



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 21, 2025

3:15 pm

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

**Members absent:** Bambi Polotzola (St. Landry Parish)

**Vacant Seats:** Acadia and Evangeline Parish

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

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

### 1. Call to order at 3:21 pm

#### a) Meeting Objective(s):

I. Conduct business per the approved agenda calendar

II. Address any new business as needed

### 2. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance

### 3. Roll call was performed by Darce` Byrd, noting that a quorum was present.

a) See above

### 4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments

a) William Harrison, PhD, and Arsenio J. Andrus.

### 5. Consent Agenda items

#### a. Minutes

##### i. June regular Board meeting

a. Corrections were addressed;

b. The motion was made by Carla Jean Batiste and seconded by Yasmin Welch, and it was carried unanimously, as amended.

#### b. Program reports

##### i. BH & DD numbers and stats

a. The motion was made by Elizabeth West and seconded by Carla Jean Batiste, and it was carried unanimously.

### 6. Comments from Chair

#### a) Board Advocacy Reports

- I. Quinta stated she had met with others about the growing concern for children who have parents who are incarcerated. She spoke about a female student whose parents are both incarcerated. There was a discussion about providing the children with incarcerated parents with a program to assist them with coping. Dr. Harrison reported he is a "C-4 Project" facilitator. Yasmin reported that The Family Tree had a project that provided services for incarcerated parents and their children; she recommended reaching out to Marie Collins.

- II. Carla reported that St. Martin Parish launched the “STAR” Program; the program is a partnership between the Sheriff and the parish government. The program is aimed at helping those who are recovering from opioid misuse and other substances, using the opioid funds the parish was awarded. Carla reported that the program has assisted 212 people thus far. There will be a presentation on August 19, 2025, at 4:30 pm at the St. Martin Government Building.
- III. Yasmin reported that she was approved to represent Evangeline Parish; she will resign from her Lafayette Parish seat.

**b) Agenda Calendar items:**

- I. Executive Limit Pol 1.1: Global Executive Constraints (pg 4)
- II. Governance Process Pol 2.1: Global Governance Commitment (pg 14)
- III. Board-ED Linkage Pol 3.1: Global Linkage (pg 22)
  - a. The motion was made by Richard Landry and seconded by Carol Broussard, and it was carried unanimously.

**7. Comments from Executive Director**

**I. Legislative update**

- a. HB559 passed and is now Act 381. Brad and other Executive Directors throughout the state to discuss reporting and funding. Brad stated that they are looking at the “collective we.” He also stated that he planned to have governmental officials visit AAHSD; he hoped to do this, if not yearly, at least every couple of years. Carla reported the judges in the 16<sup>th</sup> JDC had a “round robin” with different officials.

**II. Data reports update**

- a. Brad reported that next month, he plans to have someone in the DD department present.
- b. AAHSD is making progress towards data reports; they are working with OBH and a consultant.

**III. Discuss Policy 1.5 and the use of escrow funds**

- a. Brad reported that the AADSHD budget will be reviewed at the October meeting.
- b. Brad reported that they did not have to pull money out of escrow; they were able to move money around for the end of the last fiscal year.

**IV. CARF survey**

- a. Brad reported he had not heard from the survey team as of the board meeting. The survey is still scheduled to begin on August 25, 2025

**8. Next meeting**

- I. August 18, 2025

**9. Adjournment**

- I. Adjournment: Richard Landry made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Carol and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Darce' Byrd, M.A.  
Secretary

