

**AAIDD Meeting Minutes
Louisiana Chapter
January 21, 2010**

Members Present: Kristy Buras, Alycia Burch, Sharon Delvisco, Cynthia Green, Julia Lott, Joyce Loudon, Hilda Trahan, and (Elizabeth Watts by speaker phone). Guest – Michelle Bares.

I. Agenda: Meeting was called to order with a welcome by President Delvisco. A copy of the agenda was distributed and approved by the Board. Our guest, Michelle Bares introduced herself and discussed her role of coordinating the DSW efforts throughout the state in recruitment and retention, building collaboration with Louisiana Workforce Commission, implementing career ladders, marketing and promoting professional images and recommending wage increases. She was welcomed by the Board.

An announcement was made that the presenter at our last Annual Meeting, Mr. Tim Quinn had passed away.

~Action: Sharon will send a card to the family from the AAIDD-LA Chapter.

The minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2009 were distributed and approved. An updated Board Roster was distributed.

II. Review and Discussion of By-Laws: We need to send the by-laws to the membership. There should be a 5% approval of the by-laws by members.

~Action: Sharon will compare the old and new by-laws and make changes.

A motion was made by Hilda Trahan to send out the By-Laws to members, the motion was seconded by Julia Lott. All approved.

III. Review and Discussion of Vision and Mission: Elizabeth Watts suggested that there were problems with the mission. We seem to have lost our focus. We should be more geared to helping people with disabilities. After much discussion, it was agreed that this board could look at and redirect the mission of the Board. On paper the mission did not change, and at this point will not change.

IV. Website: The website has been updated with current materials. It was suggested by Alycia that we should consider posting employment positions on the website as a way to encourage membership. Providers could post positions which should be submitted by the last Friday in the month and post for 30 days. The contact person on the website will be the President of the Board.

V. Budget: The Financial Statement was presented by the Treasurer, Cynthia Green. Cash on Hand-\$22,375.74; Investments-\$32,669.16; Total \$55,044.90. She has made the deposits and ordered tax forms. The treasurer made the notation that Tim Quinn has not been paid for the Annual Meeting. There is an invoice for \$3,569.60. The books show that we made a profit of \$9,942.00. There was so discussion of this profit. The current treasurer is waiting the receive all of the financial information from the former treasurer.

There is a need to complete signature cards within two (2) weeks, because of checks written.

VI. Vice President of Membership Report: The current membership is 44. Julia stated that we should maintain our previous goal of 135 members for this year. It was moved by Joyce and seconded by Elizabeth that we maintain our goal of 135 members. The motion was approved with no opposition.

~Action: Sharon will send the names of all of the new Board Members to National so that each member will receive a copy of the Membership report.

~Action: Denise will send to all members who have not renewed their membership a reminder to do so by February.

VII. Bulk Rate Mailing: It was agreed by the Board that the Bulk rate mailing for the Chapter should be renewed.

~ Action: Cynthia will be responsible for renewing the Bulk rate mailing in Lake Charles.

VIII. Vice President of Conference: The theme for the Annual Meeting will be “Quality Services in Changing Times”. The Annual Meeting will be held on September 14-15 at the Best Western Inn and Suites in Alexandria, LA. They will hold a block of rooms for us at a rate of \$79.00 single, \$89.00 Double and \$99.00 Triple, with hot breakfast in the morning as a part of staying in the hotel. The rate for renting the meeting rooms will be \$1,500 per day or \$1,100 for three days. The catering will be done by “All in Good Taste”. They will provide a Continental Breakfast for \$8.00 per person and a Regular Breakfast for \$10.00 per person. They will provide two meals, one for the Tuesday Evening Awards Banquet. There was a discussion about having the Banquet at the Alexandria Museum, and a brunch on Wednesday called “The Griddle at \$10.00 per person.

Our goal will be to register at least 200 persons for the Annual Meeting. We also have to be aware of the state budget cuts and prepare ourselves accordingly.

Suggested topics for Pre Conference workshops are:

Fund Raising: How to get money for programs

~Action: Sharon will ask Laura Brackin to do something on this topic.

LANO:

~Action: Sharon will contact them for request for participation.

How to deal with Sexual Predators?

~Action: Julia will contact Rebecca Mandel for assistance with this topic.

Talk with Sharon Gomez about what is available nationally.

~Action: Elizabeth will contact Sharon about potential topics nationally.

We can blast fax to get potential participants.

~Action: Michelle Bares will be the resource on the Provider List.

We can also tap into Paul Starr's Operation House Call program.

~Action: Joyce will ask Kathy Kliebert of OCDD and Huey Ely of OAAS to come in on September 15, 2010 to do a presentation on the state of the state for their organizations.

~Action: Hilda will ask Sharon Gomez to come in on Sept 15, 2010 and do a presentation on the state of AAIDD.

~Action: Sharon will ask someone from the state budget office to come in on Sept. 15, 2010, to give us information on the state budget.

~Action: Alycia will check on how we can get Nursing CEU's

Save the date cards with website information will be sent out to providers and well as colleges and universities, particular Psychology, Social Work and Nursing Department.

Elizabeth reported that the City of Alexandria Visitor's Bureau (Shirley Ingram) will give us Welcome Bags, Name tags and Logo Information, one day of registration assistance and a large gift basket that can be used as a prize.

The call for papers and the award nominations will go out at the same time. We will have the Arts contest and information will be sent out and asked that the art work will be sent to a certain address.

The concerns for the art work are tables, partial loss of money and discrimination. We should have a limited number of tables - first come-first served. There was also a suggestion that there be a payment of \$50.00 a table.

We need to look at exhibitors, silent auction and sponsors. Hilda will take care of the silent auction.

VIII. Vice President of Training: With the impact of Budget Cuts Training will be offered in Ruston and in Lafayette. In Ruston, we will contact Dwayne Davis for the training at Lincoln General Hospital and in Lafayette; we will contact the Chenier Center, the Revere Center or the Deaf and Blind Action Center. Dates for the training, April 14th and 21st done by Rebecca Mandel and Rebecca Mora. Flyers will be distributed soon. Also we will check on CEU's for the training.

The next meeting will be held on February 25, 2010 at the Central Louisiana Behavioral Health Resource Center, 2006 Gus Kaplan Dr. Alexandria, LA.

Joyce S. Loudon

Joyce S. Loudon, Ph.D.
AAIDD Secretary