

# Displaced Homemaker Board

## Meeting Minutes

Monday September 9, 2013 4:00 p.m.

Video-Conference: Las Vegas, Reno Town Mall, Carson City and Truckee Meadows  
Community College

### Board Members Present:

Barbara Twitchell - Chairperson  
Tracy Guinn  
Deborah Levy  
Louise Helton

### Board Members Absent:

Jennifer Counter

### Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation Staff Present:

Samantha Hill-Cruz  
Sophia LaBranch

### DH Center Coordinators Present:

Kathleen McKnight  
Denise Gee

JOIN Fallon  
HELP of Southern Nevada

### DH Center Coordinators Absent:

Sidney Sullivan

Truckee Meadows Community College

### DH Center Staff:

Olga Mesina  
Jen O'Bryan-Taft  
Linda Gotelli

Truckee Meadows Community College  
Truckee Meadows Community College  
JOIN Carson City

- I. **Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum:** Barbara Twitchell called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. Four Board Members were present at that time for a quorum.
- II. **Verification of Posting:** Samantha Hill-Cruz and providers confirmed proper posting of the meeting agenda.
- III. **Welcome and Introductions:** Barbara Twitchell confirmed that Board Member Jennifer Counter had emailed ahead that she wouldn't be able to attend today's meeting. At the Chair's request, Olga Messina introduced Jen O'Brien-Taft, a new staff person at TMCC.
- IV. **Public Comment:**
  - None

## V. Program Reports:

- **TMCC** – Olga Mesina delivered the report for TMCC in lieu of Sidney Sullivan, who is on medical leave. Olga is currently the employment specialist at Truckee Meadows Community College. She is moving to the Disability Resource Center at TMCC. Jen O'Bryan-Taft will be her replacement. There will also be a new staffing addition in the Job Preparation Center. This opening was part of the new grant that they received. This position will hold workshops regarding how to interview, what to do about child care, etc. TMCC is going to hold a resource fair Wednesday, September 11, 2013 which will include approximately 34 vendors. Olga and Sydney are now certified in Getting Ahead/Bridges out of Poverty.
- **HELP** – Denise Gee advised that Cheryle DeDios is no longer with Help of Southern Nevada. She has been replaced by Paula McDonald. Cindy Egan is the new Job Developer.

HELP has had some funding reductions in their in and out of school youth programs which is causing some staffing issues.

They have been referring DH recipients to other support groups, such as substance abuse, mental health and rent assistance. They aren't seeing their recipients go back to work as quickly because they want to help stabilize them first.

They received 900 suits or suit pieces for men from their suit drive. Also, after they provided a tour to the United Way Women's Leadership Counsel, the Counsel advised that they will be sending them about 400 women's suits or suit pieces to HELP.

HELP is also working closely with the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) initiative. They are helping DH recipients look at their transferable skills to make them more competitive in the job market with what they're seeing emerge in Southern Nevada.

HELP is launching Framing Hope this month. They will be the 7<sup>th</sup> largest warehouse in the Las Vegas area. Framing Hope collects supplies from Home Depot to sell at minimal cost to local non-profits, religious groups, and participants. It will be run like a food bank.

- **JOIN** – Kathy Holbrook reported that last year, JOIN - Fallon served 35 DH recipients. Of those 35, 15 are employed and 15 are still attending training. The Fernley area is seeing more employment opportunities with the opening and reopening of businesses. Lynda Gotelli of JOIN Carson City advised that they will be co-sponsoring a job fair October 4.

## VI. Approval of minutes from June 24, 2013 – Approved.

## VII. Discussion/Action Items – The Board discussed holding the March 2014 Face to Face meeting at the Family Law Conference in Ely. The two options for where to hold the meeting are the Job Connect or the Join office. Sonita Harris couldn't make it to the

meeting, but Louise has spoken to her and had the information regarding the conference. The attorney that is chairing the conference hasn't been accessible or responsive to calls up to this point. Sonita and Louise have been working directly with the Nevada State Bar Association. They do have sponsor spaces available, however, there would be sponsorship fee and they were not able to advise us of the cost at this time. The Board would also like to know the cost of a ticket to attend the conference. The Bar also offered to do an email blast to everyone that they send emails to. There are also several magazines that the Bar suggested the Board submit an article to. The Nevada Lawyer Magazine, the Writ Magazine, and the Sierra Nevada Association of Paralegals. There would be no fee to publish an article. Barbara Twitchell can write the article.

The Board members have made reservations for the conference in Ely except Jennifer Counter. Samantha will assure that everyone would receive the state rate. Samantha will get more information regarding any necessary requirements to ensure that the board will satisfy the open meeting laws in a retreat type of setting. The Board cannot discuss certain things. It should be clearer after the October training.

Louise proposed a motion that would enable to board to move forward with plans to attend the Family Law Conference in Ely in order to conduct outreach opportunities among Family Court judicial and legal staff, to expand their awareness of DH programs in the state. These efforts would potentially include attending the conference, distributing brochures, delivering a presentation, and/or sponsoring a vendor table, providing the costs of such are reasonable and any such actions are allowable under the NRS code governing DH administrative funds. Additionally, the motion included a provision to begin development of a retreat agenda. The motioned was second by Debra Levy. All in favor, no one opposed.

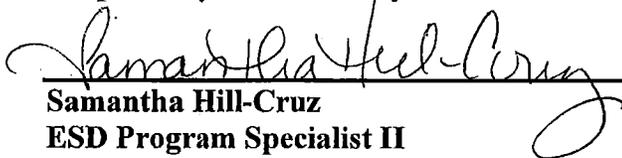
#### **VIII. Future Agenda Items:**

- Proposals for individuals to facilitate the retreat.
- Decide future meeting dates.

#### **IX. Adjournment:**

- Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

  
Samantha Hill-Cruz  
ESD Program Specialist II

  
Barbara Twitchell, Chairperson  
Board for the Education and Counseling of Displaced Homemakers