

Board Meetings  
January 12, 2026  
3:15 pm

**Members present:** Darce` Byrd, Secretary (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish); Yasmin Welch (Evangeline Parish); Bambi Polotzola (St. Landry Parish); Elizabeth West (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish); Carla Jean Batiste, Vice Chair (St. Martin Parish); Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); Sarah Clement (Lafayette Parish); Quinta Thompson Credeur, Chair (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish)

**Members absent:** Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish)

**Vacant Seats:** Acadia Parish

**AAHSD staff in attendance:** Brad Farmer, Executive Director; Gretchen Sudwischer, Administrative Assistant

**Members of the public present:** William Harrison, PhD

**1. Call to order:** 3:22 pm

**a. Meeting Objectives**

- i. Conduct business per the approved agenda calendar.
- ii. Address any new business as needed.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance** is led by Quinta and recited by all in attendance.

**3. Roll call** performed by Darce` Byrd, acknowledged a quorum is present; the Board members introduced themselves to the new Board member, Sarah Clement; Sarah also introduced herself to the Board members, due to not all members were present at the last meeting she attended.

**4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments** – it is noted Dr. William Harrison is present at today's meeting.

**5. Consent Agenda Items:**

**a. Minutes**

**i. November Regular board meeting** - motion made by Elizabeth and seconded by Bambi to accept the November Regular Board meetings as written; motion carried unanimously.

**ii. November 2025 Nominating Committee meeting** – a request was made for a correction to the November Nominating Committee meeting minutes by Yasmin Welch (noting she was absent for the November 17, 2025 meetings and requested to remove her name from members of the public present), a request was made to add this topic to the agenda – motion made by Elizabeth and seconded by Sarah to add ii - November Nominating Committee meeting to the agenda, motion is carried unanimously. Motion is made by Elizabeth and seconded by Richard to accept the corrected/revised November Nominating Committee meeting minutes, motion carried unanimously.

**b. Program reports**

**i. BH & DD numbers and stats**, DD numbers were submitted, BH numbers will be submitted to the Board members upon receipt, motion made by Bambi and seconded by Richard to accept the DD numbers as submitted, motion is carried unanimously.

## 6. Comments from the Chair

**a. Board advocacy reports:** Bambi spoke of her being the Chair for the Act 378 Committee of the DD Council, noting she has invited each district DD Director to present an impact statement/story at one of their meetings and Richard shared the importance of personal impact statements/stories being shared.

**i. AG Board training opportunity,** AAHSD will send the email invite again to Board members; and the HSIC meeting was discussed.

### **b. Agenda Calendar Items:**

- i. **Executive Limit Pol 1.6: Executive Director Succession (pg. 9)**
- ii. **Executive Limit Pol 1.7: Asset Protection (pg. 10)**
- iii. **Governance Process Pol 2.7: Board Committee Principles (pg. 20)**
- iv. **Governance Process Pol. 2.8: Cost of Governance (pg. 21);** Motion is made by Darce` and seconded by Yasmin; Motion is made by Darce` and seconded by Yasmin to accept Agenda Calendar items i. – iv., motion is carried unanimously.
- v. **Board Business: Vote on Board Officers:** Motion is made by Elizabeth and seconded by Sarah to accept the requested nominees as slated - Carla JeanBatiste as Chair, Bambi Polotzola as Vice-Chair, and Darce` Byrd as Secretary, motion is carried unanimously, and will take office at next month's meeting.

## 7. Comments from the Executive Director:

- a. **Follow-up comments from last month:** Discussed a question asked at the last meeting regarding gross ending spending.
- b. **LDH/OBH CCBHC project update:** Moving forward with this project, discussed deadlines, the complexity of the application to be a demonstration state, and the difference between pre-certification and certification; waiting on SAMHSA to release the next round of grants and will submit another grant application. Applications will be submitted on time. Will engage a consultant to assist with the cost reporting.
- c. **Health Standards update: A response was prepared, submitted, and received an acknowledgement with no issues or challenges noted. Signs are being made regarding Violence against Healthcare Workers and will be posted in each clinic.**
- d. **Annual HSIC meeting information:** Noted Quinta already discussed the meeting.
- e. **Board Resolution:** The Board Resolution is added as 7. e. to the agenda. A Board Resolution is signed and dated today by Quinta Thompson Credeur, Board Chair, and Darce` Byrd, Board Secretary, is read into the minutes by the Brad Farmer, Executive Director, and is presented to the Board for review and a vote. Motion is made by Richard and seconded by Sarah, to add the Board Resolution as 7. e. to the agenda, and to accept the Board Resolution as written and read into the minutes. The resolution was passed by a majority vote of the board members present and recorded in the minutes. Motion is carried unanimously.

Brad presented the Annual Statement of Review of Board Policies and was signed by Quinta on this date; briefly discussed crisis services in the Acadiana area, and the mental health screenings provided at AAHSD.

**8. Next Meeting:** February 9, 2026

**9. Adjournment:** 4:16 pm - Motion made by Elizabeth and seconded by Carla to adjourn; motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

*Darce` Byrd<sup>MA</sup>*

Darce` Byrd, AAHSD Board Secretary