



**AAHSD Regular Board Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2024**

Meeting held at 302 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506 in Auditorium 2.

Members present: Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); Darce` Byrd (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish), Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish); Elizabeth West, Secretary (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish); Carla JeanBatiste, Vice-Chair (St. Martin Parish); and Yasmin Welch (Lafayette Parish).

Members absent: John Stefanski (Acadia Parish); Quinta Thompson Credeur, Chair (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish); and Bambi Polotzola, (St. Landry Parish); and Sydia Robin (Evangeline Parish).

Members of the public present: None present.

AAHSD Staff in Attendance: Brad Farmer, Executive Director; and Gretchen Sudwischer, Administrative Assistant.

The Public Notice and Agenda were posted at the AAHSD clinics and on the website. Open meeting laws are available.

1. Call to order at 3:16 pm.
 - a. Meeting Objective(s):
 - i. Conduct business per approved agenda calendar
 - ii. Address any new business as needed
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board Secretary, Elizabeth West and recited by attendees.
3. Roll call performed by Elizabeth West, Secretary, noting a quorum was present.
4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments – None present.
5. Consent Agenda items:
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. August regular Board meeting – No minutes (Cancelled due to lack of quorum); September regular Board meeting
 - b. Program reports:
 - BH & DD numbers and stats - reviewed by the Board
 - Motion made by Darce` Byrd, and seconded by Carol Broussard to approve and accept the minutes as printed, as well as the program reports. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Comments from Chair:
 - a. Board advocacy reports –
 - Darce` Byrd shared concerns regarding a parental Mental Health evaluation ordered by DCFS and the wait time for an appointment at Tyler BHC.

Discussions were held. The scheduling process was explained by the Executive Director. Other solutions were noted by the Board members. The explanations appear to have satisfied the concerns regarding the wait time for these specific types of appointments.

- Yasmin Welch shared she attended Dr. Simoneaux's training last week, stating it was a great training and was very impressed with the newly installed audio & visual technology in the auditorium.

b. Agenda Calendar items -

i. Executive Limit Pol 1.4: Financial Planning and Budgeting (pg 7)

- Motion made by Darce` Byrd, and seconded by Richard Landry to accept the Agenda Calendar items. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Board Business: Convene Nominating Committee – Chair Appointment

- Discussion held. Carla JeanBatiste, Vice-Chair (Acting Chair) asks for volunteers and appoints Carol Broussard, Elizabeth West and Darce` Byrd as the Nominating Committee. Chair to serve in an ex officio capacity.

- The Nominating Committee will meet on November 18, 2024 at 3:00 pm prior to the regular Board meeting to nominate the officers; will vote at the December 18, 2024 meeting; and those appointed will take office in January, 2025.

c. HSIC meeting follow-up: Deferred until the November agenda.

7. Comments from Executive Director:

- a. CCBHC update: All is going well. Entering the 3rd year of the initial 4 year grant. AAHSD will be reapplying by the end of this grant year or the first of year 4 for the next grant, which will be another 4-year cycle. The current grant is called a PDI (Planning Development Implementation), and if successful in receiving another 4-year grant, it will be considered a continuation grant, and will have the same rules and regulations.

i. Same Day Access – Records indicate from 1/8/2024 – 10/11/2024, AAHSD has conducted 1,821 assessments and admitted 1,725 cases, or 94.7%, these admissions are separate from the crisis cases, and averages out to be approximately 45 assessments per week across the district. Tracking numbers will continue and one of the goals is making this somewhat of a service on demand and have the next follow-up appointment with a therapist within 8 business days.

ii. Just In Time project – (Scheduling / set times for prescribers) will launch right after the 1st of the year. Starting November 1, 2024, clients coming to our clinics to see a prescriber will be informed of the JIT process for medication refills, rather than giving a follow-up appointment. Will implement NSNAP (No Show Needs a Prescription) for active clients.

iii. Expanded Hours – Started approximately 3 weeks ago, expanded hours for existing clients are 7:30 am – 5:30 pm, with days varying among the clinics and may be telehealth appointments. Anticipated additional hours may commence after the first of the next year, and will include weekend hours.

iv. Behavioral Health Symposium; LAMHA; National Council presentations - scheduled for LAMHA webinar on Wednesday, October 30, 2024

regarding CCBHCs; National Council on November 19, 2024 regarding rural healthcare providers, workforce development and recruitment challenges; and Behavioral Health Symposium (which was cancelled before the last day due to Hurricane Francine) has been tentatively rescheduled for December 11, 2024. Presenters will be Brad Farmer, Executive Director, Tynese Breaux, Practice Manager/Project Director-CCBHC, Project Evaluator from the Picard Center and Tri-West Consulting Firm.

- v. LDH/OBH SAMHSA grant application – OBH did submit the grant application to SAMHSA and AAHSD provided letters of support of the CCBHC effort.
- b. Crisis Response System and TTI grant – AAHSD partnered with OBH and applied for a TTI (Technology Transfer Initiative) grant, is a one-year planning grant to help support and develop the Crisis Response Systems across the state to use the funding towards technical assistance and training.
- c. St. Martin Parish update – Attended a meeting in regards to how the opioid settlement monies will be distributed and sat in on interviews for the Crisis Response Coordinator. AAHSD received additional funding for performance for success prevention programs for underage drinking. Carla JeanBatiste, Vice-Chair shared information in regards to the budgeting of the funding.

The handout provided at the HSIC annual meeting is reviewed by the Board.

It is noted Dr. Pete Croughan, Deputy Secretary of OBH, is a member of the Opioid Advisory Group.

8. Next meeting – November 18, 2024

- a. The next regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 3:15 pm. Nominating Committee will meet at 3:00 pm prior to the regular Board meeting. Meeting notices will be sent out and posted. It is also noted the December Board meeting will be on December 16, 2024.

Yasmin Welch asked for updates on Meredith's Place. The Executive Director provided updates and plans for future expansion of the property.

9. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn made by Carol Broussard, and seconded by Elizabeth West. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm.

Submitted by: 
Elizabeth West, AAHSD Board Secretary