**NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)**

**Board Meeting MINUTES**

**November 16, 2021**

**Ouachita Parish Health Unit - Community Room**

**1650 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71201**

**5:30PM**

**Call to Order**Meeting called to order by Mike Shipp and prayer was led by Mike Shipp and a quorum was met.

**Adopt Agenda***:* AMotion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Cynthia Mathes to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt Minutes of October 12:**AMotion was made by Latanya Whiteside and seconded by Yvonne Lewis to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Board Members Present:**

Thelma Merrells, Rev. Shawn Hornsby, Cynthia Mathes, LaTanya Whiteside, Yvonne Lewis and Mike Shipp

**Board Member Absent: None**

**Northeast Delta HSA staff present**: Dr. Monteic Sizer and Delores Harris

**Ownership Linkage-Recognition of Guests**: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD –** No requests for comment.

**GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS**

**Upcoming Events/Community Action**

Northeast Delta signed a MOU with the Food Bank of NELA to enhance services for those who are mentally ill and hungry. We are currently conducting research around food insecurity and solutions to health and human services gaps. There have been several TV and news stories written about it.

Dr. Sizer writes a monthly blog entitled Transformations on various mental health, addiction, health system, integrated care, etc., issues. The blog posts can be found on Northeast Delta’s website and related social media platforms. I will be writing about how negative social and structural influences correlate with high rates of mental illness, addiction, and primary health challenges.

Northeast Delta announced the formation of Leave No Veteran Behind to focus of veterans who are mentally ill, addicted to drugs and alcohol, and need housing, food, and primary health care services. We are sponsoring a VFW 5K race Saturday, November 13, 2021 in Monroe. Various TV and news articles have been written about it.

Dr. Sizer recently conducted an interview with Mental Health Weekly, a well-respected trade journal for healthcare system leaders about Operation Leave No Veteran Behind

Northeast Delta released its FY21 annual report. It highlighted agency programs and services. It also described how we are addressing negative social determinants of health.

Northeast Delta Prevention and Wellness staff participated in several anti-bullying, anti-suicide, and anti-drinking campaigns regionally.

The lease to consolidate all Northeast Delta developmental disability staff and assets in one location has been signed. The location is on a bus line and is within two minutes from our Prevention and Wellness facility off Ferrand Street. We are hoping to cut the ribbon sometime in December 2021. More details to come.

All Northeast Delta staff and departments continue working full-time at their respective assigned desks and buildings. Clinical and DD staff continue to develop plans for a phased, full reopening model where clients are seen face-to-face. To be noted, some clients are being seen at clinic locations. All plans include universal precaution measures, technology, PPE gear, etc. We have already secured many of the items needed to ensure the safety of staff and clients. We continue to require face coverings in all agency common areas. We also continue to practice social distancing and office screenings before individuals enter our buildings to avoid the community spread of COVID-19.

We were surveyed by CARF an earned an additional three year CARF accreditation. A three year CARF accreditation is CARF’s highest recognition.

We continue to participate in many social media campaigns, including suicide prevention and various addiction ones. We have also started a massive digital public awareness campaign about our programs and various services. This digital campaign includes Google, website, news banners, various social media outlets, etc. One commercial features our agency, and the other discusses opioids and what we are doing about it.

We are still planning to have GEONOA Pharmacy offer the Covid-19 vaccine to Northeast Delta staff who prefer the Moderna vaccine. We will be offering the vaccine to our outpatient and inpatient behavioral health and DD clients. We will do the same for contractors. GENONA has all of its state issued credentials to full serve our region.

Dr. Sizer shared with staff that his expectation is that Northeast Delta will be fully integrated programmatically and across all departments by July 1, 2022. To date, all fiscal, policies and procedures, analytics, HR, technology, and facilities are being aligned to support this agency objective. This objective is consistent with the Board approved agency strategic plan. Being fully integrated will also allow Northeast Delta to be more efficient, effective, and outcomes driven. When this happens, we will see greater innovations and larger population health improvements in Northeast Louisiana.

Northeast Delta hosts a weekly Facebook Live show called Transformation Thursday. The live Facebook event is designed to showcase various agency programs, initiatives, and community partnerships. We recently featured our transitional housing and workforce development programs. We have also done shows on tobacco cessation and our Leave No Veteran Behind initiative.

We relaunched our mobile app. The app provides users a one click experience to all NEDHSA resources and network partners. It can be downloaded via Google Play Station. It will be available on Apple products soon.

### Executive Director – Monthly Activity and Fiscal Reports

After the ED’s report was presented, along with monthly Fiscal report a Motion made by Yvonne Lewis and Thelma Merrells to approve / accept as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Planning & Budgeting/Financial Condition and Activities –** *With respect to the actual, ongoing financial condition and activities, the ED shall not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy or a material deviation of actual expenditures from board priorities established in Ends policies.*

*NEDHS*A’s FY22 appropriated budget is $15, 516,455. Our SGF = $10,578,707. Our IAT = $4,163,904. Self-generated = $773,844.

**Board –**

* Global Executive Constraints (Policy Manual Page 12)
* Executive Limits: Communication with and Support of the Board (Policy Manual page 12-13) No changes was made to either policy above.
* Nominations for Board Executive Committee 2022 – Mr. Shipp will send all board members a description of each officer position via email and they will elect members to create a nominating committee to elect new officers for 2022.

Current Executive Committee Northeast Delta Human Services Authority:

Chairperson - Mike Shipp

Vice-Chairperson - Vacant – Dr. Baker resigned 09/11/2021

Secretary - LaTanya Whiteside

Treasurer - Yvonne Lewis

**BOARD MANAGEMENT** – Ongoing

* Board Development/ Parish Outreach
* Travel Forms

**ADJOURN**

A Motion was made by LaTanya Whiteside and seconded by Yvonne Lewis to end meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting** – **December 14, 2021 - 5:30 pm**

Ouachita Parish Health Unit – Community Room

1650 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71202

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