



**AAHSD Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2024**

Meeting held at 302 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506 in Auditoriums 2 & 3.

Members present: Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); John Stefanski (Acadia Parish); Carla JeanBatiste, Vice-Chair (St. Martin Parish); Yasmin Welch (Lafayette Parish); Elizabeth West, Secretary (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish); Quinta Thompson, Chair (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish); and Darce` Byrd (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish).

Members absent: Bambi Polotzola, (St. Landry Parish); Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish); and Sydia Robin (Evangeline Parish).

Members of the public present: None present.

AAHSD Staff in Attendance: Brad Farmer, Executive Director; and Gretchen Sudwischer, Administrative Assistant.

The Public Notice and Agenda were posted at the AAHSD clinics and on the website. Open meeting laws are available.

1. Call to order at 3:21 pm.
 - a. Meeting Objective(s):
 - i. Conduct business per approved agenda calendar
 - ii. Address any new business as needed
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board Chair, Quinta Thompson and recited by attendees.
3. Roll call performed by Elizabeth West, Secretary, noting a quorum was present.
4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments – None present.
5. Consent Agenda items:
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. April regular Board meeting
 - b. Program reports:
 - i. BH & DD numbers and stats - reviewed by the Board
 - Motion made by Elizabeth West, and seconded by Richard Landry to approve and accept the minutes as printed, as well as the program reports. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Comments from Chair:

a. Board advocacy reports –

- Carla JeanBatiste – St. Martin Parish Government is working with the Sheriff to build a new jail, proposing enhancing mental health services, as well as substance abuse, and currently working with the Sheriff’s Department to look at hiring staff to be housed outside of the jail but in the Sheriff’s Department office by using some of the opioid funding to render those services and guidance. The Sheriff also agreed that when the opioid funding extinguishes, he is willing to hire this staff as an employee of the Sheriff’s Department.
- Quinta Thompson – After receiving information regarding DD services, she gave a comparison of Texas DD services and Louisiana DD services, noting that Louisiana is doing so much better in comparison to Texas regarding wait lists for services; Richard Landry briefly commented on past DD services in comparison to today’s services.

b. Agenda Calendar items

- i. Governance Process Pol 2.6: Member’s Code of Conduct (pg 109) – Acknowledgements are to be submitted to the Administrative Assistant to keep as part of the Board Member’s file.
- ii. Board-ED Linkage Pol 3.3: Accountability of Executive Director (pg 24)
- iii. Board-ED Linkage Pol 3.4: Delegation to Executive Director (pg 25)
- iv. Board Business: Board member Self-Evaluation – Self- assessments are to be submitted to the Board Chair by/or at the June meeting.

7. Comments from Executive Director:

a. CCBHC update:

- Brad Farmer - Executive Director, Tynese Breaux - Practice Manager/Project Manager, CCBHC, and Tammara Smith - Corporate Compliance and Accreditation Officer attended the Regional SAMHSA – CCBHC Grantee Meeting in New Orleans last week. Was able to meet with other groups from Louisiana and made good contacts. SAMHSA Administration Managers also attended. Found the meeting to be very informative.
- Received a copy of an email yesterday that was originally sent to CARF from Open Minds, one of the leading professional journals in Behavioral Health, regarding an article written about CCBHCs, and listed AAHSD as the first organization to receive CARF accreditation as a CCBHC, stating this article is shared on a national level.
- Tynese Breaux has been working on the attestation for the new CCBHC Standards and have already prepared documentation.

b. Same Day Access update:

- Launched 19 weeks ago on January 8, 2024, as of Friday, May 17, 2024, AAHSD has provided 963 assessments and admitted 881 clients.
- Yasmin Welch, Board Member, commended ED on doing a good job with the SDA process and mentioned she has called the clinics to obtain the SDA hours at each clinic to refer some of her clients to, as well noting some of her clients have attended the “No Show” groups where they recognize the importance of their commitment to attend appointments.

- c. Just in Time initiative:
 - Held first meeting on May 13, 2024.
 - This project is for prescribers and is through the same consulting firm AAHSD is using with SDA.
 - The goal of the project is for services to be rendered to a client within a few days.
- d. Legislative Audit update:
 - ED handed out the recent report from the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, noting there are no findings. The Board does not see the need for an auditor to appear at a Board meeting to discuss the report.
- e. Open Meetings Law update:
 - i. Draft policy third review
 - 1. Board vote – accept or not accept Open Meetings Law policy/procedure revision
 - The policy/procedure was revised per the recommendations of the Board at April’s meeting. The Board reviewed the revised the AAHSD Board of Directors Open Meetings Law Statement, Procedures/Policy, and Summary and found all to be in order
 - John Stefanski moves to accept/adopt the AAHSD Board of Directors Open Meetings Law Statement, Procedures/Policy, and Summary as written and Carla JeanBatiste, seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
 - ED will add “approved May 20, 2024” under the header.

Additional comments by the ED:

ED informed the Board that Tynese Breaux, Practice Manager/Project Manager, CCBHC will be at the courthouse tomorrow, Tuesday, May 21, 2024, to present SDA information to DCFS workers per the request of Darce` Byrd, Board Member and Coordinator for the Lafayette Family Preservation Court.

ED will attend a meeting in 2-3 weeks in New Iberia with Claire Daly in regards to Children’s Services and SDA.

ED will meet tomorrow afternoon, Tuesday, May 21, 2024, with Criminal Justice Coordinating personnel to discuss jail overcrowding, noting AAHSD has been placed on that committee.

ED informed the Board the Lafayette Police Department has suspended their crisis program for now for lack of force on the streets, however, they still have the specialty personnel available with the intent to re-implement the program at a later date, and the Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office is still operating their crisis program.

ED mentioned The Extra Mile - Crisis Program for the Child and Adolescent population might be housed in the Juvenile Assessment Center and still working on to see if someone pursues the adult program for crisis services.

