

Displaced Homemaker Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 6, 2005 9:30 a.m.
Video-conference – Carson City, Reno, and Las Vegas

Board Members Present:

Chairperson Mary Hausch
Sara Besser
Lee Geldmacher
Estela Gutierrez
Louise Helton

Board Members Absent:

None

Workforce Investment Support Services (WISS)

Staff Present:

Connie Williams
Ron Hilke
Harvey Lee

DH Center Coordinators Present:

Barbara Twitchell

Truckee Meadows Community College

DH Center Coordinators Absent:

Terrie Stanfill

HELP of Southern Nevada

DH Center Staff:

Denise Gee
Marcia Hoch
Kathy McKnight

HELP of Southern Nevada
Truckee Meadows Community College
JOIN Inc. Fallon

I. Call to Order: Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. Verification of Posting: The proper posting of the meeting was confirmed.

III. Introduction: Chair welcomed persons attending the meeting; attendees introduced themselves, and announced their affiliations. Elko was not linked due to continued video-conferencing problems. Ms. Gee also introduced Germaine Kinunwa and Rosie Cain from the DH Center staff.

IV. Approval of December 13, 2004, Board Minutes: Board members and WISS staff provided the following corrections:

1. Spelling of Sidney Sullivan and Marcia Hochs' names.
2. Carolyn Wilson and Kathy McKnight were absent attending training.

V. Election of Chair: Following the announcement of the resignation of Ms. Geldmacher, the Chair reopened nominations. Ms. Helton was nominated and elected

unanimously to serve as the Chair of the Displaced Homemaker Board. Ms. Helton presided over the balance of the meeting.

VI. Report - Analysis of Displaced Homemaker Program Fees Collected for Program Years 2003 and 2004: During the Meeting of March 31, Board members requested information on the collection of program fees and current trends in this area. WISS staff presented a summary report concerning this area. Examining data developed by the State Supreme Court and presented on their on-line site, Harvey Lee and Ron Hilke developed a chart indicating that the number of divorces and associated fee collections are increasing substantially in Clark County and are static or decreasing in the balance of the State. The Board then discussed steps that could be taken concerning the issue including providing a lunch briefing to the Family Court judges in Clark County, and seeking media coverage of the program. They reviewed the draft letter discussed in item VIII.

VII. Discussion/Approval-Letter to District Court Judges Promoting the Displaced Homemaker Program: The Board reviewed the draft letter prepared by Harvey Lee promoting the Displaced Homemaker program. Board members felt it would help educate the judiciary concerning the program if we could incorporate local content and/or success stories from program graduates. Members are to use the draft letter as a model for their own letters. They can fax or e-mail suggested changes to Harvey. WISS staff will work with Kathy and Carolyn to help with addresses and mailing if assistance is needed to send the letters.

VIII. Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation Financial Management Report: Connie Williams provided updated collections information to the Board. Fee collections have improved in Washoe County. Additionally, JOIN Inc. has been able to continue to provide services in the northeast through dual enrollment of clients and by accepting delayed payment for service from the State. Fees are being collected quarterly and will probably be available to the Center in July.

IX. Review of Grantee Reports:

JOIN Inc.

Kathy McKnight, JOIN Inc. Fallon Center

Kathy McKnight of the Fallon Center presented the report for JOIN Inc. The agency is continuing to publicize the program among community leaders and service agencies. As discussed earlier, JOIN has been able to dual enroll many of its clients in Title I and CEP. It has also been successful in utilizing AB 94 funding for several persons. This program provides funding for foster-care transition and it could be a resource for other agencies.

Truckee Meadows Community College

Barbara Twitchell, Director The Re-entry Center

Ms. Twitchell introduced Marcia Hoch, who is the new Transition Specialist at TMCC. Ms. Hoch discussed her experience with Displaced Homemakers and other high-risk populations. Ms. Hoch is currently working twenty hours per week and her position is

fully funded by TMCC. Sidney Sullivan is currently on maternity leave. She is greatly missed as her work is a major part of the success of the Center in obtaining living wage positions for its participants. She has earned Career Development Facilitator Certification which will further increase her contribution to the Center. Center staff attended the Women Work National Conference and Ms. Twitchell was re-elected to the National Board of Directors where she will continue her efforts in enhancing the DH program for both local and nationwide participants. While funding issues continue to be a concern, Program staff have been able to locate additional financial support. The Center has obtained additional funding from TMCC to cover any possible program deficit for the current year. The college is considering the absorption of some Center personnel costs into other grant programs where appropriate. Additionally, Ms. Twitchell announced that the scholarship established in the name of Darlene Simkins is fully endowed and the initial award will be made for the upcoming academic year.

HELP of Southern Nevada
Denise Gee, Program Director

Terri Stanfill is attending a conference, so in her absence Denise Gee presented the HELP of Southern Nevada report. She introduced Rosie Cain, who is the new Job Developer. She has replaced Eddy Grace, who has recently retired. Julia and Germaine attended the Women Work conference and has briefed staff on the program. HELP has had good responses to their outreach to local attorneys and mortuaries. Several firms have agreed to distribute information; one has conducted a job recruitment, and one has agreed to assist financially with the program. Board members suggested that the Board and Governors' Office thank them in writing. HELP is continuing its community outreach activities and will be featured on Channel 35 in the upcoming weeks. While the agency has stable operational funding, they are seeking ways to update their computer lab. HELP has completed its move and is beginning to see increased client intake at the new facility.

X. Select and Approve Meeting Dates for 2005: The Board discussed this item and selected September 12th and December 5th as the dates for the next two quarterly meetings.

XI. Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting: The Board had discussion on appointing a replacement for Ms. Geldmacher. It is a requirement that one of the Board members must be a "displaced homemaker," as Ms. Geldmacher served in this capacity. The question raised was whether this meant that the replacement person needed to be a participant in the Displaced Homemaker program or simply fit the description of a "displaced homemaker" according to NRS. WISS staff said they would research this and let the Board and committee members know. No other items were discussed. Connie Williams asked the Board members to forward any suggestions for agenda items to insure timely inclusion on the agenda.

XII. Public Comment: There was no public comment addressed to the Board.

XIII. Adjournment: The Board adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted By:

**Ronald Hilke, ESD Program Specialist II
Workforce Investment Support Services**

**Louise Helton, Chairperson
Board for the Education and Counseling of Displaced Homemakers**

Date of Board Approval