



January 13, 2025

Call to order at 3:28 pm.

**Members present:** Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); Darce` Byrd (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish), Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish); Carla JeanBatiste, Vice-Chair (St. Martin Parish); Yasmin Welch (Lafayette Parish); Quinta Thompson Credeur, Chair (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish); and Bambi Polotzola, (St. Landry Parish)

**Members absent:** Elizabeth West, Secretary (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish)

**Vacant Seats:** Acadia and Evangeline Parish

**Members of the public present:** Mary George Dugas

AAHSD staff in attendance: Brad Farmer, Executive Director, and Gretchen Sudwischer, Administrative Assistant.

Call to order at 3:28 pm

Meeting Objective(s):

- i. Conduct business per the approved agenda calendar
  - ii. Address any new business as needed
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board Carol Broussard and recited by attendees.
  3. Roll call performed by Carl JeanBatiste, noting a quorum was present.
  4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments.
  5. Consent Agenda items:
    - a. Minutes:
      - November regular board meeting:  
The motion was made by Carla JeanBatiste and seconded by Richard Landry; it was carried unanimously.
      - December regular Board meeting – No minutes (Cancelled due to lack of quorum);  
November regular board meeting.

Comments from Chair

- a. Board advocacy reports
  - Carla JeanBatiste shared that St. Martin Parish Sheriff's office hired someone to begin the Opioid Program. The program will respond to the parish's opioid crisis. An upcoming meeting will assess the program's performance within the community.
  - Carla JeanBatiste reported that there is legislation stating that all persons arrested should be drug tested; she is meeting with the office to see if there has been a follow-through with drug screen screening offenders.
  - Quinta shared that since the New Year, the school she is employed with has been updating IEPs, and with the shortage of counselors, they have been referring to districts for services.
  - Quinta reported that Tynese Breaux (along with her sorority) will be handing out information on 988.

- Bambi reported that St. Landry held a Christmas party for those with disabilities and gave information to those who attended.
- b. Agenda Calendar Items:
  - The motion was made by Carol Broussard and seconded by Yasmin Welch; it was carried unanimously.
- c. Comments from the Executive Director
  - Meetings: Brad stated that a list of dates for upcoming board meetings was in the January packets; board meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month, except January 2025.
  - Vacancies: Bambi asked when the Acadia and Evangeline Parish vacancies might be filled. Brad reported that he and Gretchen contacted the police juries in Acadia Parish and spoke to Bryan Vidrine in Evangeline Parish. Brad stated that Evangeline Parish has always had difficulty filling their vacancy. Carla recommended someone for Evangeline Parish, and Darce gave a name for a person in Acadia Parish. Brad reported that twelve (12) meetings are scheduled in the calendar year; nine must be held. There was a request that the board members be notified via text or phone call when a meeting is canceled.
  - Carol asked about the driver authorization form and the annual supplemental signature page. Brad explained these are supporting documents for AAHSD asset protection. It is also noted board members are not responsible for filling out mileage reports unless they are claiming mileage reimbursement for meetings attended.
  - The legislative session begins on April 14, 2025, and ends on June 12, 2025. Districts will meet to determine whether any legislation affects their district.
  - **CCBHC update:** The grant is in its third year and continues. The team is reviewing the budget and rollover. A federal official is reviewing the grant, and there is an upcoming call and the possibility of federal officials visiting Louisiana. Senator Cassidy and the Speaker of the House may attend the visit.
  - State Update: OBH was granted a million-dollar SAMHSA grant for CCBHC expansion.
  - **Same-Day Access:** Started in January 2024; AAHSD has completed 2,230 assessments, and 2,117 people have been admitted for services (95% service rate).
  - In January 2024, the average time from assessment to next appointment across the district was twenty-three (23) days; as of December 2024, it was 6.5 days. Brad noted that the goal is to have people seen within eight days after their assessment.
  - Three (3) years ago, the district averaged 160 monthly face-to-face; as of December 2024, the district averaged 338 face-to-face visits.
  - A question was asked if more intern clinicians were needed to provide services; it was reported that interns may not be necessary because MSW and PLPCs will soon be reimbursable.
  - “Just in Time” rolled out in January 2025; it takes 6.5 days to see a doctor for a follow-up appointment.
  - NSNAP (No Show Needs a Prescription) is a program designed to allow people to see a doctor on the same day.
  - The prescription re-fill system notifies clients eight (8) days before the prescription needs to be re-filled, and if not re-filled on day six (6), the clinician will call the client.
  - Fast Pass: the fast pass is not used as much as when CCBHC was rolled out. Brad reported that he would get the numbers for the board. Fast passes are used when a person cannot be engaged within thirty minutes; a person will be given a fast pass to be seen first the following day.
  - Yasmin reported that those who are answering the phones throughout the districts have been helpful in answering questions on services.

- **Louisiana Crisis Response System Workgroup and Policy Academy:** A technical assistance grant was awarded to refine the mobile crisis units. AAHSD was present for a meeting with Dr. Stephen Phillippi and OBH. The Policy Academy will be held in New Orleans on March 19th and 20th; eight people will attend.
- **Opioid Project Update:** Beacon Community Connections reported that Peer Support specialists are in all emergency rooms in the area; these support specialists are on call for all opioid-related crises.
- The Extra Mile is holding another Peer Support/Recovery Coach training; the application deadline was December.
- Accreditation Survey: The survey was turned in on time; three (3)-four (4) surveyors will be coming to the area; Brad will advise the board on the dates.
- Additional Comments:  
DD held its annual Christmas party; it was reported there were 500 people in attendance.
- Print-outs: Brad asked the board members if they would prefer to have reports emailed to them and then have a select few available for review during the meeting. It was requested that the agenda, minutes, and numbers be available to all present.
- NatCon: AAHSD is sending employees to the conference
- DD Reports: Bambi asked why the board is only provided with DD numbers; Brad reported that the board cannot change the DD system.  
Board Nominating Committee: Quinta is chair, Carla is vice Chair, and Darce is secretary. Bambi made the motion, which was seconded by Carol, and it was carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: February 17, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm; Richard made the motion, which Carol seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:  *Darce Byrd<sup>M.A.</sup>*

Darce` Byrd, AAHSD Board Secretary