

**NIHSDA
Board of Directors Meeting
June 12-13, 2009**

Call to Order: Danny Wells, President, called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. CST.

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

PRESENT	NOTIFIED	NOT NOTIFIED
President – Danny Wells Immediate Past: Ann Belleau Treasurer – Gil Gonzales Secretary – Mavany Verdugo Region 1 – Frances Maney Region 3 – Hilda Marshall - Sara Young Bird, Alt. Region 4 – Mike Williamson - Misty Horne, Alt. Region 7 – Gayle Johnson - Christi Jacobus, Alt. Region 8 – Vikki Bishop Region 9 – Jacki Haight - Patty Eningowuk, Alt. Region 10 – Albert Rinehart	Region 2 – Kevin Hedstrom, Alt. Region 5– William Maes Region 6 – Pat Foster Region 8 – Viola Wood, Alt. Region 10 – Malinda Besett, Alt	Region 2 – John Pavek

Others Present: Kathryn Helsel, Toni Dobrec, Kristi Bentkowski, and Teri Stringer from the MCS were present.

Agenda Approval: The agenda was reviewed. It was requested to add seating region 5 William Maes, and region 4 alternate, Misty Horne. Present a letter from Ralph's mother and request from Mary Ellen Fritz to come before the board on Saturday. Albert Rinehart moved to accept the amended agenda, and Gil Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 14, 2009 meeting: The minutes were read and examined for corrections. Jacki Haight noted a misspelling of her name (again) as did Frances Maney. Christi Jacobus plead for absent notified as her emails were kicked back. The board agreed to make the change. Hilda Marshall moved to approve the minutes with corrections and Mike Williamson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gil Gonzales reviewed the Check Register, Revenue Report and Expense Report. Ann Belleau moved to accept the treasurer's report and Hilda Marshall seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Conference Budget: This discussion was moved to Saturday so we can capture current numbers.

Membership Report: Kathryn Helsel gave an overview of the Regional Membership Report. There was one new member in the last month from Montana, Salish & Kootenai.

Greg Smith Report via Phone: A call was made to Greg Smith in Washington D.C. The assumptions for the 2009 money available for Indian Head Start 185 million increased to 230 million, a 40 million increase or 24% increase over the last year. The OHS notice said that the expansion dollars cannot be used for increase in hours or days but only increase in enrollment. The language in the conference report allowed part time to full time and home based to center based. However, OHS says no to any flexibility and that the Act specifies that it is for expansion in enrollment only. Greg points out this very narrow view of OHS. Greg has been getting a strong response from the Hill. Kennedy's staffer, Roberto Rodriguez is at the White House now. He is a strong advocate for Head Start. It is in the interest of OHS to make us struggle for these funds because when we fail, they can throw the money back into the pot. But remember that decisions can be reversed with pressure from the field. The report language is clear despite OHS remarks to the contrary. Greg will forward the 2 emails to TFA as he works the Hill this next week. As for the next 10 million next year OHS is thinking about the 1.84% COLA from the stimulus package and making it a permanent increase. But then there will not be enough left to pay us the 10 million. This will be a hot issue for Ann Linehan at the pre-intensive. OHS will have their hands full with the discussion about NFS changes.

\$3 Per Child Campaign and Regional \$2,000 Commitment: Jacki's program was the only one to contribute to the fundraising account.

Attendance Record: Kathryn Helsel provided the Board with a copy of the new Attendance Report for their information. Region 4 alternate has changed from Stephanie Carr to Misty Horne in answer to the excessive ANN record. Kathryn spoke to the new region 7 reps who have not had orientation with the operations manual yet, as to the process of notifying and the consequences of not.

Seating of New Reps: Hilda Marshall moved that we accept William Maes as a member to represent region 5 and Misty Horne as the alternate to region 4. Mike Williamson seconded the motion and the board concurred. Motion passed.

Letter of Thanks: Ralph Booth's mother sent a lovely thank you letter to the NIHSDA board. We are dedicating the conference to Ralph. Ann Belleau notified us from an email from her specialist that Helen Schierbeck has suffered a serious stroke, bleeding in the brain and that she is unresponsive.

Review of the Strategic Plan: Toni Dobrec offered an overview of the Strategic Plan as a refresher for the board and introduction to the new members. Some of the accomplishments were noted as well as a brief view of what the committees are currently working on. Committee action plans are blended and integrated. We all depend on each other.

New Business:

Membership Survey: A hard copy of the survey was passed out. 43 members submitted completed surveys on Monkey Survey. The board reviewed comments and problem solved problem areas. One suggestion is to have a "Greg's List" with updates from the lobby effort in D.C. and attribute his work to the membership fees and conference fees. Better communication on a personal level with the grantees from their reps or the board at large is needed. An advisory committee was suggested made up from strong directors in the field with experience and knowledge that would provide insight and guidance. Knowing that tribal leaders are important to Head Start, especially with the consultations, we need to possibly go directly to them with information instead of through the director.

NHSA Report: The board meeting was held in Orlando, Florida prior to the national conference. They were encouraged that the attendance was good despite the dispute with region 4 over past elections. All were introduced to the new executive director, Yasmina Vinci. The board spent considerable time and money to find and place her. Feeling so far is that she is a good selection. There was discussion of some of the financial and legal problems the board is involved in, such as the long term contracts with Gaylord Corp that Sarah Green set up and other legal situations. There was an election held and Ron Herndon was elected again but now with the limitations will have to relinquish his role in two years. The legislative alerts are focused on the one billion in appropriations for 2010. Regions 11 and 12 signed on in support.

Tribal Consultations: There will be three additional tribal consultations. July 7 will be in Denver, July 21 in Kansas City, Missouri, and July 23 in Mystic Lake, Minnesota. Only Denver has a meeting attached to it with the National Indian Health Board.

Annual Membership Meeting: We reviewed the standard agenda for the annual membership meeting. Assignments were made for the eight objectives in the annual report. We will advertise a blanket giveaway donated by Vikki Bishop as incentive for directors to attend the meeting. A gourmet cheese offering will be provided.

Dates and Place for Annual NIHSDA Board Meeting, Danny Wells

Vicki Bishop suggested we meet in San Diego to tour the facility and surrounding area prior to the June 2010 conference. After some discussion, Gil Gonzales moved that we hold our meeting in San Diego, Ann Belleau seconded and the motion carried.

Committee Reports: New members joined committees of their choice. Gayle Johnson joined the Membership, Management & Services, Patty Eningowuk joined Budget, Finance & Development, and Christi Jacobus chose Bylaws, Governance, & Board Development. Ann Belleau, Gil Gonzales, Mavany Verdugo, and Frances Maney all reported on the work done in their committees. There was much discussion around the table. All committee reports will be posted on the website after the conference. No formal action items were presented for approval, only recommendations and requests for study and input at the next board meeting.

Executive Committee –Danny Wells, Chairperson:

Budget, Finance and Fund development Committee –Gil Gonzales, Chairperson

Fundraising Subcommittee -

Education/Information and Conference Committee – Ann Belleau, Chairperson

Membership and Membership Services- Frances Maney, Chairperson

By-Laws, Governance and Board Development – Mavany Verdugo, Chairperson

Ad Hoc Advocacy/Legislation - Danny Wells, Chairperson

The Chairman recessed the meeting at 5:35 pm until Saturday at 9:00 am.

The meeting resumed at 9:05 AM, Saturday, July 13, 2009.

Kathryn handed out the promised emails between Greg Smith and Lillian Pace to assist with the discussion about expansion dollars.

Alaska Resolution: Mary Ellen Fritz presented background information for a Resolution Supporting Exemption for Income Guidelines for Rural and Remote Alaska Programs. After much discussion, Hilda Marshall moved that we submit a letter of support from the President of NIHSDA. Mavany Verdugo seconded the motion and it passed.

Walkthrough of the Conference Flow: Bags with programs were distributed to the board for review and instruction. Conference stats were provided as follows:

- 282 participants for the main conference @ \$138,700.
- 124 pre intensives - 72 in OHS and 52 in Leadership
- 85 programs - 72 are AIAN - by region: 1/5, 2/6, 3/7, 4/17, 5/10, 6/2, 7/8, 8/8, 9/6, 10/3
5 are coming from Canada several from AED and Research.
- Vendors purchased 21 tables

There are no donations to date. Kathryn Helsel reviewed the conference budget in detail. We need to make the \$2,500 goal for silent auction. Hilda Marshal moved that we accept the 2009 Annual Conference budget, Albert Rinehart seconded the motion and it passed.

Succession Planning: The board agreed that it was time to develop a succession plan as Toni Dobrec presented some possibilities to consider making a smooth transition in the future. There was good discussion and the executive committee will add it to their agenda in the coming year.

Hilda Marshall announced that the National Family Literacy is at the end of the 3 year contract and she requested that the board front her travel and per diem to attend in Washington D.C. They will reimburse the board. Hilda Marshall reports back to the

board at the next meeting. Mike Williamson moved that the board support Hilda Marshall with funds to travel with anticipation of prompt reimbursement. Albert Rinehart seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was recessed at 2:05 PM until we meet with Bob Bialas at 4:15 Sunday, and will continue on with Ann Linehan at 5:00.

Bob Bialas, Commander USPHS, Indian Health Service Head Start Program: at 4:40 pm the board reconvened to have an open discussion with Bob Bialas as IHSHS prepares to write for a contract renewal for Indian Health Services. Bob had three basic questions:

1. What are the prevailing health issues in serving 0 - 5?

- Obesity
- follow up on dental screenings
- lead testing
- behaviors
- mental health
- EHS immunization schedules
- chronic sinus/mucous from 2nd hand smoke
- lice prevention
- MRSA
- pandemic flu H1N1 in the fall 09
- good nutrition (REACH) online
- use of plastics with children, families, communities-danger to body & community
- oral health for pregnant moms

2. What initiatives are needed?

- Need for Indian Health staff in medical and dental that are trained to work with 0-5
- Nutrition Screening follow up, many desire to convert to fresh food over processed
- Facilities, findings are sky high, where do we need help? Bob needs to see the facility reports to comply with the ACT requirements. He files a 5-year report.

3. Bob wants to know if we want material on Best Practices or checklists? What will work to get the information and education to the field?

Programs are encouraged to send ideas to Bob and he will follow up the conversation with an email.

Ann Linehan and Adia Fehei: The meeting continued with Ann Linehan introducing Adia Fehei to the board as our new guru in monitoring. Together they had open conversation with us.

- Ann's desire is to widen relationships and linkages with OHS and the Board. NIHSDA is a well respected, articulate and thoughtful group, recognized across the nation. The new OHS Director will be different. We need to be bold to influence as this person will be responsible to the Assistant Secretary and the Secretary.
- There was a recap of issues with the board from the session that was held in the pre-intensive. Lots of open discussion about what is working and what is causing frustration. Someone asked if the regional programs were concerned with the same issues we were. With teacher requirements, we are more concerned with meeting the

qualifications; regional programs are more concerned with salary. Right now the only way to solve this might be to have a significant decrease in the number of children served. This was not the intent of Congress.

- We were encouraged not to lose our focus on what were our priority concerns such as regulations, standards, re-designation and reauthorization just because all the attention is on ARRA grant writing and other funding opportunities.
- How do we apply for expansion if the funds will be gone the next fiscal year? Congress needs to consider the demands. What arguments do we choose to put on the table? For expansion, if you can produce the kids, go for it, because they would look stupid to take it back. Use transition as a model. No more reductions just an extension to bring up the numbers.
- In order to get a clear picture for Congress on what it really takes to run quality Head Start in Indian Country, please show the real numbers in NFS tribal dollars spent in HS programs. NFS can be over the percentage. A good one to ask is Peter Thompson, Head of Division Grants Policy on the ACF side.
- There will be trainings for grants staff and fiscal monitors for each region. They will be tailored to the special needs of each region. NIHSDA could help design the Region 11 training.

At 5:55 CST we recessed until Tuesday afternoon.

Day 1 - Tuesday - of Conference: Several of the board met in Plaza North to recap the opening session and get the numbers from day one. The opening session went smoothly and on time. From flags, dancers, drum, prayer, speakers, and presentations, all went as planned and was well received. Our numbers are down by about 10 but on the upside our silent auction is the biggest ever and we have nearly met our goal in bids on the first day! There were no complaints from the sessions as of yet.

Closing -Thursday : Dr. Grim was a good closing speaker.

Last sessions were full and went well. Governance was too short. 6th floor no air conditioning. Room 611 ceiling collapsed. Business center not set up in timely manner. Pool not open displeased many. Bills were mixed up, charges for parking when no vehicles, internet was terrible and slow. Snacks ran out as usual due to overindulgence. Food at the banquet had similar issues. The spoons were large and folks heaped it on. Bread, desserts, pulled pork, potato salad, all ran out. The bill for last night was \$4,200. A very good deal. The staff at the Heritage Museum was very polite and helpful. Evaluations, the majority were pleased but the complaints were what we have already mentioned. There were 13 possible training hours. Bea Shawanda was successful and well received. Brian Richmond is interested in doing massage and yoga with folks before sessions start. The family as teacher's video project for ECLKC was very successful. 271 participants \$245 in pins, 110 items auction \$3,497. Quality items made the difference. The 3 blankets from Vicki were phenomenal and Toni's donations were beneficial too. raffle \$1,344.

Recap of overall will be out soon. No certificates, final participant list will be emailed.

Some presenters ran out of materials/power points so will be emailed to those who requested and posted on the website.

Jacki Haight moved that Myrna Dingman be appointed to serve as representative for region 5. Gil Gonzales seconded the motion and the board moved to accept the motion.

Albert Rinehart moved that we try to change the conference dates to run from June 14, Monday through June 18, Friday. This will allow people to have weekends as wrap around. Jacki Haight seconded and the motion passed. Kristi Bentkowski will contact the hotel ASAP as the contract has been signed.

Much discussion about teacher qualifications still a hot issue with many directors.

Nina McFaddin wants to develop her own national regional conference and invite tribal leaders and policy council members. It would be best to collaborate with us and pool resources.

There are some Indian Health Centers that will not be included in the 2010 budgets it has been leaked. We will be emailed a list soon.

Special recognition for Betty Wells and the Oklahoma hospitality. The local area association was invaluable for the success of the conference.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm CST. Jacki Haight moved to adjourn the meeting and Gayle Johnson seconded. The motion carried. After July, August, September tele-meetings, the board will meet in October in San Diego for the face-to-face meeting.