

NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)

Board Meeting MINUTES

July 14, 2026

Call to Order/Roll Call/Quorum/Prayer

Adopt Agenda/Adopt Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2026:

Board Members present: Yvonne Lewis, Dr. Tiffany Bates and Tasha Washington

Board absent: Thelma Merrells, Christina Johnson, Randy Williams

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

Ownership Linkage-Recognition of Guests: Victoria Wayne, Fiscal Director

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.

For years, NEDHSA has worked to transform lives by integrating behavioral health, primary care, prevention, and social support services. We have built innovative programs, strengthened community partnerships, and expanded access to care for some of our region's most vulnerable citizens. Today, we take that work even further.

The Evidence to Practice Research Institute will serve as the research, evaluation, and innovation engine behind our mission. It will allow us to study what works, improve what we do, and design new solutions that meet the unique social needs

of our region. This Institute will help ensure that every program we deliver is grounded in science, strengthened by data, and shaped by the lived experiences of the people we serve.

Through this initiative, we will:

- Conduct applied research that addresses maternal health, mental health, addiction, trauma, disability, and social determinants of health
- Evaluate and improve our programs to ensure measurable, meaningful outcomes
- Translate research into practice so that evidence-based models reach the people who need them most
- Build strong partnerships with universities, health systems, schools, insurance companies, and community organizations
- Develop innovative pilot programs that can be scaled across the region and state
- Strengthen our internal and external data systems to support real-time decision-making and accountability
- Apply for federal, state, and philanthropic dollars to assist with research initiatives
- Coordinate Grand Rounds training initiative

This Institute represents more than a research center. It is a commitment to excellence, transparency, and continuous improvement. It is an investment in the health, safety, and economic vitality of Northeast Louisiana. And it is a promise to our citizens that we will continue to lead with compassion, integrity, and purpose.

NEDHSA met with a group selected by LDH to assist with regional crisis services. Dr. Sizer lead the discussion around creating a comprehensive, regional crisis 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' 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 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.

NEDHSA is in the final phase of its Monroe Integrated Care Clinic conference room renovations. This state of the art conference room will be used for trainings, press conferences, and community meetings. This is part of NEDHSA's regional efforts to upgrade facilities and operational infrastructure. It's also consistent with preparing NEDHSA staff, regions' physicians, and therapists to better understanding NEDHSA's comprehensive integrated healthcare treatment approach. It's also consistent with future MAT treatment options training for those treating individuals battling addiction regionally.

NEDHSA signed an MOU with LATAN, the state's assistive technology organization. The MOU will allow a first of its kind regional implementation of

assistive technology solutions for those with various disabilities. NEDHSA and LATAN will be hosting regional meetings and assisting senior citizens with home repairs in East Carroll Parish. Additionally, NEDHSA is housing various pieces of assistive technology equipment at its DD facility for community demonstrations and to help advance tools that will enhance quality of life. This is part of NEDHSA's efforts to transform the region with innovation, technology, improved population health, and economic development. A press release and two Transformation Thursday episodes have been executed to date.

NEDHSA is continuing to streamline its billing processes and is working to implement MyEvolve, its new electronic health record system. Also, all internal NEDHSA departments are looking for ways to be even more intentional and collaborative. NEDHSA's outcomes focus remains with various analytics reports highlighting NEDHSA's continued programmatic and operational impacts. NEDHSA is also currently developing a real-time agency analytics dashboard to help measure its work.

As part of NEDHSA's opioid harm reduction strategy, Healthy Blue awarded NEDHSA a \$75,000 grant to help purchase four additional harm reduction machines. 12 specific NARCAN boxes have been strategically placed regionally. In addition to the 12 NARCAN boxes, two harm reduction machines have been placed. One is located within Monroe Behavioral and the other one is located in NEDHSA's Peer Support Center. The four sponsored by Health Blue are currently being placed inside NEDHSA's outpatient clinic locations. One harm reduction box will be placed outside in Bawcomville, Louisiana. Additionally, NEDHSA is in the process of shooting and releasing several radio and TV ads 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

ADJOURN

Next Meeting – **August 11, 2026**