

METROPOLITAN HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 27, 2015
MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Human Services District was held on Friday, March 27, 2015 at the District office. The meeting was called to order at 12:41 pm.

Board members in attendance were: Polly Campbell, Dr. Joe Constans, Sylvie Tran, Dr. Sarintha Stricklin, and Gary Mendoza. Board members not in attendance were: Dr. Petrice Sams-Abiodun, Charlotte Parent, Dr. Emily Clark and Dr. Jeffrey Rouse.

Staff members present were: Yolanda Webb, Christy Ross, Meghan Ferris, Olivia Mills, Traci Brown, Dr. Brenda Edgerton-Webster, and Sally Hays.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Tran moved approval of the February 27, 2015 minutes, Mr. Mendoza seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Chair's Report: Ms. Campbell reported that she attended the legislative budget hearings where funding cuts related to MHSD were discussed, including a freeze on new developmental disability services waivers. She also shared that she recently went to a substance abuse forum where MHSD services were mentioned. Ms. Campbell also reported that she spoke at MHSD's first all staff in-service day.

Executive Director's Report: Ms. Webb provided an update to the Board regarding changes to the state's developmental disabilities services (DDS) system and possible impacts on MHSD's DDS programs. She reported that because MHSD had recently received its vendor's license through the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services Commission, MHSD can now provide employment services and receive payment for providing those services through the LRS payment system. She also gave Board members information related to the Louisiana Partnership for Success Grant and the plan for the use of the grant funds for prevention services. Ms. Webb noted that the state is planning changes to the State Civil Service system in order to make the system more efficient. She also shared that MHSD now has Facebook and Twitter, and will begin to have an on-air presence via a new radio station, WHIV 102.3. She also provided information to the Board about the Executive Budget that MHSD recently received from the Division of Administration, including information about anticipated cuts to MHSD's budget for fiscal year 2016.

Dr. Katherine Smith, MHSD's Medical Director, made a presentation to the Board and answered questions related to MHSD's clinical operations.

CFO's Report: Ms. Brown, MHSD Accounting Manager, provided information to the Board and answered questions related to MHSD's payroll spin off. A copy of the fiscal year 2015 budget to actual report was provided to Board members for review.

Parish Reports: Dr. Stricklin mentioned that the new medical center/hospital in Plaquemines parish is now open.

Other Business: In accordance with the Board's monitoring calendar, Ms. Webb reported compliance with the policies related to communication with and support to the Board, and monitoring reports related to those policies were given to Board members for review. Ms. Hays suggested that three of the policy types, Executive Limitations, Governance, and Board-Executive Director Linkage, be reviewed and revised by small groups of Board members. Ms. Hays also suggested that the fourth policy, Ends, be reviewed and updated by the entire Board.

Invitation for Public Comment: Brenda Valteau, the Chair of the behavioral health Regional Advisory Council, mentioned that she recently attended a family support meeting related to Individual Educational Plans (IEP). Julie Olsen, Executive Director of Plaquemines C.A.R.E. Centers Foundation, Inc. (PCCCF) shared information about an annual United Way jambalaya cook-off.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.