**NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)**

**Board Meeting MINUTES**

**October 12, 2021**

**Ouachita Parish Health Unit - Community Room**

**1650 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71201**

**5:30PM**

**Call to Order**Meeting called to order by Mike Shipp and prayer was led by Thelma Merrells and a quorum was met.

**Adopt Agenda***:* AMotion was made by LaTanya Whiteside and seconded by Yvonne Lewis to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt Minutes of July 13:**AMotion was made by Rev. Shawn Hornsby and seconded by Latanya Whiteside to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Board Members Present:**

Thelma Merrells, Rev. Shawn Hornsby, Cynthia Mathes, LaTanya Whiteside, Yvonne Lewis and Mike Shipp

**Board Member Absent: None**

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

**Ownership Linkage-Recognition of Guests**: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD –** No requests for comment.

**GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS**

**Upcoming Events/Community Action**

Northeast Delta signed a MOU with the Food Bank of NELA to enhance services for those who are mentally ill and hungry. We will also be conducting research around food insecurity and solutions to health and human services gaps. There have been several TV and news stories written about it.

Dr. Sizer writes a monthly blog entitled Transformations on various mental health, addiction, health system, integrated care, etc., issues. The blog posts can be found on Northeast Delta’s website and related social media platforms.

Northeast Delta announced the formation of Leave No Veteran Behind to focus of veterans who are mentally ill, addicted to drugs and alcohol, and need housing, food, and primary health care services. Various TV and news articles have been written about it.

Dr. Sizer recently conducted an interview with Mental Health Weekly, a well-respected trade journal for healthcare system leaders about Operation Leave No Veteran Behind.

Northeast Delta hosted LDH-OBH as they discussed the need to establish a statewide crisis system and network on October 5, 2021.

Northeast Delta released its FY21 annual report. It highlighted agency programs and services.

Northeast Delta hosted a recovery webinar about addiction and treatment September 30th. Northeast Delta staff served as the subject matter experts. The webinar can be found on Northeast Delta’s Facebook and YouTube channels.

Northeast Delta Prevention and Wellness staff participated in a Franklin Parish anti-bullying event on October 2, 2021.

Northeast Delta was awarded nearly $700,000 to conduct its regional Anti-Stigma Campaign. It’s one of the first of its kind operating in the state of Louisiana. The campaign is entitled Rise Above Stigma. It will be a grassroots and media campaign aimed at reducing stigma to mental health and addiction services. The funding came in the form of a grant from SAMHSA and the Louisiana Department of Health. We are actively working this campaign. Grassroots organization can earn $5k to help Northeast Delta organize in their parishes.

Northeast Delta sponsored an Adverse Childhood Trauma training for its staff and network partners on September 15 and 16, 2021. Training was from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM each day. Tickets are free on Eventbrite.

Northeast Delta co-sponsored its 2nd Annual Tallulah 1k/5k Walk and Run in memory of Bea Willis, a Tallulah native and leader. The event was held at Madison High School on Saturday, October 9, 2021 and began at 8 AM. Other sponsors were the City of Tallulah and the Tallulah Police Department. Board member Yvonne Lewis helped to facilitate things in Tallulah.

Northeast Delta clinical staff were deployed to help support two mega shelters in our region following Hurricane Ida. The shelters were in Monroe and Bastrop. Additionally, staff provided developmentally appropriate stress reduction resources, 1 800 helpline information while evacuees were at shelter locations.

We have been sharing a list of information for Recovery Month (September), including facts and information about ways to reduce suicides.

I have initiated signing a new lease to consolidate all Northeast Delta developmental disability staff and assets in one location. The location is on a bus line and is within two minutes from our Prevention and Wellness facility off of Ferrand Street. We are hoping to cut the ribbon sometime in December 2021. More details to come.

All Northeast Delta staff and departments are working full-time at their respective assigned desks and buildings. Clinical and DD staff continue to develop plans for a phased, full reopening model where clients are seen face-to-face. To be noted, some clients are being seen at clinic locations. All plans include universal precaution measures, technology, PPE gear, etc. We have already secured many of the items needed to ensure the safety of staff and clients. We continue to require face coverings in all agency common areas. We also continue to practice social distancing and office screenings before individuals enter our buildings to avoid the community spread of COVID-19.

We were surveyed by CARF to obtain an additional three year accreditation. The survey went great. The certification will be sent in a few weeks.

We continue to participate in many social media campaigns, including suicide prevention and various addiction ones. We have also started a massive digital public awareness campaign about our programs and various services. This digital campaign includes Google, website, news banners, various social media outlets, etc. One commercial features our agency, and the other discusses opioids and what we are doing about it.

We are still planning to have GEONOA Pharmacy offer the Covid-19 vaccine to Northeast Delta staff who prefer the Moderna vaccine. We will be offering the vaccine to our outpatient and inpatient behavioral health and DD clients. We will do the same for contractors. This is set to begin October 2021.

Dr. Sizer shared with staff that his expectation is that Northeast Delta will be fully integrated programmatically and across all departments by July 1, 2022. To date, all fiscal, policies and procedures, analytics, HR, technology, and facilities are being aligned to support this agency objective. This objective is consistent with the Board approved agency strategic plan. Being fully integrated will also allow Northeast Delta to be more efficient, effective, and outcomes driven. When this happens, we will see greater innovations and larger population health improvements in Northeast Louisiana

Northeast Delta hosts a weekly Facebook Live show called Transformation Thursday. The live Facebook event is designed to showcase various agency programs, initiatives, and community partnerships. We recently featured our transitional housing and workforce development programs.

### Executive Director – Monthly Activity and Fiscal Reports

After the ED’s report was presented, along with monthly Fiscal report a Motion made by Yvonne Lewis and LaTanya Whiteside to approve / accept 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.*

*NEDHS*A’s FY22 appropriated budget is $15, 516,455. Our SGF = $10,578,707. Our IAT = $4,163,904. Self-generated = $773,844.

**Board –**

* Global Linkage (Policy Manual Page 10)
* Unity of Control (Policy Manual Page 10)
* Accountability of the Executive Director (Policy Manual Page 10)
* Delegation to the Executive Director (Policy Manual Page 10)

Board members were assigned to read over Global Linkage, Unity Control,

Accountability of the Executive Director and Delegation to the Executive Director policies from the policy manual to see if any changes should be made to the policies at the next meeting.

**BOARD MANAGEMENT** – Ongoing

* Board Development/ Parish Outreach
* Travel Forms

**ADJOURN**

A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and Seconded by Yvonne Lewis to end meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting** - **November 16, 2021 - 5:30 pm**

Ouachita Parish Health Unit – Community Room

1650 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71202

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