



## Special Teleconference Meeting of the Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind

### Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 8, 2016

1:42 p.m. – 4:21 p.m.

820 Mission Ave #12  
San Rafael, CA 94901

1921 Bella Coola Dr  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

6043 Ralston Ave  
Richmond, CA 94805

2304 Loma Prieta Rd  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Department of Consumer Affairs – San Francisco Room  
1625 N. Market Blvd N-318  
Sacramento, CA 95834

#### Board Members

*Eric Holm, President*

*Carmen Delgado, Vice President*

*Don Brown*

*Catherine Carlton*

#### Executive Officer

*Brian Skewis*

#### Legal Counsel

*Shela Barker*

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/President's Welcome

President Holm welcomed everybody to the Board's meeting, explained the ground rules for the meeting including a 2 minute time limit for each public comment, and called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m.

2. Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum

EO Skewis took roll recording four of seven members present and establishing a quorum.

3. Finding of Necessity

Member Brown motioned to continue the meeting finding that providing 10-days' advance notice of this meeting would pose a substantial hardship on the Board in that the Board would be deprived of the ability to discuss, deliberate and take a position on Senate Bill 1331 and Assembly Bill 1824, legislation that could substantially impact Board operations, before the legislature completes its review and action.



Vice President Delgado seconded the motion

Motion Passed: 4 ayes, 0 no's

4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Senate Bill 1331 (Pavley) regarding follow-up services provided by out of state schools  
EO Skewis outlined the three provisions of the bill.

#### **Provision 1 – Board Membership**

Board discussion took place regarding the Governor's involvement in taking suggestions from consumer organizations when making appointments and the percentage of guide dog users represented by these organizations.

Public comment was made likening the two organizations in the bill to unions representing the whole consumer population while not requiring membership from the entirety.

President Holm, Member Delgado, and Member Carlton asked what problem was being solved by increasing the number of guide dog users required on the Board when there are currently 4 members of the Board who are guide dog users.

Public comment was made stating that the desire is that there are members on the Board specifically representing the wishes of the two organizations.

President Holm and Member Carlton explained that organizations have the opportunity to be represented through open meetings and that their opinions are always heard and respected. The concern is the breadth of the candidate pool that the Governor may pull from when making appointments.

Member Brown and Counsel Barker discussed that it is unusual that there be a requirement that a member of the Board represent a private entity.

#### **Provision 2 – Follow-up instruction by out-of-state instructors**

Member Brown and Counsel Barker discussed the lack of a definition of follow-up services and that the Board would have to define the term through regulations should this bill become law.

Board discussion took place regarding the removal of the Board's jurisdiction to regulate follow-up services and that it goes against the Board's public protection mandate.

Public comment was made regarding future amendments of the bill that would give place instructors from out-of-state providing follow-up in California under the jurisdiction of the Board.



Hypothetical conversation took place concerning practice privilege, how International Guide Dog Federation certification of a school, or the revocation of said certification, does not inhibit a school's ability to do business in any state.

**Provision 3 – Consumer Education**

Board discussion took place regarding the need for this provision to be written into law and what content has already been developed.

Member Brown motioned to opposed SB 1331.

Member Carlton seconded the motion.

Motion Passed: 4 ayes, 0 no's

Member Brown motioned to have the Board President submit a written letter of opposition and to delegate to the Executive Officer a physical appearance at the upcoming committee hearing of SB 1331.

Vice President Delgado seconded the motion.

Motion Passed: 4 ayes, 0 no's.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Assembly Bill 1824 (Chang) regarding attacks on guide, signal, and service dogs.  
EO Skewis summarized the two provisions of the bill.

Member Brown presented concerns regarding the removal of the phrase “while the guide, signal, or service dog is in discharge of its duties.” and suggested consideration of some language that would require that the guide, signal, or service dog is under the control of its handler.

General discussion took place regarding control of a guide, signal, or service dog. Additional discussion took place regarding the need to establish intent when an individual does harm to a guide, signal, or service dog.

Public comment was made stating that the intent is that handlers are compensated accordingly in the case of dog attacks. Additionally, the California Council of the Blind would not be opposed to adding language requiring that the dog is under the control of its handler.

Member Brown motioned to support AB 1824 if amended with language approved by the Board which will consider currently proposed deletions.

Vice President Delgado seconded the motion.



Motion Passed: 4 ayes, 0 no's

6. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda  
None noted

7. Adjournment  
Member Brown motioned to adjourn at 4:21 p.m.

Member Carlton seconded the motion.

Motion Passed: 4 ayes, 0 no's