

**NIHSDA
Board of Directors Meeting
June 15-21, 2007**

Call to Order: Theo Bayou, President, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. AKDST.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken by the Secretary, Ann Belleau. A quorum of the Board of Directors was established.

PRESENT	NOTIFIED	NOT NOTIFIED
President – Theo Bayou Secretary – Ann Belleau Treasurer – Joyce McClellan Region 1 – Frances Maney Region 2 – John Pavak Kevin Hedstrom, Alt. Region 3 – Hilda Marshall Sara Young Bird, Alt. Region 4 – Danny Wells Region 5 – Suellen Hixon (arrived Sat.) Region 7 – Mavany Verdugo Gil Gonzales, Alt. Region 8 – Vikki Bishop, Alt. Region 9 – Kay Wynecoop Jacki Haight, Alt. Region 10 – Ralph Booth	President Elect – Dorothy McCloud Region 5 – LouAnn Tenequer, Alt. Region 6 – Faye Smith, Alt. Region 8 – Susan Carlson	

Others Present: Kathryn Helsel and Toni Dobrec from MCS were also present.

Agenda Review and Approval: The agenda was reviewed. Agenda items were added – 2008 Budget Appropriations. John moved to approve with additions. Hilda seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of May 10, 2007: The minutes of May 10, 2007, were reviewed. Change spelling of Jackie to Jacki. Change the Alternate for Region 1 to replace the Regional Representative. Danny moved to approve the minutes with the changes. Frances seconded. Motion carried.

MOA with NIEA: Lillian Sparks did not contact Ann Belleau during the Native Language Summit to obtain the MOA.

Treasurer’s Report: Joyce reviewed the Check Register, Expense Report, and Revenue Report for May. Grant proposals that have been submitted to ANA and the Office of Community Service and possible fundraising was discussed. Fundraising will be discussed during the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting. John moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Hilda seconded. The motion passed.

Conference Budget and \$3.00 per Child Campaign: Kathryn discussed the importance of generating more revenue under the \$3.00 per Child Campaign. Kathryn reviewed the

planned conference budget and discussed the known actual differences from the planning figures. Ralph moved to accept the conference budget. John seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Kathryn provided an overview of the membership report. Kathryn will mail out membership invoices again when she returns from conference. The Board discussed the need to recruit more programs to join. There are a lot of new Directors that may not know how important NIHSDA is. Regional Reps/Board Members need to make efforts to reach out to Program Directors to encourage them to join and to welcome and support new Directors.

Attendance Record: The Attendance Report was reviewed. The time the Board members join the meeting after the meeting is called to order is now being recorded. Committee attendance was also reviewed.

2008 Appropriations: Head Start is slated for a 75 million dollar increase that does not cover the rising costs to operate which, in effect, is actually a cut. As a result programs are going to be forced to reduce/terminate services. Programs may need to reduce enrollment, transportation, etc. The Board will ask Ann Linehan what the possibility is for programs to reduce enrollment without a reduction in funding and other related concerns. Some Tribes contribute more funding to help maintain program services, however, Tribes are also dealing with budget cuts issues. List for Greg – cutting staff hours, terminating staff, transportation reductions, health insurance and fringe benefits are a huge expense.

Committee Meetings: Committee Assignments were reviewed and revised as appropriate, based on the Executive Committee assignments that were previously made. Frances was added to the Membership Committee. Jacki was added to the Education and Information Committee. Jacki is also interested in the Advocacy Committee. The strategic direction for each committee was provided. The committees broke into separate meetings for committee work.

Committee Reports:

- Budget, Finance, Development Committee report was given by Joyce. The committee reviewed their strategic direction and discussed the fund development. CD terms were discussed. Discussed soliciting to large corporations and casinos to generate funding in addition to grant proposals. Discussed if the amount of revenue that was projected is realistic. The committee requested an Executive Session to discuss the projected revenue and how or if it may impact the MCS contract and is there a Plan B in the event that MCS is no longer with us. The projected revenue is a goal that was established by the Board and the strategic plan will be visited in October to ensure a Plan B for when and if the MCS is no longer available to the Board. Danny moved to approve the committee report. Hilda seconded. Motion carried.
- Education/Information/Conference Committee was given by Theo. The committee suggested promoting next year's conference location during this conference. The committee discussed the web resources and recommended making a secure section for paid members on the NIHSDA web page to access resources and information just for paid members. The MCS will begin looking into developing a secure area. Mavany moved to accept the report. Kay seconded. Motion carried.

- Membership and Membership Services Committee report was given by Mavany. The committee reviewed their strategic directions. The committee discussed setting a deadline for paying membership dues in order to get the early bird discount for the conference. Member benefits and the fee for associate members was discussed. The committee recommended raising the associate member fee to \$75.00. Discussed the \$3.00 per child campaign/revenue goals. Kay moved to approve the committee report without increasing the associate member dues. Ralph seconded. Motion carried.
- By-Laws Committee Report was given by Ann. The committee reviewed the results of the Board Training Development Survey and identified the top three training topics. It was decided to roll the top three topics into one training session for the Board Meeting in October. The committee will discuss updating the Operations Manual once the by-laws revisions are approved so that the changes from the by-laws updates can be incorporated into the Operations Manual. Fifteen votes are still needed to approve the by-laws revisions. Kathryn will send a reminder to those programs that have not voted. Hilda moved to approve the committee report. Joyce seconded. Motion carried.

NHSA Report: Toni reported that NHSA has been dealing with some internal issues over the past few meetings relating to the election of officers. An audit was completed. An election occurred. Ron Herndon did not win the election. A write-in candidate won the election with 5,000+ votes but the Board overturned the election and voted to keep Ron as the President, because they felt the election was invalid. Ted Waters, attorney, recommended that NHSA review their by-laws and redo the election between Ron and the other candidate. NHSA is in an “ok” financial position. The current issue revolves around the election of the officers. NHSA continues to work on reauthorization/advocacy and state pre-k. Kathryn reported that the state Head Start associations formed the Executive Directors Consortium, which is a network of state and regional Head Start associations. Kathryn represents NIHSDA in the consortium. The executive directors are interested in obtaining training funds. State collaboration directors work with association executive directors, however, no funds were given to the AI/AN TAN as a state collaboration office to work with NIHSDA like other associations have. Hilda moved to accept the NHSA report. Danny seconded. Motion carried.

NIHSDA/NHSA Scholarships: It was decided at the last Board meeting that we could not have awards until next year. NIHSDA could still accept NHSA applications but will not do our own awards until next conference because of time constraints.

Native Revitalization Summit: Ann reported on the Language Summit and will follow-up with sending the information to Kathryn to get the funding resources out to the directors. Ann did not hear from Lillian Sparks regarding the MOA.

Review Annual Membership Meeting Agenda & Report: The agenda was reviewed and assignments were made among Board members to present the annual report information to the membership. The Board decided to invite Channell Wilkins and Renee Perthuis to the meeting.

Dates and Place for Annual Board Meeting: Board Members will look at schedules and we can confirm the dates for early October in Norman, OK, at Three Feathers Offices.

Recessed at 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m.

Saturday - June 16, 2007

Theo called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Suellen joined the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Update on AI/AN TAN: Angie Godfrey, Director of AI/AN TAN, joined the meeting to network with the Board. The TAN now provides services to the Alaska grantees and added Alaska Native to their title. There are six clusters planned. Their quarterly meeting is July 10-13. They will develop a draft for the cluster trainings for next year. They will also look at cluster training for new directors in conjunction with the branch. "I Am Moving, I Am Learning" (concepts not curriculum) will be used and have already trained 75 grantees. It can be integrated into what programs are already doing. The training is for teams of five. Teleconferences will continue. They are in the process of finding a health person and a local specialist for Arizona. Will be advertising for a fiscal position.

Parent Transportation as In-Kind: Kathryn shared e-mail correspondence regarding the impact that the new rule will have with regard to using parent transportation as NFS. Approximately \$6,000,000 cannot be used as match for Tribal programs. The Board will discuss this matter with Ann Linehan, Channell Wilkins and Renee Perthuis

Greg's Comments Back re: 2008 Appropriations: The proposed increase is a shortfall for Indian Head Start of 11%. All of these adverse effects will have a negative impact on Tribal programs. See Letter.

Walkthrough on the Conference Flow: Kathryn and staff provided a comprehensive walkthrough of the conference agenda and events. The conference budget was reviewed with the recent changes that will impact the expenses/revenues. Board members took a tour of facility. Assignments were made. Details for the opening and closing sessions were worked out. Role of the facilitator/board members was explained.

Meeting with Ann Linehan from OHS: Ann joined the meeting to network and exchange information with the Board. Board members asked the following questions:

- **Will programs be able to reduce enrollment without losing funding to provide services?** Past administration has not been in favor of reducing enrollment. A handful of programs have received reductions under the old OHS structure under the regional offices. Requests are now centralized under the new structure. Requests can be made and will be analyzed. There is a "crack" of hope that the requests would be considered. Reductions that have been approved so far have not been on a cost per child basis, negotiations occur however, maintaining full funding is not likely.
- **What happens to the funding when a grantee relinquishes the grant?** If a Tribe gives up the money, it would stay in the AIAN allocation. A Tribe can say they want the program but want someone else to run it, the Tribe must approve the new agency that comes in to run the program. OHS has a contractual agreement with CDI to

manage relinquished programs that gave no notice in order to continue services. Some Tribes relinquish if they think they will be de-funded. If you relinquish there is nothing preventing them from competing for funds later. The funds stay in the community to provide services. It can't be used for quality improvement unless it's stated in the appropriations.

- **Why is OHS spending funding on NRS training?** Until reauthorization is finalized, NRS has to stay in place. OHS does not have authority to stop NRS prior to a new bill being enacted.
- **Parent transportation as in-kind?** The loss of NFS is an unintended consequence of the regulation. Ann doesn't believe that anyone realized how the regulation would impact programs. An increase in waivers may happen - waivers are only good for one year. Programs should explain the impact in their refunding application and request a waiver. It can't be used because parent vehicles do not meet the new specifications for allowable vehicles that programs can use to transport children and therefore not an allowable expense.
- **What is the role of the Fiscal Integrity Unit and how does it impact grantees?** Created at the direction of the Assistant Secretary in response to the GAO report to strengthen oversight. Looks at the way OHS provides ongoing stewardship and oversight. It also assists with identification of programs that need follow-up reviews, investigations, etc. Helps ensure that OHS practices are helpful and preventative, determining T/TA needs of federal staff and grantees. Looking at internal operations.
- **What is your perspective of the new realignment of leadership of AI/ANPB and will it improve accountability of operations?** Ann thinks that the realignment will improve accountability of operations. Renee Perthuis needs to hear the problems that are still occurring. Nila Rinehart will provide unity in leadership and make recommendations.
- **A participant asked if they could record her session:** It is pretty straight forward information. It's okay.

Additional discussion occurred regarding native language preservation and immersion efforts. Theo thanked Ann for meeting with the Board.

Sunday – June 17, 2007

No meeting due to Glacier Tour

Monday – June 18, 2007 - Noon

The Board met to discuss conference details.

Tuesday – June 19, 2007

Meeting with Channell Wilkins, Director, Office of Head Start and Renee Perthuis, Director, Programs Operations Division:

Channell and Renee joined the Board at approximately 5:00 p.m. to dialogue with the Board regarding issues and concerns. Board members asked the following questions:

- **Programs are receiving inconsistent answers from the various Program Specialists and some don't respond, what should programs do?** The inconsistencies are improving, however, in order to ensure a consistent answer for everyone, it is best to send questions to the help line so that a consistent answer can be emailed to everyone.
- **What can we expect from the new alignment of AIANPB including Nila Rinehart and Tom Tregear?** Renee Perthuis will serve as the Acting Chief. Nila and Tom are consultants. Tom will focus on working with grants and Nila will provide leadership on how to better work with programs and Tribal-specific issues. Nila will also focus on policy issues, T/TA, staff weaknesses and outreach. Nila will be working full-time and Tom will be working 3 to 4 days per week. A new e-mail address has been put into place for tribal specific issues for directors to use reneeaiian@acf.hhs.gov. A 48-hour response time is expected. David Kaden replaced Dolores Dickenson.
- **Is the process of the Program and Grants Specialists meeting to expedite the grant refunding process still happening?** Some of these meetings have been happening. Under the new alignment, Renee and David will be making sure that the meetings occur 60 days prior to refunding.
- **Has the number of unacceptable grant applications improved?** It has improved. TAN Specialists have contributed to the improvement. Program Specialists will now be expected to have monthly contact with grantees.
- **Can programs reduce enrollment without a funding reduction?** If the reduction is less than 5%, programs can submit a request with a detailed explanation of why a reduction is needed.

Channell asked the Board for recommendations on how small programs are able to comply with the numerous requirements – how do they do it? Board members responded by informing them that directors help each other by sharing information through the NIHSDA member listserv, some have community college partnerships, and small programs have to be more creative, staff have to wear multiple hats.

- **Programs are seeing a disparity between tribal support dollars and are only able to operate because of the Tribal support dollars in some cases.** Board members shared that programs are forced to make difficult choices by cutting program services such as transportation, staff are stretched to the limit due to cutting positions and hours, staff are burning out, staff morale is impacted. The affects of meth is impacting Head Start classrooms.
- **The new transportation regulations are having a significant impact on Tribal programs – what can we do?** Programs can request waivers as a short-term fix. They are looking for transportation funds. Need to advocate for Corporate America to invest in Early Childhood.
- **We have heard from various directors that there has been an “out-to-get-you” mentality on some reviews.** Reviews are improving. It is best to notify Ann Linehan via email with review issues. Board members also asked why teams are not permitted to discuss positives. Channell responded that the positives bring up a lot of issues and that it's difficult to get judgments through quality control and that discussing positives may place expectations and then something may show up in the report that wouldn't be expected.

- **Is there any way to shorten the process to receive COLA funds?** Programs have to apply one time and then the funds become part of the base funding. (Basically, the answer was no).
- **Why is funding being spent on NRS since it is likely that NRS will be stopped with reauthorization?** We have to continue NRS until a new Act is approved. They have no authority to stop NRS until then.

The Board thanked Channell and Renee for taking the time to discuss the issues and concerns that the Tribal programs have. The Board stayed to discuss conference details.

Wednesday – June 20, 2007

No meeting due to Heritage Center Banquet.

Thursday June 21, 2007

Theo called the meeting back to order. The Board thanked Betty Wells, wife of Danny Wells, for all her work as a volunteer during the Conference. Kathryn thanked all of the Board members for their help before and during the Conference. Carol Wedel and Kristi Bentkowski gave a brief report on the Conference final numbers. There were 271 paid participants, short 29 from the planning number of 300. Kathryn said it would be 4 to 6 weeks before they have all the bills paid and funds accounted for.

Rena Morrison and Audrey Waite, from Health Canada, reported on their continued interest in the mentoring and twinning projects. Rincon is the only U.S. program, at this time, working with a Head Start program in Canada. The Board thanked Rena and Audrey for their continued participation in NIHSDA and their Conference attendance.

With no further business, Mavany moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. AKDST. Hilda seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting will be July 12, by phone.