

**METROPOLITAN HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
April 29, 2016  
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Human Services District was held on Friday April 29, 2016 at the District Office, located at 1010 Common Street, Suite 600, New Orleans, La. 70112. The meeting was called to order at 12:36 pm. Roll was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Board members in attendance were: Dr. Joe Constans, Charlotte Parent, Dr. Sarintha Stricklin, Gary Mendoza, and Sylvie Tran. Board members absent: Dr. Petrice Sams-Abiodun, Dr. Cathy Lazarus, and Dr. Emily Clark

Other individuals present were: MHSD, Rochelle Head-Dunham Executive Direct/Medical Direct, Steven J. Farber Compliance Attorney, Dr. Brenda Edgerton-Webster Director of Communications, and Traci Brown Interim Chief Financial Officer. Plaquemines Care: Julie Olsen. Odyssey House: Andrew Ward. RAC: Brenda Valteau

**Approval of the February 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

- Ms. Parent moved to approve the February 26, 2016 minutes. Ms. Tran seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report/Strategic Plan/End Focus**

Dr. Dunham reviewed her approach to leadership. She stated that she enjoys her team and has spent time getting to know MHSD. During her 1<sup>st</sup> six weeks she met with several people internally at MHSD, and has now started meeting with various external partners. She spent time in her 1<sup>st</sup> six weeks learning about MHSD. She reported that, in her assessment, the MHSD vision is good, but it needs better execution. MHSD will have a two-day meeting to review and develop the Strategic plan on May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Strategic plan will help develop and form MHSD, and will also help address the Ends component. The updated/new Strategic plan should be ready prior to the next Board Meeting. MHSD is currently working with a lean business model that may have led to over-contracting of services that are central to the MHSD mission and might be best administered internally. Dr. Dunham discussed the core needs of MHSD. In order to strengthen MHSD's core, MHSD needs to strengthen its Addiction Component, as well as fill some additional positions (Advocacy-Mental Health Liaison, Nursing Staff and Quality Division). MHSD is starting an enrollment campaign for Medicaid Expansion. MHSD needs to build quality clinical delivery services, staffed by MHSD employees. MHSD intends to hire someone to monitor its quality of service. MHSD also need to build partnerships with the city and the state. Medicaid expansion is MHSD's sustainability; with more clients come more providers. On average MHSD patients die 15 years earlier than the average person due to their health issues, not their addiction or mental health issues. MHSD plans to partner with city and parish health clinic to address the health issues of its' clients while treating the mental health and addition issues themselves. Dr. Dunham stated that MHSD intends to do some amending to its helpline. Plaquemines Care is a great center, but needs help to be more accessible to the people of Lower Plaquemines Parish. MHSD is looking into funding to get treatment staff into lower Plaquemines Parish at least one a week. MSHD will be applying for CARF accreditation. MHSD is currently working on an MOU with the City of New Orleans Health Clinic to start performing mental health and addition triage to the homeless population medical clients of the City of New Orleans. MHSD is working with NHSC student loan repayment. Once qualified MHSD would be able to recruit medical personnel and portions of their student loans would be repaid by NHSC. On Monday May 2, 2016 Dr. Dunham will meet with St. Bernard Parish President McInnis to discuss the needs of St. Bernard Parish as well a new board member for their area.

**Legislative Report**

MHSD Attorney Steven J. Farber discussed two bills that are currently being monitored by the agency. The first bill is HB 114, which requires the Districts to request approval from DHH for merit and cost of living increases. MSHD is also monitoring SB 385, regarding the Northeast Human Service District that would place four (4) senators on the Board of

Directors. Originally the bill proposed that the senators would be ex-officio, non-voting members of the board; however, the bill has been amended so that the senators will be full voting members of the board.

### **Budget Report**

As of March, MSHD has suffered about a 4% general fund cut. MSHD had a hiring freeze to help keep the cuts low to services. Next fiscal year MSHD had been told to expect 20% cuts, although previous estimates have been 27% and 24% reductions. A 20% cut would amount to about \$9,000,000. After June, MSHD will have the final percentage of cuts from the Legislature. MSHD is trying to minimize the use of state general funds spending.

### **Compliance Report**

Attorney Steven J. Farber reported MSHD needs to rework the compliance tools the Board uses to monitor MSHD activities. The current measurement tools are not clearly defined, ambiguous and hard to measure. Attorney Farber suggested that the Board redesign the compliance tools to measure data that is usable and corresponds to the mission of MSHD. Chairman Joe Constans reported that a subcommittee including Board members Gary Mendoza and Sylvia Tran will review monitoring tools. The subcommittee will make recommendations about certain monitoring tools for the June meeting.

Attorney Farber reported regarding MSHD contracts. Revisions to the contract policy will be coming in the next few months. MSHD is currently working on a Standard Operating Procedure for contracts. A report regarding risk management incidents for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter was provided to the Board.

### **Programmatic Updates**

MSHD collaborations with the community were discussed. MSHD Developmental Disabilities were rated in the (90<sup>th</sup>) ninetieth percentile for most areas in the state, and ranked in the (20<sup>th</sup>) percentile for hiring. This hiring percentile was the highest in Louisiana. MSHD plans on working with CSOCH to link Children and Youth Services.

### **Appointment of Sub-Committee to Nominate New Board Officers for FY2017**

Chair Dr. Constans, Vice Chair, Charlotte Parent' and Secretary Sylvia Tran's terms as Board Officers ends in June. The Board set up a nominating committee in compliance with Board Policy. The Nominating Committee will recommend nominations of new Board Officers for FY17 during the May Board meeting.

### **Ethics Training and Paperwork for Board of Directors Members**

Attorney Farber reiterated to the Board that they are required to take the mandatory Ethics training set up by the Louisiana Board of Ethics. The website was provided to the Board. Attorney Farber requested that once the Board Members have completed the required training, they should print out the certificate of completion and send to MSHD. Each Board member is also required by law to submit a financial disclosure form signed and returned by May 15, 2016 to the Board of Ethics.

### **Parish Updates: Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard**

Julie Olsen of Plaquemines Cares, voiced her excitement for the Board's selection of Dr. Dunham as Executive Director/ Medical Director. She stated that she was looking forward to a larger presence by MSHD in Plaquemines Parish.

### **Other Business**

The Media Report was read by Dr. Brenda Edgerton-Webster. Dr. Webster also provided an update on the new MSHD website.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Motion was made by Joe Constans to move the next Board meeting to May 20, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. Sylvia Tran seconded the motion. Vote of all in attendance confirmed the motion. No opposing vote.

### **Invitation for Public Comment**

Mr. Ward from Odyssey House stated that he was thrilled for all of the changes at MSHD. Ms. Valteau of RAC wanted to let everyone know that Dr. Dunham provided opening remarks at RAC's monthly meeting "A Community Decision".

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.