**Governance Board Meeting Minutes**

**Northwest Louisiana Human Services District**

**Monday, September 20, 2021**

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

**Note: Those who had Covid-19 concerns preventing them from attending in person were allowed**

**to participate by Zoom Conference Call without loss of voting privileges.**

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

Roll Call: George Sewell, Kristi Copeland, Gary Conlay, Tray Murray, and Matthew Linn were present. Mary Brocato was excused. Carolyn Carter was absent. Bienville, Caddo, DeSoto, Governor Appointee #2 and Governor Appointee #3 have no board representative at this time. A quorum of 5 out of 7 board members confirmed by Gary Conlay, Board Secretary. Doug Efferson, Executive Director was present.

Welcome/Special Guest/Introductions: None

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

Approval of the Minutes for August 16, 2021: Moved by Tray Murray to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Gary Conlay, and unanimously approved.

Guest and Public Comments: Welcome to Rhonda Watts from LACG.

Executive Limitations: Doug Efferson gave a summary of his written report on Financial Conditions & Activities, Communication and Support to the Board, Financial Conditions and Activities – Legislative Audit, and Strategic Plan Indicators Update. Of note was that the legislative audit was favorable except for the claim that “The District failed to timely submit delinquent account balances to the Office of Debt Recovery (ODR) in accordance with the agreement terms.” After consultation with our attorney and talking to the ODR director, we confirmed the finding to be false and believed the audit claim implied a breach of contract which would be a very serious legal claim if it was true. The auditors refused to pull back or re-word the claim, so our attorney wrote an opinion for us stating the facts against the claim which I submitted as our District’s response and which is included in the audit report if anyone questions the audit findings in the future. George Sewell moved to accept the report, seconded by Kristi Copeland, and unanimously approved without any policy changes.

Board Business: George Sewell led a review of the Chairperson’s Role and Accountability of the ED policies. George Sewell moved to accept the policy without any changes, seconded by Kristi Copeland, and unanimously approved. The August Board Compliance Monitoring Summary Report was reviewed and accepted. The September Board Compliance Monitoring Tool was to be completed and given to Doug Efferson for summary. The next meeting date was agreed to be on Monday, October 18th at 5:30pm in-person or by Zoom for those with Covid-19 concerns.

Announcements/Acknowledgements: None.

Adjournment: George Sewell moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00pm, seconded by Kristi Copeland, and unanimously approved.

Minutes Prepared by Matthew Linn, Board Chair