

NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)

Board Meeting MINUTES

July 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 Thelma Merrells to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Minutes of June 10, 2025: 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, Randy Williams and Yvonne Lewis

Board Absent: Dr. Tiffany Bates and Tasha Washington

Northeast Delta HSA staff present: Dr. Monteic Sizer, Dr. Avius Carroll and 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 full legislative 2025 audit has ended. NEDHSA received another perfect audit. The auditors examined NEDHSA's fiscal policies and procedures, payroll, billing, credit card management practices, fleet, contracts, risk management, etc. The Board will receive a full copy of the final report once it's printed by the state.

NEDHSA hosted its Bawcomville Bash: Faith, Hope, and Healing Festival Friday, May 23, 2025 from 10 am to 2 pm. NEDHSA worked in partnership with Redeemed Calvary Church. Because of NEDHSA's work, various agencies are seeking to partner to provide services in the Bawcomville community. NEDHSA

continues to work with this community. Grief counseling, opioid training, and other things continue to happen.

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 and its Winnsboro location. The others are being placed as of this writing. Additionally, NEDHSA has contracted with two regional groups to help provide narcotics anonymous, outreach, and transportation services for those addicted to opioids and related substances. This is a first of its kind model in Louisiana.

Drs. Sizer and Bhatta's behavioral and primary healthcare manuscript has been published. 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 just published is titled Assessment of Mental and Physical Health Outcomes over Time in an Integrated Care Setting. The Mental Health Weekly also just featured this publication. This trade publication caters to hospital and insurance company CEOs, government leaders, research scientists, and elected officials. Currently, Drs. Sizer and Bhatta are working on their next publication. It deals with barriers related to patients appearing for treatment.

NEDHSA 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. The campaign yielded more than 700k plus regional impressions. Additionally, NEDHSA hosted a very successful pinning ceremony on Friday, May 9th at the Northeast Louisiana War Veterans Home from 1 pm to 2 pm. NEDHSA also hosted its Neighbors in Service honoring veterans at the Chennault Aviation & Military Museum on Saturday, May 31st.

Construction has begun on NEDHSA's RISE facility. 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 with under the age of 12. Ochsner LSU Monroe is our primary care partner. NEDHSA is looking to cut the ribbon sometime between December 2025 and January 2026.

NEHSA hosted its annual JiggAerobics event Thursday, June 12th. This was part of NEDHSA's health and wellness initiative.

NEDHSA is gearing up to launch its intergenerational work between senior citizens and youth. This initiative is designed to bridge the gap between generations and to reduce negative outcomes of both demographic groups.

NEDHSA will be implementing a contingency management program for its integrated care patients in the coming days. This project is designed to incentivize patients for receiving treatment. The incentives include gift cards, clothing, one time emergency utility payments, etc. NEDHSA received funding from LDH to pilot this effort.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS

Executive Director Report – Monthly Fiscal Report-Emergency Executive Succession Organizational Chart-

- After the ED's report, Monthly Fiscal report was presented also the board reviewed the Quarterly Treatment of Consumer - Satisfaction, Grievances, Complaints Report was presented and it was approved with no Grievances or Complaints being made. 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 = \$11,309,002. Our IAT = \$4,483,420. Self-generated = \$773,844.

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- Board Development
- Board Terms /Renewals of Appointments will be addressed as they come up for Renewal Delores Harris will notify board members 2 months before term expires

ADJOURN

Next Meeting – **August 12, 2025 - 5:30 pm**

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