

**NIHSDA
Board of Directors Meeting
February 27 & 28, 2009**

Friday, February 27, 2009

Call to Order: Danny Wells, President, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. MT.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken by the Treasurer, Gil Gonzales. Mavany Verdugo, called in to establish a quorum of the Board of Directors.

PRESENT	NOTIFIED	NOT NOTIFIED
President – Danny Wells Treasurer – Gil Gonzales Secretary – Mavany Verdugo Region 4 – Mike Williamson Region 5 – Kathleen Sando Region 8 – Vikki Bishop Region 9 – Jacki Haight Region 10 – Albert Rhinehart	Immediate Past Pres – Ann Belleau Region 1 – Frances Maney Region 2 – John Pavek – Kevin Hedstrom, Alt. Region 3 – Hilda Marshall – Sara Young Bird, Alt Region 4 – Stephanie Carr, Alt Region 5 – William Maes, Alt Region 6 – Pat Foster Region 7 – Gayle Johnson Region 8 – Viola Wood, alt. Region 9 – Patty Eningowuk, alt	

Others Present: Kathryn Helsel, Toni Dobrec, Kristi Bentkowski, and Teri Stringer from the MCS were present. Kathryn indicated that Nina McFadden would not be in attendance at the Board meeting but was requesting suggestions on Head Start business.

Agenda Approval: The agenda was reviewed. It was requested to add Stimulus Package and 2009 Head Start budget under Strategic Plan update and to move Summary of Tribal Consultations and Refined Questions for Nina McFadden to tomorrows agenda. Albert moved to accept the amended agenda, and Vicki seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 12, 2009 meeting: The minutes were read and examined for corrections. Mike moved to approve the minutes and Jacki seconded the motion. The motion approved.

Attendance Report: Kathryn provided the Board with a copy of the new Attendance Report for their information. In the Board Operation Manual it states that if a board member or Alternate misses 3 non notified meetings in a row or 5 meetings for the year they are subject to termination from the board. There were some board members who had already reached these thresholds or were close to violating these requirements. It

was discussed that this is a very critical time for Head Start and that full board involvement is the goal. Danny and Gil committed to follow up with those board members.

Stimulus Package and 2009 Budget: Kathryn distributed the Stimulus Package breakout of the \$2.1 billion that was approved by Congress and how it may be distributed. Head Start will be coming out with the formula. There is about \$8 million going to AIAN for cola. The Early Learning Council states have to match 70% which may inhibit applying for those funds. There is \$1.5 million for AIAN Quality Improvement. The Expansion funds will be distributed to AIAN Head Start (\$827,000) and Early Head Start (\$823,000)

Questions that arose from the Stimulus breakout:

- Is this one time money or will it be added to the grantee's base budget?
- Does the cola funds have to be used entirely for cola or can some of the funds be used for performance and will it go back to the start of the program year?
- Can there be a point person identified to answer questions to ensure consistency of answers?
- There will be about \$19 to \$22 million going to AIAN Head Start and \$2.7 million going to AIAN through the Omnibus Bill. Will this all be obligated by October 1?
- When will the T/TA RFP be rewritten and when will the bid process begin?
- When will the details of the Stimulus Package requirements come out?
- EHS Expansion; will there be a quality control in the form of a 1st year review?
- If the Stimulus funds comes out at the end of the fiscal year how will this work for grantees?
- The Early Head Start allocation is unsure. Are they going to follow the 2002 IM to follow this expansion?

Strategic Plan: Toni went through the NIHSDA Strategic Plan to update any strategies from the Board members perspective. A new draft will be distributed at a later date.

The Board broke for lunch at noon.

Meeting resumed at 1:05 p.m.

Management Action Plan: Toni discussed the NIHSDA Management Action Plan. The committees are not functioning well and need to reengage to update the outcomes and target dates. With all of the changes affecting Head Start all the committees are behind. Committee chairs need to contact their committees to review the plans.

Conference Planning: Danny and Mike presented a report from their meeting with the Oklahoma Directors Association regarding the June NIHSDA Conference. They are engaging a Oklahoma artist for a raffle item. The opening ceremony should include tribes marching in with their flags, local tribe princesses marching in and also include some local dance groups. They are planning on 250 – 350 attendees for the dinner.

They talked about potential give away items being bag of peanuts, buffalo jerky and chocolate.

Kathryn distributed a conference planning worksheet. The Board discussed purchasing a recyclable bag with a conference logo to be distributed to conference attendees. Alternatives for the key note speaker are still being investigated. Presenters for various educational sessions are being recruited. Ann Linehan indicated she would present at a Pre-Intensive if her new boss will allow it. It was decided not to pursue T-shirts for this conference. The Board discuss potential sites to pursue for the 2010 conference. After much discussion San Diego, CA and Washington D.C. were selected as strong considerations with June 13 – 17, 2010 the target dates.

Agenda Changes:

Re- designation Process: Kathryn reviewed a report of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Re-designation of Head Start Grantees. It detailed how grantees would receive a re-designation of their grant and what would require a grantee to compete for the grant in an open competition. The Board felt that this information should be presented at the conference by someone from OHS as there were many questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Saturday, February 28, 2009

Meeting re-convened at 8:39 a.m.

Refined Questions for Nina McFadden:

In addition to the questions identified in yesterday's discussion under Stimulus Package:

- Are Program and Grant Specialists going to be trained on the new GABI?
- What is the reliability of the new GABI? How will you provide quality control?
- Can the GABI be printed?
- Is there a printer friendly version of the PIR?
- When will a schedule of Tribal Consultations come out?

There were other questions that Danny wrote down that he was going to send out to send out to the Board before he sent them to Nina.

Tribal Consultations: Toni reviewed a summary of the 2008 Tribal Consultations concerns and recommendations. Nina emailed a schedule of Tribal Consultations. The issues that were presented at the 2008 Tribal consultations were never addressed. The only action regarded the changing in the requirement for Finance, Legal and Education expertise on the governing bodies. This was changed for elected boards. The Board discussed that in order to have valuable discussions at the 2009 consultations the Stimulus Package specifics needed to be distributed with enough time for staff to review

and have discussions with their Tribal Councils and that the issues presented at last years consultations required a response. Otherwise, it was felt that the consultations would not have much value to the Tribes. Action on this subject was tabled until later in the agenda to take formal action on this item.

Southwest Consortium Board: Three members of the SWC board were welcomed to the meeting by Danny. Danny reviewed the questions that would be sent to Nina McFadden and requested any of their suggestions. They requested improved communication for staff changes at the Program Specialist level. They had experienced many changes in the last year with no communication from OHS.

Toni reviewed a Clarification from OHS dated February 12, 2009 regarding the Governing Body requirements and how changes have been made to reflect elected tribal boards and staff serving as consultants.

The MOU with the SWC was reviewed and the Board decided that this should be sent back to the Executive Committee for review and action.

The MOU's with the National Indian Child Care Association and the National Indian Education Association were reviewed. After some discussion the Board determined that these two MOU's should be sent back to the Executive Committee for review and assessment for value to NIHSDA.

The action items were tabled to later on the agenda for formal action.

Training with Canadian Head Start: Jacki reported on the training at the Canadian conference that she and Mavany attended. She felt that there was a strong correlation between the NIHSDA and Canadian EHS programs and felt there should be a linking of both programs to improve all programs. It was suggested by the Board that Jacki present the information at the June NIHSDA conference.

Action Items: Mavany was called in order to formally take board action on the following items:

It was moved by Jacki and seconded by Mike that the MOU's with SWC, National Indian Child Care Association and the National Indian Education Association go back to the NIHSDA Executive Committee for review and assessment. Motion was approved.

It was moved by Jacki and seconded by Mike that Three Feathers work with Greg Smith to establish an agenda for the Tribal Consultations with OHS. Motion was approved.

It was moved by Jacki and seconded by Mike that Three Feathers develop a letter to OHS on the Stimulus Package and the Tribal Consultations dates. Motion was approved.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. MT. Jacki moved to adjourn the meeting and Mike seconded. The motion was approved.