**Governance Board Meeting Minutes**

**Northwest Louisiana Human Services District**

**February 20, 2023**

1310 N. Hearne Avenue – Shreveport Behavioral Health Clinic – Shreveport, LA

Called to Order: By Matthew Linn at 5:30pm

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Matthew Linn

Roll Call: Trudie Abner, David Hoey, Don Pledger, Bridgette Salsberry, Tray Murray, Matthew Linn and Kristie Copeland were present. Mark Guidry was excused but was able to listen in by phone. Mary Brocato and Carolyn Carter were absent. Bienville and Governor Appointee #3 have no board representative at this time. A quorum of 7 out of 10 board members confirmed by Kristie Copeland, Board Secretary. Doug Efferson, Executive Director was present.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by David Hoey to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Tray Murray, and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes for December 19, 2022 and January 17, 2023: Moved by Tray Murray to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Bridgette Salsberry, and unanimously approved.

Guest and Public Comments: Kaylin Stewart, Outreach Coordinator at the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling (LACG), was present and reported on the grass roots media campaign and the March 1st chocolate party set to kick off March as Gambling Awareness month. All were encouraged to attend.

Executive Limitations: Doug Efferson gave a summary of his written report on Financial Conditions & Activities, Communication and Support to the Board, Treatment of Consumers, Treatment of Providers and Strategic Plan Indicators update. Of note was the review of the Civil Service Compliance Audit and the successful launch of our Tobacco Awareness Advertising Campaign. An extensive discussion ensued regarding a requested meeting with the Shreveport Mayor regarding 911/988 calls and information received during the January 25th Shreveport Crisis Response Coalition meeting. Matthew Linn expressed concerns that mental health 911 calls would not be transferable to the state’s 988 help line and that the state’s Medicaid Crisis Response services were being underutilized. Bridgette Salsberry informed the Board that Merakey, the local Medicaid Crisis Response provider, was providing advocacy support to clients in the DeSoto parish courts. Don Pledger stated he was having difficulty getting Merakey to provide services in Claiborne parish. Doug Efferson said he would look into the Desoto and Claiborne Parish issues. Matthew Linn asked Doug Efferson to see what the District can do to help Merakey services be better utilized.

Board Business: Matthew Linn led a review of the Monitoring Executive Director Performance and Accountability to Owners policies. Don Pledger motioned to accept the policies without change, seconded by David Hoey, and unanimously approved. The Board reviewed the draft Stakeholder Survey form for 2023. David Hoey motioned to approve the form, seconded by Don Pledger, and unanimously approved. The Board reviewed the following draft LACG Board Proclamation:

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling provides a number of unique services to the state of Louisiana including the operation of the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline 1-877-770-STOP, the management of Center for Recovery-CORE, the only state residential treatment facility for compulsive gambling, and the provision of free outpatient counseling services to compulsive and problem gamblers who are residents of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has proclaimed March, 2023 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month;

WHEREAS, the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District Board of Directors would like to recognize the important work done by the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling and the need to raise community awareness regarding the resources available to those needing treatment for gambling addiction;

BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 20th day of February, 2023, the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District Board of Directors hereby proclaims support for Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling services and the month of March being used to promote awareness of Problem Gambling.

 Bridgette Salsberry motioned to approve the proclamation, seconded by Tray Murray, and unanimously approved. Matthew Linn signed the proclamation and asked board members to stay after the meeting for a presentation of the proclamation to Kaylin Stewart, Outreach Coordinator for LACG. Matthew Linn requested board members submit their ED Evaluation Comments forms to him for summarization. The December Board Compliance Monitoring Summary Report was reviewed and accepted. The February Board Compliance Monitoring Tool was completed and given to Doug Efferson for summary. The next meeting date/time was agreed to be March 20, 2023 at 5:30pm.

Announcements/Acknowledgements: None.

Adjournment: Kristie Copeland moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:39pm, seconded by Bridgette Salsberry, and unanimously approved.

Minutes Prepared by Kristie Copeland, Board Secretary