**Governance Board Meeting Minutes**

**Northwest Louisiana Human Services District**

**March 18, 2024**

1310 N. Hearne Avenue – Shreveport Behavioral Health Clinic – Shreveport, LA

Called to Order: Called to Order by Kristie Copeland at 5:35pm.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation led by David Hoey, Pledge led by Kristie Copeland.

Roll Call: David Hoey, Karisma Jones, Sara Ebarb, D. McCoy and Kristie Copeland were present. Crystal Rabo and Trudie Abner were excused. Bossier, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, and Governor Appointee #1 have no board representative at this time. A quorum of 5 out of 7 board members confirmed by David Hoey. Doug Efferson, Executive Director was present.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by David Hoey to add Hope Connections to the Agenda, seconded by D. McCoy and unanimously approved. Moved by David Hoey to approve the agenda as modified, seconded by D. McCoy, and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes for February 19, 2024: Moved by David Hoey to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Karisma Jones, and unanimously approved.

Guest and Public Comments: Kristie Copeland welcomed Christa Pazzaglia, Executive Director for Hope Connections, and Tate Kendall, Manager for the Safe Haven Shelter.

Presentation from Hope Connections: Christa Pazzaglia, Executive Director for Hope Connections, gave a detailed presentation on the Hope Connections outreach program to the homeless in area encampments and thanked the District for the funding provided. Tate Kendall, Manager for the Safe Haven Shelter, highlighted the efforts by Hope Connections to use grant funding to start up a 37 bed, low barrier shelter with pet supports. The presentation was well received and a lengthy discussion of homeless issues followed.

Executive Limitations: Doug Efferson gave a summary of his written report on Financial Conditions & Activities and Communication and Support to the Board. Of note was the Shreveport City Court’s new Behavioral Health Court announced by Chief Judge Sheva Sims of Shreveport City Court at an event hosted by the Community Foundation of North Louisiana (CFNLA). The court will work with individuals seeking help with mental illness or addiction as part of their pre-trial activities. Doug Efferson then informed the Board that, due to the Governor’s budget not including a new Waiver position as requested, the District will be re-allocating the vacant FTE resulting from our pharmacist retiring to fill the waiver position need. This is possible due to Genoa taking over pharmacy services April 1st and the pharmacist position no longer being needed. Sara Ebarb moved to except the Executive Director Report as presented, seconded by Karisma Jones, and unanimously approved.

Board Business: Kristie Copeland led a review of the ENDs Statement policy followed by a lengthy review of the Stakeholder Survey results. The Board was very pleased with the complements stated, especially the positive comments regarding the staff. The board also had a lengthy discussion regarding the concerns stated and how they may be addressed. At the end of the discussion, Kristie Copeland motioned for the ENDs statement to remain unchanged, seconded by David Hoey, and unanimously approved. Kristie Copeland then collected the final ED Evaluation Comments forms and requested volunteers for the ED Evaluation Committee. D. McCoy volunteered to be Chair of the committee, Sara Ebarb agreed to serve, and Kristie Copeland appointed Trudie Abner to serve as the third committee member. D. McCoy announced that the ED Evaluation Committee will meet on Monday, April 15th, 2024 at 5:00pm. The February Board Compliance Monitoring Summary Report was reviewed and accepted. The March Board Compliance Monitoring Tool was completed and given to Doug Efferson for summary. The next meeting date/time was agreed to be Monday, April 15, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Announcements/Acknowledgements: Sara Ebarb announced she will be making a presentation to the Sabine Parish Police Jury on Thursday, March 20th, to inform them of District activities specific to Sabine Parish. Doug Efferson offered to attend as well and provide statistics for the presentation.

Adjournment: D. McCoy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm, seconded by Karisma Jones, and unanimously approved.

Minutes Prepared by David Hoey, Board Secretary