**Governance Board Meeting Minutes**

**Northwest Louisiana Human Services District**

**March 17, 2025**

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

Called to Order: Called to Order by Trudie Abner at 5:45pm.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation was led by Trudie Abner and Pledge was led by Doug Efferson.

Roll Call: Debra Baggett-Woodard, Yolanda Clark, Karisma Jones, Trudie Abner and Kristie Copeland were present. Crystal Rabo, Michelle Douglas Hartley, Chris Davis and Sara Ebarb were excused. Natchitoches, Webster, and Governor Appointee #1 have no board representative at this time. A quorum of 5 out of 9 board members confirmed by Karisma Jones. Doug Efferson, Executive Director, was present.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Kristie Copeland to accept the agenda, seconded by Debra Baggett-Woodard, and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes for February 17, 2025: Moved by Kristie Copeland to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Yolanda Clark, and unanimously approved.

Guest and Public Comments: Trudie Abner recognized Chris Davis as listening in by Zoom but unable to vote.

Executive Limitations: Doug Efferson gave a summary of his written report on Financial Conditions & Activities and Communication and Support to the Board. The Board was informed that Genoa Pharmacy, our contracted pharmacy provider, sponsored a Lunch-and-Learn event for our District staff highlighting the one-year anniversary of our partnership, the client services being provided, and the services available to our employees and contracted staff. The Board was also that the Shreveport Police Department Chief's Advisory Council Meeting and the Northwest Louisiana Crisis Response Coalition meetings this month focused on first responder services and the need for expanded Crisis Intervention Training. Both groups were informed that our District is completing the application for a Regional Crisis Intervention Training program in our service area and that our district is the sponsoring organization with the goal of expanding CIT training to all nine parishes in our service area. Also of note was a meeting with Bossier Parish 911 operators informing them of the interoperability already established by Caddo Parish and how Bossier 911 could benefit from a similar partnership. Also, the Board was informed that The Arc of Acadiana is opening a new Developmental Disability group home in Bossier City. Kristie Copeland moved to except the Executive Director Report as presented, seconded by Yolanda Clark, and unanimously approved.

Board Business: Yolanda Clark and Doug Efferson led a discussion on the Stakeholder Surveys received and reviewed the ENDs Statement to assure it addresses the needs and expectations of our stakeholders. Kristie Copeland moved to accept the ENDs Statement policy without any changes, seconded by Debora Baggett-Woodard, and unanimously approved. Yolanda Clark agreed to assure all ED Evaluation Comment forms were sent to Crystal Rabo for Summary then appointed Karisma Jones, Crystal Rabo, Sara Ebarb, and Yolanda Clark to the ED Evaluation Committee with Crystal Rabo as Chair. Yolanda Clark presented the following Board Resolution for consideration:

BOARD PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling provides a number of unique services to the state of Louisiana including the operation of the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline 1-877-770-STOP, the management of Center for Recovery-CORE, the only state residential treatment facility for compulsive gambling, the www.helpforgambling.org website that answers calls/text from people struggling with gambling problems, and the provision of free outpatient counseling services to compulsive and problem gamblers who are residents of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has proclaimed March, 2025 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month;

WHEREAS, the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District Board of Directors would like to recognize the important work done by the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling and the need to raise community awareness regarding the resources available to those needing treatment for gambling addiction;

BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 17th day of March, 2025, the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District Board of Directors hereby proclaims support for Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling services and the month of March being used to promote awareness of Problem Gambling statewide.

After a brief discussion, Debora Baggett-Woodard moved to approve the Board Proclamation, seconded by Yolanda Clark, and unanimously approved. The February Board Compliance Monitoring Summary Report was reviewed and accepted. The March Board Compliance Monitoring Tool was completed and given to Doug Efferson for summary. The next meeting date/time was agreed to be Monday, April 21, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Announcements/Acknowledgements: None.

Adjournment: Kristie Copeland moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm, seconded by Yolanda Clark, and unanimously approved.

Minutes Prepared by Karisma Jones, Board Secretary