

**NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)**  
**Board Meeting MINUTES**  
**June 11, 2024**  
**Northeast Delta Human Services Authority, Video Conference Room,**  
**2513 Ferrand Street, Monroe, LA. 71202**

**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 Andy Bryan and seconded by Randy Williams to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt Minutes of May 14, 2024:** A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and Andy Bryan to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Board Members Present:** Thelma Merrells, Christina Johnson, Randy Williams, Andy Bryan, Dr. Tiffany Bates and Yvonne Lewis

**Board Members Absent:** Tasha Washington and Dr. Tony Young

**Northeast Delta HSA staff present:** Dr. Monteic Sizer, James “Jimmy” Powell and Delores R. Harris

**OWNERSHIP LINKAGE**

- Recognition of Guests- None

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS**

Executive Director –

- Monthly Executive Director Report
- Monthly Fiscal Report

A Motion was made by Andy Bryan and Dr. Tiffany Bates to approve / accept the ED & Fiscal Reports. Motion passed unanimously

**Upcoming Events/Community Action –**

NEDHSA's mini music festival was a resounding success. The event was held downtown Monroe and featured four regional artists. The mini fest will be aired

later June 2024 as part of NEDHSA's from New Orleans to Northeast Louisiana Art as Medicine initiative.

NEDHSA recently signed MOUs with the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council and NELA Music Awards. The goal is to reach historically forgotten populations with treatment and drive regional economic development. To further these partnerships, NEDHSA is sponsoring the upcoming NELA Music Awards ceremony and the Arts Council's event. NEDHSA will be sharing agency resources at the event and presenting an award.

NEDHSA's HR department has provided Civil Service all audit information. We obtained 96% out of 100%.

NEDHSA is still prepping for its CARF re-accreditation. CARF accreditation is one of the highest organizational standards in the world. We were awarded a three-year accreditation back in 2021. We also expect to be awarded another three-year accreditation. The accreditation report will be made available upon completion.

NEDHSA is still on pace to open the state's largest inpatient facility for addicted pregnant women with dependent children. The twenty-four hour facility has more than ten thousand square feet and fifteen bedrooms. Each bedroom will be able to house up to three individuals each (mother, infant, and up to two dependents). All furnishings have been procured. Signage is up. Policies and operational procedures are near final. NEDHSA is awaiting a few internal and external adjustments before building inspections and permitting can be completed. Additionally, NEDHSA transferred \$300k of self-generated dollars to help offset roofing and related maintenance issues. Also, NEDHSA will be meeting with Ochsner Conway to further solidify a mutual partnership agreement for RISE.

NEDHSA will be hosting its annual Opioid Summit June 13, 2024. It will be held at ULM's Bayou Pointe. Invitation was sent to Governor Landry. LDH Secretary Dr. Ralph Abraham will be one of the featured speakers along with Dr. Monteic A. Sizer. Louisiana Attorney General will also be extended an invitation. More than 300 people have already registered

NEDHSA's FY25 budget will largely be unchanged from the current fiscal year. We will be able to operate all NEDHSA programs and services without any problems beginning July 1, 2024.

Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, Dr. Avius Carroll, and Kara Etienne presented NEDHSA's innovative, award winning integrated healthcare model at LAHEC's higher education summit in Baton Rouge on May 22, 2024. The presentation went extremely well.

NEDHSA and the Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC) are finalizing a memorandum of understanding to provide mental health and addiction services to college students. NEDHSA will also be working with LDCC and regional businesses to provide mental health and addiction services to students and employees who fail drug tests. NEDHSA is waiting on LDCC to execute the MOU

NEDHSA is scheduling meetings with housing developers to establish more affordable housing for its RISE participants and general patient population. NEDHSA will also be meeting with apartment complex owners and managers in East Carroll to provide community-based mental health and addiction services on-site. This model will be replicated in other parishes once the willing are identified within each.

NEDHSA held a Health Literacy forum for the general public Friday, June 7, 2024. This initiative is designed to help empower individuals to take control of their health. Modules include learning about insurance coverages, medications, how to discuss health problems with doctors and nurses, etc. For forums are being planned across the region.

NEDHSA is hosting its annual JiggAerobics event at the Monroe Civic Center on June 27, 2024. This event is part of NEDHSA's behavioral and primary healthcare wellness model. This will be a standing room only event. It's very popular.

NEDHSA has been named a finalist for the Star Award. The Star Award is given out through the Council of State Governments for innovative, transformative work that other states can hopefully replicate to help mitigate significant societal problems. We will be presenting our Bridging Barriers: NEDHSA's Innovative Approach to Behavioral Health Stigma Reduction in Rural Communities work in West Virginia on Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

**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 FY24 appropriated budget is \$17,036,591. Total excluding SGR= \$16,228,692. Our IAT = \$5,085,087. Self-generated = \$807,899.

**Board –**

- Cost of Governance (Policy Manual Page 8-9)
- Agenda Planning (Policy Manual page 9)

A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Andy Bryan to accept the above items as written in the Governance manual with no changes. Motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD MANAGEMENT** – Ongoing

- Board Members Terms/ Renewal of Appointments
- Travel Forms due monthly after meeting

**ADJOURN**

**Next Meeting – July 11, 2024**

Ouachita Parish Health Unit-Community Room  
1650 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71202