

**Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society
Meeting of the Board of Directors
APRIL 8, 2010**

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda:

Cindy Hansen called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. and offered the agenda for approval. No additions were made to the agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda; it was seconded. The vote to approve the agenda was unanimous.

Board members in attendance were:

Cindy Hansen, President	Penny Tripp, guest
Donna Brewer, Secretary	
Kim Duffy	
Boe Collins, self-advocate	
Jerry Martin	
Eric Trouerbach	
Mary Langenbacke	
Riley McIlwain	

Those Board Members absent: Jennifer Hamner, Deidre Davis, Beth Goellner, Regina

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes for the previous board meeting were sent to each board member in advance. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Darlena and seconded by Riley McIlwain..

Financial Report:

Treasurer Riley McIlwain presented an overview and itemized breakdown of recent expenses and the current balance in the checking account. Year to date expenses total \$9148.29. The current balance being \$31,098.90.

A down payment on t-shirts was made because the prices of the costs for the shirts are going up.

Committee Development:

(1) Buddy Walk-

Scheduled for October 9, 2010 in Ocean Springs at Greyhound Stadium.

(2) Support Group/Outreach and Advocacy -

The first support group meeting in Gulfport will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2010. Cindy Hansen will be leading the discussion group. The suggested topics are special Olympics, encouragement of participation in GCDSS, and an overview of the Harrison County Child Development Center.

Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society
Meeting of the Board of Directors
APRIL 8, 2010

The board discussed in general the need for a continued database of all up-to-date contact information of special needs educational facilities and it was suggested that First Steps should have this information organized for distribution.

Buddy Ball is off and running well in Long Beach area. Cindy Hansen gave a report of the success, enthusiasm and support which has been contributed.

Kim Duffy also shared with the Board that she is working with TOPS in order to obtain 501 (3) (c) status and will ask about the needs of the Buddy Ball organization considering the need to apply for the tax exempt status as well. Cindy Hansen said that she will keep Kim apprised of the development of the Buddy Ball group as it progresses.

(3) New Parent- there are several new babies and family members who have joined GCDSS in the past several months and we are welcoming them and hopefully giving them the empowerment each will need to embrace the journey ahead

Board Development:

No new board development business was presented.

Old Business:

New Business:

The new business discussed was that of upcoming tentative dates for future social events and the upcoming need for the renewal of charitable organization status to the Mississippi Secretary of State.

Announcements:

May 8th, 2010 – MS PTI Conference at St. Paul UMC, Ocean Springs, MS – registration is \$25.00, visit the web site for registration and further information

May 15, 2010 – Magnolia Cruisers Car Show at the Pascagoula Beach Park (*This club has once again announced it will be a sponsor for GCDSS again this year.*)

May 15, 2010 – DREAM Golf Tournament (*Two teams were offered for GCDSS members and those teams were filled by Jeff Brewer and his golf buddies.*)

July 10th, 2010 – tentative date for the Gulf Coast Waterpark Family Fun Day

A plaque was presented to Stratton's Rockin' Snack Shack for their sponsorship of GCDSS.

An individual plaque was presented to Darlena Stratton for the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award.

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APRIL 8, 2010

Kim Duffy acknowledged the tremendous and successful results by Mandy Rodgers for all efforts in getting the special education regulations for the State of Mississippi to eliminate the “R” word from all official forms and communications by the State agencies.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Approved:

CINDY HANSEN, President

Attested:

DONNA L. BREWER, Secretary