

**NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)**  
**Board Meeting MINUTES**  
**June 13, 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 Randy Williams and seconded by Andy Bryan to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt Minutes of April 11, 2023:** A Motion was made by Cynthia Mathes and seconded by Tasha Washington to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Board Members Present:** Randy Williams, Yonne Lewis, Andy Bryan, Tasha Washington, Cynthia Mathes and Dr. Tiffany Bates

**Board Members Absent:** Thelma Merrells, Rev. Shawn Hornsby, Latanya Whiteside and Dr. Tony Young

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

**Quarterly Board Training – Staff –Prevention and Wellness Initiatives – A summary was presented to the board by Dr. Avius Carroll**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS**

**Upcoming Events/Community Action -**

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 there.

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 soon.

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 accepted for publication. 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.

NEDHSA's 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.

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

NEDHSA 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.

NEDHSA was 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.

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

NEDHSA hosted its 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 is Mental Health Awareness Month.

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

NEDHSA is a finalist 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 will be presented in Charleston, South Carolina as part of the Council of State Government's Southern Legislative Conference. Dr. Sizer and Dr. Bhatta will be presenting data and representing NEDHSA from July 9th through July 12th.

NEDHSA was 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 the NEDHDA's Art as Medicine and related arts work. This event was June 8th.

NEDHSA will host its Opioid Summit Thursday, June 15 at ULM's Bayou Pointe. The time is from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The Summit theme is Building Resilience for Recovery Through Trauma-Informed Care. CEUs will be made available.

NEDHSA hosted an event with the Junior League of Monroe June 10th at the Pecanland Mall in Monroe. It's part of the agency's prevention and wellness initiatives.

NEDHSA is sponsoring a Health and Healing Walk in association with the Northeast Louisiana African American Heritage Museum's Juneteenth Celebration. It will be Saturday, June 17 beginning at 7:30 am.

NEDHSA hosted poetry and other literary trauma reducing strategies as part of its 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 made by Randy Williams and seconded by Dr. Tiffany Bates 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 FY23 appropriated budget is \$16,618,143. Total excluding SGR= \$15,819,790. Our IAT = \$4,483,420. Self-generated = \$798,353.

## **Board –**

**Emergency ED Succession with Organizational Chart (Page 12)** A Motion made by Andy Bryan and seconded by Cynthia Mathes to approve / accept as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

**Chairperson’s Role (Page 8)** - A Motion made by Randy Williams and seconded by Cynthia Mathes to approve / accept as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Planning (Policy Manual page 9)** - A Motion made by Randy Williams and seconded by Cynthia Mathes to approve / accept as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

**Cost of Governance (Policy Manual Page 8-9)** - A Motion made by Randy Williams and seconded by Tasha Washington to approve / accept as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

All items from the Governance manual was discussed and the board had a motion to accept all of them as written with no changes.

### **BOARD MANAGEMENT - Ongoing**

- Board Development/Parish Outreach
- Board Members Terms/Renewal of Appointments
- Travel Expense Forms due by July 7, 2023 in Baton Rouge

### **ADJOURN**

#### **Next Meeting – July 11, 2023**

Ouachita Parish Health Unit-Community Room, 1650 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71202