

NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)
Board Meeting MINUTES
April 8, 2025
NEDHSA Offices, 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 Randy Williams and seconded by Dr. Tiffany Bates to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Minutes of March 11, 2025: A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Randy Williams to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Members Present:

Thelma Merrells, Randy Williams, Dr. Tiffany Bates and Yvonne Lewis

Board Absent: Christina Johnson and Tasha Washington

Northeast Delta HSA staff present: Dr. Monteic Sizer via conference call & Delores R. Harris

Ownership Linkage Recognition of Guest: None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – No requests for comment.

BOARD EDUCATION/ ENDS Items for DISCUSSION

Upcoming Events/Community Action

NEDHSA's legislative 2025 audit has begun. We anticipate another perfect to near perfect audit. We have been preparing for it, and all is smooth to date. Auditors mentioned they could be finished by the end of April 2025.

NEDHSA 2024 annual programmatic report was presented to each board member, placed on NEFHSA's website, and will be disseminated to the general public this week. This report highlights NEDHSA's innovative, impactful regional work.

NEDHSA had its programmatic audit from LDH as part of our annual contract. Each clinic location scored 100% in each category assessed.

NEDHSA hosted two pre-town hall meetings. One was hosted in Franklin Parish and the other one was hosted in Ouachita Parish. Both were well attended and informative. A follow up town hall meeting took place in Franklin Parish at LDCC's Winnsboro campus on March 19, 2025. The Ouachita Parish town hall takes place in Bawcomville today from 11 am to 1 pm. Both communities have been very appreciative of NEDHSA's commitment, services, and follow through.

NEDHSA hosted its highly anticipated Developmental Disability Summit entitled Your Life: Putting the Pieces of Your Life Together Through Advocacy. It took place on March 27, 2025 at ULM's Bayou Pointe. Two NEDHSA board members participated as featured panelists.

As part of NEDHSA's opioid harm reduction strategy, there will be 12 NARCAN boxes strategically placed regionally. NEDHSA staff placed one at its Tallulah Integrated Care Clinic on March 11, 2025. The others are being placed as of this writing.

Drs. Sizer and Bhatta's behavioral and primary healthcare manuscript has been submitted for publication. There is no other LGE or state department publishing manuscripts in professional research journals. We have several manuscripts published in journals such as the highly respected American Journal of Medicine and several other notable ones. The manuscript under current review is titled Assessment of Mental and Physical Health Outcomes Over Time in an Integrated Care Setting. It has passed editorial review and being edited for publication.

NEDHSA implemented a very comprehensive EAP program for staff and their family members. This comprehensive system allows staff and family members to get individual counseling, money management tips, etc., from outside experts. NEDHSA staff participated in a health, wellness, and learning retreat at the Monroe Civic Center on March 25, 2025. This was

well received and appreciated by NEDHSA staff. Board members are eligible to use the comprehensive EAP program NEDHSA staff use.

NEDHSA has launched its veteran suicide campaign as part of its Operation Leave No Veteran Behind initiative. Suicide awareness lapel pins are part of this regional messaging effort.

NEDHSA is helping Ochsner Health System to strategize and implement harm reduction machines in Louisiana. Dr. Sizer spoke with Ochsner and other healthcare leaders in Lafayette, Louisiana on Friday, March 14, 2025.

NEDHSA's 3rd annual Art is Therapy Festival will take place April 26, 2025 from 11 am to 3 pm. This is a highly impactful and well received mental health and wellness prevention effort.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS

Executive Director – Monthly Activity and Fiscal Reports

After the ED's report was presented, along with monthly Fiscal report a Motion made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Randy Williams 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.*

NEDHSA's FY25 appropriated budget is \$16, 566,266 Our SGF = \$15,792,422. Our IAT = \$4,483,420. Self-generated = \$773,844.

Board –

- Compensation & Benefits (Governance Manual Page 15)
- Board Committee Principles (Governance Manual pp 7-8)
- Board member Self Evaluation (Governance Manual pp 3-4)
- Conflicts of Interest Statements – due May 15, 2025 (page 32)
- Public Ethics Training - due May 15, 2025 (page 32)

- Personal Financial Disclosure - due May 15, 2025 (page 32)

A motion was made by Dr. Tiffany Bates and seconded by Thelma Merrells to approve / accept the above Governance Manual policies to read the same with no corrections or additions. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD MANAGEMENT – Ongoing

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

Next Meeting – **May 13, 2025 - 5:30 pm**

Ouachita Parish Health Unit, Community Room, 1560 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71202