

**NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)**  
**Board Meeting MINUTES**  
**August 8, 2023**  
**Ouachita Parish Health Unit, Community Room, 1650 DeSiard Street,**  
**Monroe, LA. 71201**

**5:30PM**

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Yvonne Lewis and prayer was led by Yvonne Lewis and a quorum was met.

**Adopt Agenda:** A Motion was made by Latanya Whiteside and seconded by Thelma Merrells to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt Minutes of June 13, 2023:** A Motion was made by Randy Williams and seconded by Latanya Whiteside to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Board Members Present:** Thelma Merrells, Rev. Shawn Hornsby, Randy Williams, Dr. Tony Young, Yvonne Lewis, Andy Bryan, Tasha Washington, and Dr. Tiffany Bates

**Board Members Absent:** Cynthia Mathes and Dr. Tony Young

**Northeast Delta HSA staff present:** Dr. Monteic Sizer and Delores Harris

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS**

**Upcoming Events/Community Action –**

Our Louisiana Legislative Audit has concluded. I am happy to report that we have zero findings according to auditors. My team and I are thrilled about this significant accomplishment. The formal report will be released soon.

We will be cutting the ribbon on our harm reduction vending machine this Thursday at 2 pm. The location will be at the Phoenix Peer Support Center located at 722 Adams Street, Monroe, Louisiana. It's open to the public.

We will be unveiling our mural on the Developmental Disability building August 15, 2023 at 10 am. This mural is part of our Art is Medicine initiative. The event is open to the public.

We will be hosting a major Recovery Day Celebration in Forsythe Park on September 15, 2023, to honor September as Recovery Month. The event will be from 10 am to 2 pm. We will be celebrating those who have made the decision to get clean from drugs and alcohol.

We hosted a Matrix Model training for staff and partners in our training center on July 27, 2023. The Matrix Model is an intensive outpatient treatment training program for alcoholics and drug addicts. It's part of our retooling to further meet the needs of those who struggle with various types of addiction.

We hosted our annual Jiggaerobics prevention and wellness event at the Monroe Civic Center on June 22, 2023. We had a packed house and had lots of fun at this event.

Since our March 8<sup>th</sup> Morehouse Parish town hall meeting, we continue to partner with nonprofits, be engaged with Morehouse Parish Head Start, meet with law enforcement and first responders, sponsored a recent community event, and continue to execute our behavioral and primary healthcare integration model in the parish.

Our prevention and wellness team conducted two additional responsible drinking trainings with local bar and restaurant owners in Franklin (May 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm) and Ouachita (May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm) Parishes. The goal was to help them prevent serving minors and to help reduce problem drinking.

We have executed our regional opioid messaging campaign. The campaign is entitled Fentanyl is Forever. We are using multiple print, digital, radio, and television strategies to help people understand the dangers of opioids. We will be executing our suicide mitigation campaign the month of August 2023.

We will use similar strategies as our Fentanyl is Forever campaign.

We chose 5 regional artists to produce artwork that reflects aspects of overcoming mental illness, addiction, and trauma. These pieces of art were displayed during our downtown Monroe art crawl. The art will now travel and be displayed at regional museums. The first museum the art will be displayed at is the Northeast Louisiana Delta African American Heritage Museum in July 2023.

We continue to identify and build operational capacity of regional nonprofits. These nonprofits will then help us further connect people to our mental health, addiction, developmental disability, and prevention and wellness services. These groups are to then become part of our regional safety-net service offerings.

I have established a regional training and professional development center at our new developmental disability building. We have done several staff professional development and wellness activities in the new location. Specifically, we recently had an all staff customer service and two wellness sessions there. And on May 5th, staff left training and then ate lunch together at Golden Corral before going to Surge, an amusement park in West Monroe to further fellowship. Again, this is part of NEDHSA's overall staff training and wellness initiative.

We are preparing three manuscripts for publication before June 30th. One is about client show vs no show rates, and the other one is about our behavioral and primary healthcare outcomes. Our client show vs no show rates manuscript was submitted to the Journal of the American Medical Association and was recently published. It's one of the most respected and widely read research medical journals in the world. We are currently identifying the most appropriate journals for the others.

We hosted an opioid awareness town hall in Ruston, Louisiana Thursday, April 27th. It took place from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. We met at Temple Baptist Church as part of our Faith Partnership Initiative and prevention and

wellness work. We had a great turnout and provided lifesaving information and Narcan.

Our Art is Therapy Festival was Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the River Market in downtown Monroe, Louisiana. It was a first of its kind event that attracted lots of regional artists, patrons, and the general public. This festival was part of our Art as Medicine Initiative. Planning is already underway for the next one.

Our Prevention and Wellness staff worked with regional schools during Orange Ribbon Week to help reduce underage drinking.

We hosted a National Prescription Take Back Day on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Staff and law enforcement were at the Spring Market in Grambling, Brookshire's in Monroe, and Super 1 Foods in Bastrop. They removed 150 lbs of unused prescription drugs from these two locations.

We were the title sponsor of a faith-based conference held at the Monroe Civic Center April 28-30. The conference examined trauma, sexual assault, community violence, and mental illness. Dr. Sizer was one of the keynote speakers and discussed the relationship between spiritual determinants of health and generational trauma. There was a panel discussion and live entertainment as well.

We hosted our annual Youth Summit May 5th at Carroll High School. This great event was recorded and will be shared with other regional school districts.

We hosted our annual Faith Summit Saturday, May 20th. It was at ULM's Bayou Pointe from 8 am to 12:30 pm. The agenda was loaded with awesome subject matter experts. CEUs were made available.

May was Mental Health Awareness Month.

We were nominated for the prestigious T. H. Scott Award. This award is given annually by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Sizer and staff were in attendance at the Monroe Civic Center on May 11, 2023.

We were a finalists for the prestigious State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) Award, an award given to organizations for innovative practices that can be replicated at the state and federal levels. It was presented in Charleston, South Carolina as part of the Council of State Government's Southern Legislative Conference. Dr. Sizer and Dr. Bhatta presented data and represented NEDHSA and the state of Louisiana from July 9th through July 12th.

We were nominated for the acclaimed Bart Award, an award presented by the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council for innovative and impactful arts related work. This recognition was associated with our Art as Medicine and related arts work. This event was June 8th.

We hosted our Opioid Summit Thursday, June 15 at ULM's Bayou Pointe. The time was from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The Summit theme was Building Resilience for Recovery Through Trauma-Informed Care. CEUs were made available.

We hosted an event with the Junior League of Monroe June 10th at the Pecanland Mall in Monroe. It was part of our prevention and wellness community engagement strategy.

We sponsored a Health and Healing Walk in association with the Northeast Louisiana African American Heritage Museum's Juneteenth Celebration. It was on Saturday, June 17 beginning at 7:30 am.

We hosted poetry and other literary trauma reducing strategies as part of our Art as Medicine Initiative. Sessions were held in Ouachita and Franklin Parishes.

### **GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS**

Executive Director –

- Monthly Executive Director Report
- Monthly Fiscal Report

The ED's report was presented along with the monthly Fiscal Report a Motion was made by Latanya Whiteside and seconded by Randy Williams to approve\accept as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Planning & Budgeting/Financial Condition and Activities** – *With respect to the actual, ongoing financial condition and activities, the ED shall not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy or a material deviation of actual expenditures from board priorities established in Ends policies.*

NEDHSA's FY24 appropriated budget is \$16,400,869. Total excluding SGR= \$15,627,025. Our IAT = \$4,483,420. Self-generated = \$773,844.

**Board –**

- Upcoming Events/Community Activities
- Board Development Activities
- Review of NEDHSA Global Ends Statement (page 3) Board agree to leave statement as printed with no changes. A motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded Andy Bryan to approve/accept the Global Ends statement as written. Motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD MANAGEMENT – Ongoing**

- Parish Outreach
- Travel Forms
- Board Member Recruitment

**ADJOURN** - A motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded Latanya Whiteside to end meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting – **September 12, 2023 - 5:30 pm**

**Northeast Delta Human Services Authority Offices, 2513 Ferrand Street, Monroe, LA. 71201**