**Governance Board Meeting Minutes**

**Northwest Louisiana Human Services District**

**August 19, 2024**

1310 N. Hearne Avenue – Shreveport Behavioral Health Clinic – Shreveport, LA

Called to Order: Called to Order by Crystal Rabo at 5:32pm.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation and Pledge led by Doug Efferson.

Roll Call: Crystal Rabo, Michelle Douglas Hartley, Yolanda Clark, Karisma Jones, Sara Ebarb, Trudie Abner and Kristie Copeland were present. D. McCoy was excused. David Hoey was absent. Claiborne, Natchitoches, and Governor Appointee #1 have no board representative at this time. A quorum of 7 out of 9 board members confirmed by Kristie Copeland. Doug Efferson, Executive Director was present.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Sara Ebarb to approve the agenda, seconded by Trudy Abner, and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes for July 15, 2024: Moved by Karisma Jones to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Trudie Abner, and unanimously approved.

Guest and Public Comments: Michelle Douglas Hartley was welcomed as a new Board member and all Board members gave a brief summary of themselves and the service area they represent. Justin Jetton was welcomed as a guest and he gave a summary of his positive experience at the clinic as a client and that he is now a peer support worker for our District. The Board was much appreciative of Justin’s testimonial regarding the quality of services being given and thanked him for helping others through his work as a peer support specialist.

Executive Limitations: Doug Efferson gave a summary of his written report on Financial Conditions & Activities, Communication and Support to the Board, ENDs Focus on Grants and Contracts, and Strategic Plan Indicator’s Update. Of note was the expansion of Genoa services to include the administration of long-term injections for the treatment of psychosis to individuals who are referred to Genoa but are not our clients. Also, Doug Efferson reported attending the July Claiborne Consortium meeting and requesting they help identify a potential board member for Claiborne parish. The Board reviewed the Louisiana State Health Improvement Plan (LaSHIP) Behavioral Health Goals and Objectives just released by LDH and was happy to hear that a local physician, Dr. Wyche T. Coleman III, was appointed to the position of Louisiana Department of Health - Deputy Surgeon General. A brief discuss was held regarding the Shreveport Police Department Community Advisory Council with regard to the improvement in violent crime statistics, the aggressive recruiting efforts underway to fill police officer vacancies, and the efforts to change public perception regarding Shreveport being a dangerous place to live. Doug Efferson also reported that our District hosted the LDH – North Louisiana public hearing on a proposed Reentry Demonstration Waiver, requesting CMS to provide certain covered services to Medicaid-eligible individuals 90 days prior to their release from prison or jail. The Board was informed on contract changes and were happy to hear that no contracts were eliminated due to performance issues. Doug Efferson gave a brief summary of the Fiscal Year End Strategic Plan Performance Indicators and the reason for two indicators being below expectations. Kristie Copeland moved to except the Executive Director Report as presented, seconded by Yolanda Clark, and unanimously approved.

Board Business: Trudie Abner led a review of the Delegation to the Executive Director policy, highlighting the Policy Governance wording and clear expectations by the Board. The July Board Compliance Monitoring Summary Report was reviewed and accepted. The August Board Compliance Monitoring Tool was completed and given to Doug Efferson for summary. The next meeting date/time was agreed to be Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Announcements/Acknowledgements: Doug Efferson announced that the annual HSIC meeting date has been set for Thursday, October 17th in Baton Rouge at the Bienville building downtown and that any Board members interested in attending should notify Crystal Rabo.

Adjournment: Kristie Copeland moved to adjourn the meeting at 6.42pm, seconded by Trudy Abner, and unanimously approved.

Minutes Prepared by Kristie Copeland, Board Member