



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2025

3:35 pm

Members present: Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); Yasmin Welch (Evangeline Parish); Quinta Thompson Credeur, Chair (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish); Carla Jean Batiste, Vice Chair (St. Martin Parish); Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish); and Bambi Polotzola (St. Landry Parish).

Members absent: Darce` Byrd, Secretary (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish); and Elizabeth West (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish).

Vacant Seats: Acadia and Lafayette Parish.

AAHSD staff in attendance: Brad Farmer, Executive Director, Gretchen Sudwischer, Administrative Assistant, and Troy Abshire, Director of Developmental Disabilities.

Members of the public present: William Harrison, PhD, and Arsenio J. Andrus.

1. Call to order at 3:35 pm

a) Meeting Objective(s):

- I. Conduct business per approved agenda calendar
- II. Address any new business as needed

2. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll call was performed by Carla JeanBatiste, Vice-Chair, noting that a quorum was present.

- a) See above; The Board recognizes Yasmin Welch has officially transferred to and now represents Evangeline Parish, leaving a vacant seat for Lafayette Parish.

4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments

- a) William Harrison, PhD, Arsenio J. Andrus, and Troy Abshire.

5. Consent Agenda items

a. Minutes

i. July regular Board meeting

- a. The motion was made by Carol Broussard and seconded by Richard Landry, and it was carried unanimously.

b. Program reports

i. BH & DD numbers and stats

- a. The motion was made by Carol Broussard and seconded by Carla JeanBatiste, and it was carried unanimously.

6. Comments from Chair

a) Board Advocacy Reports

- I. Quinta mentioned a recent death of a student that attended one of the local schools and she has informed the middle school and high school in that parish of the counseling services offered through AAHSD.

- II. Carla reported that Sheriff Breaux will attend the St. Martin Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 to give a presentation on the “STAR” Resource Program.
- b) Bambi spoke of St. Landry Abilities virtual support group meeting held monthly and will be holding a resource workshop on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at an Opelousas school; held an employment empowerment for Statewide Independent Living Council; and her company was approved a contract with GOHSEP for to assist with statewide preparations (training, meetings, outreach) for emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities and response efforts.
- c) **Agenda Calendar items:**
 - I. Executive Limit Pol 1.2: Treatment of Consumers (pg 5)
 - II. Governance Process Pol 2.2: Governance Style (pg 15)
 - III. Board-ED Linkage Pol 3.2: Unity of Control (pg 23)
 - a. The motion was made by Carol Broussard and seconded by Richard Landry, and it was carried unanimously.

7. Comments from Executive Director

Brad informed the Board he has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning with LCG Mayor-President’s Chief of Staff regarding the seat vacancy for Lafayette Parish to discuss Board member criteria.

I. Case presentation - with Troy Abshire

- a. As to Treatment of Consumers - A particular crisis case from August 2024 was discussed, wherein, Brad was notified during that weekend by an organization that crisis services were needed for an individual. Brad notified Troy of the situation, and it was determined that the daughter of this individual was in the OCDD system and then notified providers of the situation. Arrangements were made to assure the safety and welfare of the client were met. It was explained by both Brad and Troy how the providers that were contacted for assistance worked well together with AAHSD to assure the client’s needs were met and noted how the programs in place are successful. The client is currently living independently and is thriving. Updates were also given regarding the mother of the client.

II. Data reports update

- a. This is a project that is active and ongoing. AAHSD has included the State in the meetings with the EHR vendor, and is making progress; noted the troubleshooting and technical errors in the EHR system that are being addressed; and continue to work with OBH and the EHR consultant.

III. CARF survey

- a. Brad reported the CARF surveyors will be at AAHSD from August 25-27, 2025 for the annual survey.

IV. Act 351 overview

- a. Brad explained Act 351 and Act 419 and the effects it could have on AAHSD services. Discussions were held.

Brad informed the Board he will be meeting with Louisiana delegates Thursday morning, August 21, 2025, at the Ville Platte clinic (Evangeline Parish) to discuss CCBHC.

8. Next meeting

- I. September 15, 2025 (will discuss Executive Limit Pol. 1.3: Treatment of Staff)

9. Adjournment

- I. Adjournment: Richard Landry made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Carol and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CJBatiste', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Carla Jean Batiste
AAHSD Board Vice-Chair

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