

Board Meetings

June 15, 2026

3:15 pm

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

Members absent: Elizabeth West (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish)

Vacant Seats: Acadia Parish

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

Members of the public present: None

1. Call to order: 3:19 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 Brad and recited by all in attendance.

3. Roll call performed by Darce` Byrd, acknowledged a quorum is present.

4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments; None

5. Introduction of New Board Member: Kay Pitman Clark was introduced to the board; the board introduced themselves to Kay.

6. Consent Agenda Items:

a. Minutes

- i. **May Regular Board meeting** - motion made by Sarah and seconded by Quinta to accept the May Regular Board meeting minutes as written; motion carried unanimously.

b. Program reports

- i. **BH & DD numbers and stats** - Bambi asked for additional information on additional funds given to DD; Brad reported that money that isn't spent in other areas is redistributed to other DD offices.
- ii. BH and DD numbers and stats were submitted and reviewed by board members. A motion made by Darce' and seconded by Bambi to accept the BH & DD numbers as submitted was carried unanimously.

7. Comments from the Chair

a. Board advocacy reports:

- i. Sarah asked Brad about the crisis intervention steering committee; Brad reported the beds currently at LGBHU will be moved to a new location. Ochsner asked the beds be allowed to remain (or gradually moved out) throughout the month of July 2026. Brad reported that when the space is vacated, it will be offered to another vendor. Brad stated the steering committee did a walkthrough of the space. Brad reported that George Mills, the ED of the Extra Mile, inquired whether there would be space available for their agency to use. Brad stated that, as of this board meeting, there are two vendors interested in the space. Sarah reported that the Mayor-President had set aside \$1.9 million to complete renovations to a building that would provide public services.

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ii. Bambi reported she is working with the pilot program in Lafayette Parish that will provide disaster relief for persons with disabilities. Lafayette Parish is the pilot site for the program. They are working to collect information and services to provide support to persons with disabilities during a disaster.

iii. Brad asked the Board to consider moving the changes in Board officers to align with the fiscal year, rather than the calendar year.

b. Agenda Calendar Items:

1. **Executive Limit Pol 1.8: Compensation and Benefits (pg. 11):** Motion was made by Quinta and seconded by Richard; the motion is carried unanimously.

7. Comments from the Executive Director:

a. **LDH/OBH CCBHC project update:** State grant was approved; Louisiana is a "demonstration state." Being a demonstration state is the final stage of the application process. There is additional information that needs to be submitted by Friday; Brad stated the information would be submitted on Wednesday. Brad and Tynese had a follow-up request/questions: Veterans Coordinator Position. The grant state requires that the position be filled by a Veteran with "lived experience"; it is not a federal requirement. States should be ready for July 1st or October 1st; reimbursements are not expected until January 2027.

b. **Legislative Update:** Representative Annie Spell's HB passed; Enhances the sustainability of behavioral health crisis services by mandating insurance coverage for these critical interventions and supporting crisis response centers. Louisiana renamed the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) to the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports (OIDDS). Bernard Brown (OIDDS) and Dr. Holly Howat (OBH) were confirmed by the Senate.

c. **Legislative Audit:** The audit is ongoing.

d. **Annual Management Report:** Brad reviewed the annual management report with board members.

8. **Executive Session (Board Discussion):** The regularly scheduled board meeting was paused at 4:23 pm to discuss the performance of the Executive Director. A motion made by Sarah and seconded by Richard to discuss and vote on ED performance was carried unanimously. The meeting returned to order at 4:46 pm. A motion, made by Bambi and seconded by Sarah, to resume the regularly scheduled board meeting was carried unanimously. The board voted to retain Brad Farmer as the ED; a 10% raise was approved. A motion, made by Yasmin and seconded by Quinta, to approve the rate increase, was carried unanimously.

9. **July Meeting:** An email will be sent out to all board members to schedule the July board meeting.

10. **Adjournment:** 4:48 pm - Motion made by Sarah and seconded by Quinta to adjourn; motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Darce Byrd MA

Darce` Byrd, AAHSD Board Secretary