Metropolitan Human Services District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 2025|9 AM

Chartres Pontchartrain Behavioral Health Center/ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
719 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117

MHSD fulfills its statutory role as the planning body for the behavioral health, addiction and intellectual/developmental disability services for the residents of Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes by ensuring that eligible residents in these parishes have access to person centered and recovery focused supports designed to optimize their role in the community.

Minutes

I. Introduction and Oath of Appointed Board Members

Chairman of the Board Dr. Brian Turner introduced the following appointed Board Member and had Steven J. Farber, JD swear him in.

- St Bernard Parish: Matthew Woodward

II. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:11 AM by Chair Dr. Brian Turner and it was determined that a Quorum was present.

III. Attendance

A. The quorum present consisted of Dr. Brian L. Turner, Leslie Prest, Stuart A Simon, Charles D. Jackson, Mike Miller, B. Gerard Woodrich and Matthew Woodward.
B. Absent from the meeting were, Denise Dugas, Robert Kimbro, Tenisha T. Stevens, and Taslim van Hattum.
C. Other individuals in attendance were Dr. Rochelle Head Dunham, MHSD Executive Director and Medical Director; Steven Farber, MHSD Deputy Director of Administration and General Counsel, Traci Brown, MHSD Chief Fiscal Officer; Dr. Kashunda Williams, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health and Data; and Karen Canales, MHSD Executive Staff Officer and Director of Compliance.

IV. Presentations:

- Legislative Audit/External Independent Audit.

Michelle Cunningham and Heather Jovovich from Duplantier, Hrapmann, Hogan & Maher, LLP, CPA presented the results of the financial audit for Metropolitan Human Services District, reporting an unmodified opinion with no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses, and discussed the status of the single audit, which remains in draft due to pending federal compliance supplements. The CPA firm will issue the final single audit report once the 2025 OMB compliance supplement is released and confirm if any changes to procedures are required. The Legislative Auditor report was approved by motion of Ms. Prest, seconded by Mr. Simon, all voted in favor.

- Communications Division.

Dr. Dunham reviewed the FY25 Annual Media Report on the Consent Agenda and described recent and ongoing communications campaigns, including mental health first aid training for high school students, gambling prevention efforts, billboard and commercial campaigns, and social media outreach, with input from Claire Bivens and Danielle Keys on creative direction.

V. Approval of August 27, 2025 Minutes

Minutes from the August 27, 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved by motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Woodrich, all voted in favor.

VI. Monitoring Reports

A. Monthly Dashboard & Utilization Reports: Dr. Dunham and Dr. Williams presented the dashboard report, highlighting a multi-year decline in service utilization, current access metrics, satisfaction and outcome measures, and the impact of increased staffing capacity through the CCBHC grant. Dr. Williams will prepare a report analyzing service utilization trends over the past 9 years, including documentation of significant events affecting service numbers and will be presented in the next meeting. She will also incorporate CCBHC grant quality measures and outcome data into future board reports and dashboards for review.

B. Fiscal Report: FY 26 Analysis as of September 30, 2025
Ms. Brown provided a preliminary budget update for the fiscal year ending September 2025, noting a $3M reduction in funding due to expiring grants, efforts to mitigate impacts on state employees, and significant cuts to block grants affecting addiction services.

CFO Ms. Brown will develop a strategic plan for credentialing providers with specific insurers, focusing on maximizing billing and access, especially for specialized providers.

C. Compliance Committee Report: Ms. Canales discussed recent compliance audits.
Dr. Dunham reported on credentialing challenges with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and the impact of new credentialing requirements on billing and provider access.

Ms. Canales described the new electronic feedback form, which allows anyone, including vendors, to submit compliments, suggestions, or complaints anonymously, and outlined monitoring procedures for compliance hotline and email. Chairman Dr. Turner recommended for a QR code to be displayed in the clinics so that individuals can fill out on the way out of the clinic.

All monthly reports were approved by motion of Mr. Woodward, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all voted in favor.

VII. Decision Information

- Executive Director/Medical Director salary adjustment and approval

Board members discussed and approved a 4% salary increase for Dr. Dunham, retroactive to the start of the fiscal year on 7/1/2025, after reviewing historical increases and aligning with regional and national benchmarks.

The decision was approved by motion of Mr. Simon, seconded by Ms. Prest, all voted in favor and the salary adjustment passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda.

A. FY25 Annual Report on Facilities & Best Practices. Mr. Farber requested for this annual August report to be submitted in December 2025. The Chairman approved to be added to the agenda in the next meeting.
B. FY25 Annual Media Report. Dr. Dunham presented this item earlier in the agenda.

IX. Self-evaluation: Board Performance Review

MHSD Compliance Officer Ms. Canales presented the vacancies to be noted by the Board and Chairman Dr. Turner will follow up on onboarding two potential new board members including Dr. Samantha Francois, Terrell "TJ" Neal and Reginald Vicks who is on the agenda for the December Council meeting. Dr. Turner will address any delays in the process.

Chairman Dr. Turner also requested for Board Members to review the board bylaws and prepare to discuss any necessary updates or changes at the next meeting.

X. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 10:40 AM by motion of Mr. Simon, seconded by Mr. Woodward; all in favor, motion passed.