

NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)

Board Meeting MINUTES

April 14, 2026

NEDHSA Administrative Office – Video Conference Room

2513 Ferrand Street: Monroe, LA 71201

5:30PM

Call to Order Meeting called to order by Yvonne Lewis and prayer was led by Yvonne Lewis and a quorum was met.

Adopt Agenda: A Motion was made by Tasha Washington and seconded by Dr. Tiffany Bates to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Minutes of March 10, 2026: A Motion was made by Dr. Tiffany Bates and seconded by Tasha Washington to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Members Present:

Thelma Merrells, Yvonne Lewis, Randy Williams and Tasha Washington

Board Members Absent: Christina Johnson and Dr. Tiffany Bates

Northeast Delta HSA staff present: Dr. Monteic A. Sizer and Delores R. Harris

Ownership Linkage-Recognition of Guests: None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – No requests for comment.

BOARD EDUCATION/ ENDS Items for DISCUSSION

Upcoming Events/Community Action

NEDHSA RISE ribbon cutting event will take place Thursday, June 11, 2026. Construction related issues caused the delay. NEDHSA has done everything it can do in preparation for the event. Additionally, NEDHSA will place a memorial marker on its RISE facility and it will contain the names of contributing NEDHSA staff and each member of NEDHSA's current Board of Directors.

NEDHSA is still working create a Healthcare District or Zone to further develop land adjacent to its RISE facility. Dr. Sizer continues to make the case for this first of its kind project in Northeast Louisiana.

NEDHSA is nearing completion of a partnership agreement with Louisiana Delta Community College. This partnership agreement will allow all RISE mothers to pursue their high school diplomas, participate in workforce based certification programs, and pursue various associate degree opportunities while in treatment.

NEDHSA will be partnering with LDH and LSU Health Sciences of New Orleans to assist with its opioid related training around maternal health in Northeast Louisiana. This is made possible due to NEDHSA being a state leader in opioid mitigation and treating pregnant women who are addicted to drugs and alcohol.

NEDHSA is sponsoring a statewide virtual webinar series with LDH and the Wellness Foundation titled Substance Use Disorder and Its Impact on Maternal Outcomes. This is part of NEDHSA's RISE and maternal health care objectives.

NEDHSA had its Art is Therapy Festival on April 11, 2026. From all reports, this event was a resounding success.

NEDHSA continues to update its website to be more interactive, user friendly to those with disabilities, and reflective of its transformative LATAN and related special initiatives.

NEDHSA, will be working to get insurance companies to pay higher rates for services provided on their behalf. NEDHSA saves the state and insurance company's lots of money each year. In particular, NEDHSA will be pursuing rate increases around its RISE/maternal health, opioid related mitigation, the Phoenix Clinic, and behavioral and primary health integration work.

NEDHSA is in the final phase of its Monroe Integrated Care Clinic conference room renovations. This state of the art conference room will be used for trainings, press conferences, and community meetings. This is part of NEDHSA's regional efforts to upgrade facilities and operational infrastructure. It's also consistent with preparing NEDHSA staff, regional physicians, and therapists in better understanding NEDHSA's comprehensive integrated healthcare treatment approach.

NEDHSA signed an MOU with LATAN, the state's assistive technology organization. The MOU will allow a first of its kind regional implementation of assistive technology solutions for those with various disabilities. NEDHSA and LATAN will be hosting regional meetings and assisting senior citizens with home repairs in East Carroll Parish. Additionally, NEDHSA is housing various pieces of

assistive technology equipment at its DD facility for community demonstrations and to help advance tools that will enhance quality of life. This is part of NEDHSA's efforts to transform the region with innovation, technology, improved population health, and economic development.

NEDHSA continues to look for ways to be more efficient and effective with its resources. We are installing a new phone system in NEDHSA facilities. NEDHSA will also be installing a new generator to act as a regional backup in case of power outages.

NEDHSA is streamlining its billing processes and is working to implement My Evolve, its new electronic health record system. Also, all internal NEDHSA departments are looking for ways to be even more intentional and collaborative. NEDHSA's outcomes focus remains with various analytics reports highlighting NEDHSA's continued programmatic and operational impacts. NEDHSA is also currently developing a real-time agency analytics dashboard to help measure its work.

As part of NEDHSA's opioid harm reduction strategy, Healthy Blue awarded NEDHSA a \$75,000 grant to help purchase four additional harm reduction machines. 12 specific NARCAN boxes have been strategically placed regionally. In addition to the 12 NARCAN boxes, two harm reduction machines have been placed. One is located within Monroe Behavioral and the other one is located in NEDHSA's Peer Support Center. The four sponsored by Health Blue will be placed inside NEDHSA's outpatient clinic locations. Additionally, NEDHSA is in the process of shooting and releasing several radio and TV ads highlighting its work being done regionally.

Construction was completed on the inside NEDHSA's RISE facility. There are a few things to complete on the outside of the building. All furnishings have been purchased. Additionally, food service and security contracts are being finalized. RISE will be one of the largest inpatient hospitals in Louisiana for pregnant women who are mentally ill and addicted to substances (60 beds). Women who are admitted will be able to bring up to two dependent children under the age of 12. Ochsner LSU Monroe is our primary care partner.

NEDHSA Talk conducted its third session in Baskin, Louisiana. Sessions are designed to gather information from regional citizens about various societal issues. Once done, NEDHSA works with community groups and schools to help resolve them. Parishes targeted are Madison, East Carroll, Ouachita, Franklin, and Lincoln.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS

Executive Director – Monthly Activity and Fiscal Reports

After the ED's report was presented, along with monthly Fiscal data, a Motion made by Yvonne Lewis and seconded by Dr. Tiffany Bates to approve / accept the ED report and Fiscal reports as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Planning & Budgeting/Financial Condition and Activities – *With respect to the actual, ongoing financial condition and activities, the ED shall not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy or a material deviation of actual expenditures from board priorities established in Ends policies.*

NEDHSA's FY 26 appropriated budget is \$18,210,481. Our SGF = \$17,031,087.

Our IAT = \$4,483,420. Self-generated = \$1,080,444

Board –

- Executive Limits: Compensation & Benefits (Governance Manual Page 15)
- Governance Process - (Governance Manual pp 3-4)
- Board Committee Principles (Governance Manual pp 7-8)

A Motion was made by Tasha Washington and seconded by Dr. Tiffany Bates to approve/accept the Executive Limits: Compensation & Benefits, Governance Process and Board Committee Principles without any revisions as written in the Governance Manual. Motion passed unanimously.

- Conflicts of Interest Statements – due May 15, 2026 (page 32)
- Public Ethics Training - due May 15, 2026 (page 32)
- Personal Financial Disclosure - due May 15, 2026 (page 32)

BOARD MANAGEMENT – Ongoing

- Board Development/ Parish Outreach
- Board Members Terms/ Renewal of Appointments
- Travel Forms due MONTHLY
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EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

Next Meeting – June 9, 2026 - 5:30 pm

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority, Conference Room
2513 Ferrand Street, Monroe, LA 71202