



# HSA

Northeast Delta  
Human Services Authority

Mental Health • Addiction Disorders  
Developmental Disabilities

Board of Directors

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MEETING

DAY/DATE: April 13, 2021

TIME: 5:30 - 7:00 PM

LOCATION: to be Held Via ZOOM format

### INVITED PARTICIPANTS:

Senator Katrina Jackson – District 34  
Representative Pat Moore – District 17  
Representative Francis Thompson – District 19  
Dr. Monteic Sizer – NEDHSA Executive Director  
NEDHSA Board of Directors  
Michael Shipp – Lincoln  
Yvonne Lewis - Madison  
Ms. Thelma Merrills – Ouachita  
Rev. Shawn Hornsby – Ouachita  
Dr. E. H. Baker – Ouachita  
Latanya Whiteside – West Carroll

### OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Provide updates on pending legislation and issues affecting NEDHSA'S mission and activities in the areas of Mental Health, Addictive Disorders and Developmental Disabilities.
- 2) Provide a format for NEDHSA Board Members to provide questions and feedback to legislators.
- 3) Obtain guidelines and suggestions for Board Member inclusion/participation in the legislative process.

### AGENDA:

Introductions – Mike Shipp, Chairman, Board of directors

Remarks – Dr. Monteic Sizer, Executive Director

Legislative Update: Senator Jackson, Representative Moore and Representative Thompson

Questions and Answers: NEDHSA Board Members

Questions submitted by NEDHSA Board Members

FROM: Yvonne Lewis - Tallulah

1. **Is there any chance that legislation could be brought to change the right for convenience store owners to allow individuals under 18 to sell cigarettes, tobacco products and alcohol to customers of age?** As background, I have a HUGE issue with the children of some of the store owners in Tallulah being allowed to sell alcohol/tobacco products. The store owners have told me that they must be at least 16 and that an adult is supposed to be nearby. To me, this is just crazy. If you have to be 21 to buy alcohol/tobacco products, how can someone who isn't even old enough to buy them allowed to sell them to adults? Additionally, this allows the children to be in a position to talk to adults in a demeaning manner, which could lead to lifelong feelings of superiority over a certain race of people.
2. **Will there be another round of Opportunity Zones for Louisiana?** That might be a federal question.
3. **What is the plan for increased broadband services for Northeast Louisiana? I know a lot of services are telehealth now. Not everyone has access to internet, or the internet they have could be better.**
4. **Will there be any legislation that addresses police officers getting mental health training when responding to mental health/disturbance calls?**

FROM: Mike Shipp – Ruston

1. **Telehealth has become such an important tool in reaching out to our clients in isolated areas. Are there any plans to expand the availability of broadband and computer access to our region?**