

Board Meetings
September 15, 2025
3:15 pm

Members present: Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); Yasmin Welch (Evangeline Parish); Carla Jean Batiste, Vice Chair (St. Martin Parish); Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish); Bambi Polotzola (St. Landry Parish); Darce` Byrd, Secretary (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish);

Members absent: Elizabeth West (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish); and Quinta Thompson Credeur, Chair (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish).

Vacant Seats: Acadia and Lafayette Parish.

AAHSD staff in attendance: Brad Farmer, Executive Director, Gretchen Sudwischer, Administrative Assistant, Sanara Coleman – Crowley Behavioral Health – Social Worker 4, April Jacobs – Tyler Behavioral Health Clinic – Clinic Manager

Members of the public present: William Harrison, PhD, Arsenio J. Andrus, Mary George Dugas, and Sarah Clement

1. Call to order: 3:17 pm

a. Meeting Objectives

- I. Conduct business per the approved agenda calendar
- II. Address any new business as needed.

2. Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance.

3. Consent Agenda Items:

a. Minutes

- I. August Regular board meeting; motion made by Carol and seconded by Yasmin; carried unanimously
- II. Program Reports; motion made by Richard and seconded by Carol; carried unanimously

4. Comments from the Chair

a. Board advocacy reports:

- I. Bambi reminded the board that St. Landry Parish will hold a disabilities resource fair on October 11, 2025, at the Magnet Academy.
- II. Darce` told the board she attended the first session of the CARF survey; the surveyor was complimentary of AAHSD.
- III. Brad noted that Quinta attended the exit meeting held on Wednesday.
- IV. Brad spoke to the Lafayette Parish Chief of Staff, and provided them the guidelines of the new appointee. Brad informed the mayor's office that he had a potential board member; the mayor's office also has one.

b. Agenda Calendar Items:

- I. Executive Limit Pol 1.3: Treatment of Staff
- II. Governance Process Pol 2.3: Board Job Description:

Motion made by Carol and seconded by Bambi; carried unanimously.

5. Comments from the Executive Director:

- a. Staff Presentations: Brad asked April Jacobs and Sanara Coleman to speak to the board about their experiences as employees. April reported that she came to

AAHSD. She worked in the private sector; she wanted to start a family and knew working in the private sector would not provide much room for family. April started working for AAHSD on June 4, 2018. She stated that her twins were born in August 2019; one of her twins had to spend a substantial amount of time in the NICU. April stated that all the staff at AAHSD supported her and her family during the time her son was in the NICU. April said the National Health Service Corps helped her pay off her student loans. April told the board that, by becoming an employee at AAHSD, she invested in herself and her family. Sanara informed the board that she has been an employee at AAHSD since 2019, working in the Crowley office. She said that all the staff welcomed her with open arms and warm smiles. She noted that her supervisor has created a great team, which is full of support. Being an employee has allowed her to do a multitude of things; Sanara said that she was part of the "Same Day Access" team. Sanara said one of the highlights of working at AAHSD was participating in the March 2025 event; she said she felt part of the team, although she did not present. She is working on her Doctorate at Tulane. Sanara said she is grateful for her current career position. Richard noted that as a past employee it makes him happy to know "the river keeps flowing." Mary stated that as a consumer that AAHSD has made a huge impact on her life; she is thankful she made to the choice to receive services.

- a. CARF Survey Update: Brad reported that they have not received the final report, but they did have more recommendations than expected. There were fifteen to seventeen recommendations. Overall 99% of the standards were met.
 - b. Data Report Update: The team continues to work on data reporting. Brad let the board know that for the next two weeks the clinics will not have afternoon appointments (other than crisis and medication management). Employees will take the afternoons to complete the corrections needed. Brad said that if more time is needed, they will add additional hours to the work week.
 - c. Legislative Meeting Update: Brad scheduled for Legislators and State Representatives to attend a training at AAHSD. Three of those invited RSVPed; one attended, Senator Boudreaux. Brad said that the meeting with Senator Boudreaux went well; it was more of a conversation, than a training. Dr. Pete met with Senator Boudreaux.
 - d. LDH: There has been a lot of turn-around at LDH; staff have been moved around and there have been new hires. It was noted there is a lot of representation for the Acadiana area.
 - e. Annual HSIC: The meeting is scheduled for November 20th.
- 6. Next Meeting:** October 20, 2025
- 7. Additional Information:** Brad let the board know that he would be out Tuesday through Friday.
- 8. Adjournment:** 4:10 pm
- a. Motion made by Carol and seconded by Bambi; carried unanimously.

Darce Byrd^{MA}