



March 17, 2025

Call to order at 3:22 pm.

Members present: Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); Darce` Byrd, Secretary (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish); Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish); Yasmin Welch (Lafayette Parish); Quinta Thompson Credeur, Chair (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish); and Bambi Polotzola, (St. Landry Parish), Elizabeth West, (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish)

Members absent: Carla JeanBatiste, Vice-Chair (St. Martin Parish)

Vacant Seats: Acadia and Evangeline Parish

Members of the public present: None present

AAHSD staff in attendance: Brad Farmer, Executive Director, and Gretchen Sudwischer, Administrative Assistant.

Meeting Objective(s):

- i. Conduct business per the approved agenda calendar
 - ii. Address any new business as needed
2. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
 3. Roll call was performed by Darce` Byrd, noting that a quorum was present.
 4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments: none present
 5. Consent Agenda items:
 - a. Minutes:
 - February regular board meeting:
The motion was made by Bambi Polotzola and seconded by Carol Broussard, and it was carried unanimously.
 - b. Program Reports:
 - DD numbers were reviewed; Bambi complemented the quality of services and noted the impact the program had on the people it served.
 - Motion to accept: made by Quinta Thompson Credeur and seconded by Bambi Polotzola, and it was carried unanimously.

Comments from Chair

- a. Board advocacy reports
 - Quinta told the board that the Iberia Parish School System completed their online Narcan training; they are waiting for Narcan to be delivered to the schools.
 - The Iberia Parish School System will soon conduct its spring drug testing. Students involved in sports and clubs will be randomly selected for drug screening. If a student tests positive for any illegal substance, a hearing will be held to determine the outcome. Quinta informed the board that a student was expelled last week for possessing two roaches and one pound of marijuana; this was the same student who stole a horse during the Mardi Gras holidays.
- b. Agenda Calendar Items:
 - The motion was made by Elizabeth West and seconded by Carol Broussard; it was carried unanimously.

Comments from the Executive Director

- **Board Vacancies:** AAHSD has submitted names to Acadia and Evangeline Parishes, but has not received a response.

- **Deaths:** Brad reported that the eighteen (18) year-old who had passed away was the child of an employee of AAHSD. The service was held on Saturday in Crowley.
- **CCBHC:** Brad reported that SAMHSA had terminated ninety-five (95) employees. The mass layoff has not affected the grant payments. AAHSD is submitting numbers and continuing the grant process. A presentation will be made to the board members next month at the April board meeting.
- **Same-Day Access:** The program is performing well and admitted 95% of those who come in for assessment.
- **“Just in Time”:** Numbers were compared from January and February 2024 to the same months in 2025; “kept” appointments are increasing, and “no-show” appointments are decreasing. AAHSD is monitoring the “other” category; this category excludes “canceled by client” and “canceled by therapist.” Brad reported that prescribers do not always follow the AAHSD model; the district is engaging in ongoing discussions with the providers.
- **Work from Home:** Carol inquired whether AAHSD would be affected by the request that all employees return to the office versus continuing to work from home. Since AAHSD is not considered a state agency, it is not affected. Brad explained that in 2020, when the country went into lockdown, the district continued to work in the office with a skeleton crew.
- **ECSS:** A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at the public library to discuss ECSS; a Zoom link will be available. Magellan is handling the contracts, but at this time, it is unknown who will provide services. Brad sent the information to the Family Tree.
- **Federal Budget:** There is the potential for \$880 billion to be cut from the federal budget; Brad noted that “reducing” the budget and “cutting” the budget does not mean the same thing. Bambi reported the government put out a list of words that should not be used in federal grants.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.; Richard Landry made the motion, which Yasmin Welch seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Darce Byrd^{MA}

Darce` Byrd, AAHSD Board Secretary