see about establishing services for the deaf and hard
28 of hearing community.

29 *E. Five Year Plan*

30 No report

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32 **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

33 None

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35 **IX. PUBLIC INPUT**

36 None

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38 **X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

39 Kurzet asked Hughes if she could do a fundraiser for GLAD on New Year Eve party. All of the funds
40 would go to GLAD. Hughes confirmed that the auditorium is available for Kurzet's fundraiser.

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42 **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

43 Meeting adjourned 9:45pm. The next Board Meeting will be held at 7pm .

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46 _____
Fred Lovitch

47 Board Secretary

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