

**Florida Parishes Human Services Authority
Minutes of the FPHSA Governing Board Meeting
FPHSA Headquarters
835 Pride Drive, Suite B, Hammond, LA 70401
August 28, 2026**

Dr. Genesa Garafolo Metcalf, Chair, called the meeting of the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA) Governing Board to order at 9:35 a.m.

Rebecca Soley conducted a roll call. A quorum was established.

Attendees

Governing Board: David Duplantier; Byron Hurst; Melissa Jones; Deborah Kropog; Timothy Lentz; Genesa Garafalo Metcalf, M.D.; and Meagan Possoit

Absent: JoBeth Valentino and Noble-Bates Young

FPHSA Staff/ Guest: Richard Kramer, FPHSA Executive Director; Rebecca Soley, FPHSA Board Secretary; and Rachelle Bethel, FPHSA COO

Prayer was offered by Mr. Lentz.

Agenda/Consent Agenda

Dr. Metcalf extended an offer for additional agenda items or revisions to the agenda.

Mr. Lentz made a motion adopting the agenda as presented; seconded by Dr. Hurst.

The motion passed unanimously.

Excused Absences

Mr. Lentz made a motion excusing the absences of Ms. Valentino and Ms. Young; seconded by Ms. Kropog.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lentz made a motion adopting the minutes of the July 24, 2026, minutes as written; seconded by Dr. Hurst.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

Dr. Metcalf welcomed all in attendance and extended an opportunity for public input.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Richard J. Kramer reported continued progress on several strategic initiatives focused on facility development, service expansion, reimbursement enhancement, and community partnerships.

Construction of the new FPHSA building remains on schedule. A recent walkthrough was completed to address punch list items.

The Developmental Disabilities Section has been renamed the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Section to align with state designations. FPHSA also entered into a partnership with the Louisiana Office for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN) to provide assistive technology demonstrations and trials for individuals with disabilities. Many technology purchases are expected to be funded through waiver and individual support programs.

Preparations are underway for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) cost reporting process, which will help determine future reimbursement rates. Leadership anticipates significantly higher reimbursement levels. FPHSA also successfully received its three-year CARF accreditation, including CCBHC accreditation.

A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with St. Tammany Parish is expected to support the development of a new Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinic, with operations projected to begin within approximately 90 days. Recruitment and marketing efforts will begin shortly.

FPHSA also implemented a collaborative initiative with Louisiana Probation and Parole, the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to improve behavioral health service coordination for individuals entering the parish jail system. The grant-funded program will be evaluated for sustainability and future funding opportunities.

Strategic priorities continue to focus on strengthening FPHSA's role within the behavioral health continuum of care, integrating primary care services, enhancing workforce recruitment and retention, improving developmental disability service accessibility, and expanding data-driven performance measurement and reporting capabilities.

Workforce data was shared with the board.

Service utilization continued to increase across behavioral health programs, with total outpatient services and individuals served rising in July. Demand for developmental disability services also remained strong, particularly within waiver, family support, and employment-related programs.

Overall, the Executive Director highlighted significant organizational progress in infrastructure development, accreditation, service expansion, interagency collaboration, and strategic planning efforts aimed at improving access to behavioral health and developmental disability services throughout the Florida Parishes region.

Ms. Jones made a motion to accept the Executive Director's report as presented; seconded by Mr. Duplantier.

The motion passed unanimously.

Board Business

Annual Policy review

Mr. Kramer presented Policy 005-Executive Limits- Treatment of Consumers; Policy 019 Executive Limits- Ends Focus on Grants and Contracts; the "Role of an FPHSA Board Member"; and the FPHSA By-Laws for the board's review.

Mr. Lentz made a motion adopting the policies and documents presented as writtten; seconded by Mr. Duplantier.

The motion passed unanimously.

Purchases Requiring Board Approval

Mr. Kramer requested the Board's feedback on the current purchasing approval process, which requires Board approval for all new purchases exceeding \$25,000. He noted that rising costs due to inflation and the upcoming relocation of the administrative offices to a new facility may necessitate purchases that exceed the current threshold. He further explained that, in situations where a purchase cannot reasonably be delayed until the next scheduled Board meeting and calling a special meeting may not be practical, the current requirement could hinder timely operations.

Ms. Possoit made a motion to increase the Board approval threshold for new purchases from \$25,000 to \$40,000, excluding emergency purchases. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hurst.

The motion passed unanimously.

Purchase Approval Requests

ZOOM and Administrative Move Purchases

Ms. Bethel reported that purchase approvals for Zoom services and the Administrative Services Facility relocation are no longer necessary, as the submitted quotes were below the established approval threshold of \$25,000.00.

IT Wiring, Networking, and Technology Solutions Purchase

Mr. Duplantier made a motion to approve expenditures of up to \$100,000.00 for the IT wiring, networking infrastructure, and related technology solutions required at the new Administrative Services building. The motion was seconded by Ms. Possoit.

The motion passed unanimously.

Confirmation of the Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the FPHSA Governing Board will be September 25, 2026, at FPHSA Headquarters at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

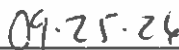
Mr. Lentz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.; seconded by Dr. Hurst.

The motion passed unanimously.

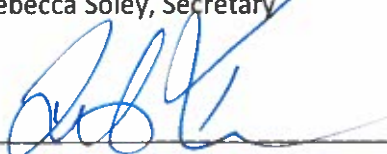
Respectfully Submitted,



Rebecca Soley, Secretary



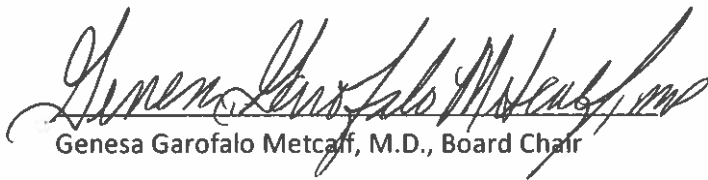
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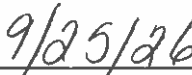
Richard J. Kramer, Executive Director



Date



Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, M.D., Board Chair



Date