



February 17, 2025

Call to order at 3:24 pm.

Members present: Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); Darce` Byrd, Secretary (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 (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish)

Vacant Seats: Acadia and Evangeline Parish

Members of the public present: Troy Abshire

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

Call to order at 3:24 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: Troy Abshire was present for the meeting.
 5. Consent Agenda items:
 - a. Minutes:
 - January regular board meeting:
The motion was made by Yasmin Welch and seconded by Carol Broussard, and it was carried unanimously.
 - b. Program Reports:
 - BH & DD numbers and stats
 - Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR); 47 clients were served. Requirement to help ensure that individuals are not inappropriately placed in nursing homes for long-term care.
 - The PASRR process requires all applicants to Medicaid-certified nursing facilities to be given a preliminary assessment to determine whether they might have SMI or ID. This is called a "Level I screen." Those individuals who test positive at Level I are then evaluated further, which is called "Level II" PASRR. The results of this evaluation result in a determination of need, a determination of appropriate setting, and a set of recommendations for services to inform the individual's plan of care.
 - OCDD conducted meetings to determine nursing care; they met with individuals and were "happy" with their placements. Yasmin commented that the process is "client-friendly."
 - Region four (4) had the most referrals within the state by thirty (30).
 - Motion to accept: made by Yasmin Welch and seconded by Carol Broussard, and it was carried unanimously.

Comments from Chair

- a. Board advocacy reports
 - Bambi stated that Louisiana joined the lawsuit, challenging the federal government's expansion of disability protections in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
 - Quinta commented that if services are cut, the schools will not be responsible for providing services to the children.

- Brad commented that there has been testimony that some services are optional, but they cannot be denied once offered.
 - Additional conversations have been to fund only certain services or cut a percentage of the services.
 - Budget calls to cut Medicaid; board members were encouraged to contact their state representatives.
 - Board Seats: Brad contacted Desiree Hebert and sent her information to the police jury in Acadia Parish. Attempts have been made to contact Evangeline Parish.
 - Carla stated that people are not invested in committees and boards; she referenced the Youth Planning Committee.
- b. Agenda Calendar Items:
- The motion was made by Bambi Polotzola and seconded by Carol Broussard; it was carried unanimously.
- c. Comments from the Executive Director
- **CCBHC update:** Brad stated notice of freezes; money was withdrawn for the month and processed immediately. Consultants said others attempted to log in for funding, and the system was “jammed.” Brad has been attending webinars regarding funding, and the bottom line is, “No one knows.” The speaker of the house is requesting a plan by April 14th. The LGEs are meeting to discuss the funding status; AAHSD will continue to provide services to clients.
 - **Learning Collaborative:** AAHSD is co-hosting for CCBHC
 - **Tri-West Consulting Group:** Maggie and Diane is presenting a presentation on findings for the past two (2) years; she has agreed to present to the board. The tentative date is the April 2025 board meeting.
 - **ECHOs:** A six (6)-seven (7) month project involving trauma-informed training was accepted and will begin shortly.
 - **Medically Assisted Treatment:** Applicant was sent in last week to expand services for MAT.
 - **PCIT Training:** June 2025
 - **Same-Day Access:** It started in January 2024. AAHSD completes 44-45 assessments a week, and 95% of those assessments are being admitted for services.
 - 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 LMSWs and PLPCs will soon be reimbursable.
 - **“Just in Time”:** The prescriber program has started and is experiencing “growing pains” in some parishes. Brad stated they may need to expand or reallocate the prescriber’s hours to fill the need
 - **Policy Academy:** The meeting is scheduled for February 18th, and the training is in March.
 - **Accreditation Survey:** The survey dates have been pushed back but are not a concern. The standards take effect on July 1st, and AAHSD will be surveyed on 2025 standards.
- **Additional Comments:**
- Troy Abshire received the President’s Award from the Arc of Louisiana; Troy stated he was “humbled by the nomination and award.
 - Quinta commented there has been an increase in overdoses within the parish she teaches. Children are taking medication from their parents and giving them to other students. There is a growing concern over CBD gummies and “nerd balls.”
 - The recent death of Shentell Brown was acknowledged, raising concerns about domestic violence.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm; Carol Broussard made the motion, which Bambi Polotzola seconded, which was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Darce` Byrd, AAHSD Board Secretary

Darce Byrd M.A.