

NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)

Board Meeting MINUTES

May 26, 2026

**Northeast Delta Human Services Authority – 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 Thelma Merrells and seconded by Christina Johnson to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Minutes of March 10, 2026 & April 14, 2026: A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Christina Johnson to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Members Present:

Thelma Merrells, Christina Johnson, Yvonne Lewis and Randy Williams

Board Members Absent: Dr. Tiffany Bates and Tasha Washington

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

Dr. Sizer is pleased to announce the launch of NEDHSA's Evidence to Practice Research Institute—a bold and necessary step in strengthening behavioral health, addiction recovery, prevention, developmental disability, and overall wellness across Northeast Louisiana. It's the only research institute embedded inside a state agency in Louisiana. Research institutes in Louisiana only exists on the campuses of colleges and universities. NEDHSA's Evidence to Practice Research Institute is led by Dr. Sizer and will be housed at its regional office.

system that is well coordinated, connected to prevention and treatment, and is measurable. He also shared a conceptual framework to be executed.

NEDHSA will be hosting its Step into Wellness Run in Monroe Saturday, May 30th. This event is in partnership with the City of Monroe and several others. This event is designed to reduce mental health stigma, to improve overall health, and to support surrounding businesses in downtown Monroe. See attached flyer.

NEDHSA's 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. See ribbon cutting and plaque information in your packets.

NEDHSA is still working to 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. This will be significant for RISE participants.

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. Each webinar session has had more than 300 plus attendees, the largest for this type of format.

process of shooting and releasing several radio and TV adds highlighting its work being done regionally.

NEDHSA Talk conducted its fourth session in Ruston, Louisiana. Sessions gathered information and provided alcohol and drug related prevention activities. Parishes targeted included 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 Christina Johnson and seconded by Thelma Merrells 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

Executive Director –

- Monthly Executive Director Report
- Monthly Fiscal Report
- Emergency Executive Succession with Organizational Chart (page 12)
- 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 –

- Upcoming Events/Community Activities
- Chairperson's Role (page 8)

BOARD MANAGEMENT – Ongoing

- Board Development

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

Next Meeting – **July 14, 2026 - 5:30 pm**

NEDHSA Administrative Offices, 2513 Ferrand Street, Monroe, LA 71201