

NIHSDA Board of Directors
January 23, 2003

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the President at 1:07 PM/CST.
Roll Call:

PRESENT	NOTIFIED	NOT NOTIFIED
President – Mavany Verdugo Immed. Past Pres. – Nila Rinehart Sec.retary– LouAnn Tenequer Treasurer – Suellen Hixon Region 1 – Ann Belleau Lori Riley, Alt. Region 2 – Lee Turney Region 3 – Joyce Thomas Region 4 – Denise Keene Region 5 – Brenda Kofahl Region 6 – Caroline Alcaida Region 7 – Diane Coe Region 8 – Connie Guillory Region 10 – Connie Wirz	Region 9 – Alfreda Charlie Verna Henderson, Alt.	

Others present were: Toni Dobrec and Kathryn Helsel, TFA/MCS, Barbara Littledave, NHSA Staff Representative and Verna Thompson, NIHSDA Past President.

Action Items:

Minutes of the December 19, 2002 meeting, were accepted as posted on the NIHSDA website.

Suellen Hixon gave the Treasurer’s Report. Nila Rinehart moved and LouAnn Tenequer seconded to accept the report. Motion passed.

Kathryn Helsel gave the Membership Report. She reported as of today’s date there are 127 grantees who are members, which is a 78% of all grantees.

Discussion Items:

Region 5 (NM/CO) has selected a new Board Alternate
LouAnn Tenequer read a letter from Ruth Kie, the President of the New Mexico/Southern Colorado Indian Head Start Directors Association, stating that on December 6, 2002, the Association elected Colleen Alivado, Alamo Navajo, as the NIHSDA Board Alternate.

National Reporting System Task Force:

J. Kaibah Begay, Navajo Nation, was selected by Georgey Sparks to attend the focus group regarding the National Reporting System. The meeting was held on January 16, 2003. Ms. Begay informed the Board that it sounds like they, the Head Start Bureau, already has a system in place, but she sensed that the meeting or forum she attended was more like a formality of getting feedback from grantees. Ms. Begay shared at the forum that some Region 11 tribes don't have internet access; they are in rural areas. She asked the question "Was the cultural aspect of the reporting reviewed?" The Bureau is going to setup a task force to look at the different aspect of the reporting system and will look at tribes. Ms. Begay did not feel very welcome at this group session and had an uneasy feeling. Again, her sense was that it was just a listening session, they just took notes and did not give much feedback.

Information was share that the NRS is already being piloted (Navajo and Shoshone Arapaho are the 2 AI-AN pilot sites. It is a lot further down the road than we expect. The Director from Red Cliff was the other director invited by Georgey to attend but she could not make.

Diane made a recommendation that there needs to be someone from the Board to be placed on the task force or focus group. What about the testing with the Macro Group, no update given. There continues to be an improvement of research initiatives for Native American programs. Nila was on the focus group of the Macro study and they met once. They were going to go to AI-AN programs and implement the research project. Vern Thompson and Connie were part of the assessment. Verna said that the Macro Group was rapping up the survey.

Directors Institute, January 13-16, 2003, Washington, DC:

Georgey met with tribal reps. and shared information regarding the PIR and AA mandate; two items that do not look good for Region 11 Grantees. Region 11 is at 23% with Teachers who have AA's and probably will not reach the national goal of 50% by September 30, 2003. She also said that there were over 30 PIR's that were still out and should have been submitted by August 31, 2002.

Nila gave her report on the meeting in DC. There were about 1,000 Head Start Directors present. It was stressed that the Bureau was not changing Head Start but that it needed to improve. What the Bureau is working on is quality. Use one reporting system which will be administered at the beginning of school and at the end of school. Target the core domains to measure the quality of services. All 4 year olds in Head Start will be tested using the same instrument. The assessment would be conducted twice a year. The assessment would be a short 20-30 minutes. Not sure who would implement the test. There is a concern that teachers might change unfavorable scores. Not an entrance exam and the NRS are not to take the place of current local assessments already being conducted. If a program cannot deliver...would they be out of business? Advisory Committee Tom Shultz, Wade Horn and Wendy Hill were the individuals who addressed the group about the National Reporting System.

Implementation of the NRS:

Developing and testing in the spring of 2003.

Summer time they will send information out.

Fall 2003 is full implementation.

What is the funding mechanism for this? No discussion on this. Mavany and Nila will work on a letter expressing concern about the National Reporting System.

Report on J&J AMI Meeting:

Mavany said that they were unable to get a live viewable satellite connection with the Windy Hill meeting so Joan Ohl came on to talk to those attending the J&J meeting. Ms. Ohl shared that there is defiantly a shift in Head Start.

We need a presentation to NCAI. Need to get a paper ready for this. What's up with Executive Orders for consultation with Tribes? A recommendation was made to have a town hall meeting in the evening during the NIHSDA training conference.

Denise suggested that we talk to our local representatives in Congress to share the concerns we have. This is unfinished business. Need to itemize what we want to get through to our tribal leadership.

Nila talked about our current policy on representatives travel. Mavany will appoint a committee to look at the policy and procedures around travel. We have Representatives that are not meeting their responsibilities. We do not have a lot of money for travel and there is room for improvement.

A subcommittee was identified to review responsibilities of our NIHSDA Representatives for board members, they are: Suellen Hixon, Connie Guillory and Nila Rinehart. E-mail ideas and suggestions to the members for consideration.

The next NIHSDA face-to-face meeting will be one-half day on February 22 and all day on the 23 immediately following the Region 11 Conference.

Mavany talked about the Conference in June. We may need to refocus on the agenda because of everything that is coming up.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:31 PM CST.