

Board Meetings

May 18, 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)

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

1. Call to order: 3:18 pm

a. Meeting Objectives

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

Brad requested to add Section "G – Healthcare Advertisement" to the Comments from Executive Director on today's agenda, motion made by Bambi and seconded by Sarah to add Section "G", motion carried unanimously.

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;

4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments – It is noted that Dana Wilkosz, Louisiana Public Health Analyst, CDC Foundation.

5. Presentation: Overdose Trends in Central Louisiana: Data and Insights for Public Health and Public Safety, by Dana Wilkosz.

6. Consent Agenda Items:

a. Minutes

- i. **February Regular Board meeting** - motion made by Yasmin and seconded by Richard to accept the February Regular Board meeting minutes as written; motion carried unanimously.

b. Program reports

- i. **BH & DD numbers and stats**, BH and DD numbers and stats were submitted and reviewed by board members. A motion made by Quinta and Seconded by Sarah to accept the BH & DD numbers as submitted, the motion is carried unanimously.

7. Comments from the Chair

a. Board advocacy reports:

1. Quinta reported to the board that her school saw a drop in vapes being found.

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2. Yasmin reported that she met Hannah Martin at the Early Childhood Summit, and she was “delightful.” Yasmin and Hannah both had tables at the summit, providing information to attendees.
3. Quinta reported that she attended the Mental Health Summit at Progressive Baptist.
4. Bambi reported that Troy Abshire presented at their monthly services meeting; she stated that Troy made the families feel comfortable accessing services through AAHSD.

b. Agenda Calendar Items:

- i. Executive Limit Pol 1.9: Communication with and Support to the Board (pg 12)
- ii. Executive Limit Pol 1.10: Ends Focus of Grants or Contracts (pg 13)
- iii. Governance Process Pol 2.6: Member’s Code of Conduct (pg 19)
- iv. Board-ED Linkage Pol 3.3: Accountability of Executive Director (pg 24)
- v. Board-ED Linkage Pol 3.4: Delegation to Executive Director (pg 25)

Motion was made by Darce’ and seconded by Bambi to accept the agenda calendar items; motion is carried unanimously.

- vi. Board Business: distribute Board Member self-evaluation form

7. Comments from the Executive Director:

- a. **LDH/OBH CCBHC project update:** Louisiana submitted the application; four LGEs were included. Provisional CCBHC certification was given. Community Needs Assessment - Brad reported that they received the assessment on Friday; the staff had not had the chance to review the assessment. The Board will be sent a copy via email. Brad reported that the community's needs aligned with the information Dana presented. The biggest needs throughout the community are housing and food. Sarah reported that Catholic Charities has seen an increase in the number of people being discharged from facilities with nowhere to go.
- b. **Legislative Session:** LDH presented the budget; the upcoming budget looks to be the same, with a slight increase. Several bills were introduced that would directly affect AAHSD. Annie Spell introduced a bill that would require commercial insurance for crisis services. Sarah reported HB 211 will have a direct effect on the homeless population. HB 211: criminalizes homelessness, homeless courts, and local regulations. Brad mentioned Meredith’s Place recently broke ground on the cottages.
- c. **Legislative Audit:** Had orientation on April 15, 2026 and should have the audit completed by June 30, 2026.
- d. **Data Update:** Data is up-to-date and accepted; Brad requested that the monthly data update be removed from the monthly agenda as a standing comment.
- e. **MHCA Conference in May:** The conference took place last week; Brad participated in a panel. The focus of the conference was human resources and workforce development. Brad also noted one of AAHSD’s social workers received her PhD in Social Work.
- f. **NATCON:** Brad reported the conference was held in Denver; four staff members attended. Next year's conference will be held in New Orleans.
- g. **Healthcare Advertisement:** Brad reported that AAHSD’s opioid awareness campaign was selected for a gold-level award.

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Mall of Acadiana Shooting: There was a vigil held at AES; staff members of AAHSD attended and offered supportive services to the families. Holly Howat was also in attendance, noting her child attends the school. George Mills reported that he had given the mobile crisis team at the Extra Mile a heads-up. UL requested additional support during finals week; AAHSD provided support staff; fourteen sessions were provided to students.

AAHSD received a thank you note from OBH for recently providing a room to host a meeting at our Lafayette location.

Ochsner LGBHU will be moving to another property in the very near future and the building will return to AAHSD for its use.

Bambi wanted to acknowledge certain staff members of OCDD for a great job coordinating at the Emergency Preparedness Training for the DD community provided by her company.

8. Next Meeting: June 15, 2026

9. Adjournment: 4:50 pm - Motion made by Richard and seconded by Quinta to adjourn; motion to adjourn carried unanimously.



Darce` Byrd, AAHSD Board Secretary