

NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)
Board Meeting MINUTES
September 10, 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 Andy Bryan and prayer was led by Andy Bryan 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 July 9, 2024: A Motion was made by Tasha Washington and Christina Johnson to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Members Present: Thelma Merrells, Christina Johnson, Randy Williams, Tasha Washington and Andy Bryan

Board Members Absent: Dr. Tiffany Bates, Yvonne Lewis and Dr. Tony Young

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

OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

- Recognition of Guests- None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS

Upcoming Events/Community Action –

NEDHSA 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 presenting an award, and sharing agency resources at the event August 15, 2024.

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 to the Board 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.

NEDHSA met with Ochsner Conway to further solidify a mutual partnership agreement for RISE. After the initial meeting, Ochsner Conway's Board unanimously approved its willingness to partner with NEDHSA. NEDHSA is currently finalizing a draft MOU with Ochsner Conway. A public signing will occur in a couple of weeks.

NEDHSA is forming a partnership with Barkdull Faulk Elementary School as part of its Opportunity Zone work. This strategic partnership is designed to improve student emotional well-being, academic performance, and overall school improvement. Barkdull Faulk will be the receiving school for RISE students. Dr. Sizer is leading this effort.

Dr. Sizer facilitated a meeting with regional inpatient addiction providers to forge a common vision and a more collaborative approach to serving patients with complex needs. The meeting was well received.

NEDHSA's FY25 budget was largely unchanged from the current fiscal year. We will be able to operate all NEDHSA programs and services without any problems. To note, LDH did send notice for all internal LDH departments and LGEs to begin scenario planning should the Division of Administration require a budget reduction to help head off upcoming state budget challenges. NEDHSA has made the necessary adjustments.

NEDHSA is scheduling meetings with housing developers to establish more affordable housing for its RISE participants and general patient population. NEDHSA did meet with apartment complex owners and managers in East Carroll to establish community-based mental health and addiction services on-site. An official MOU has been signed to provide these services. This model will be replicated in other parishes. There will be MOUs established in Union and Ouachita Parishes soon.

NEDHSA was 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. NEDHSA's Bridging Barriers: NEDHSA's Innovative Approach to Behavioral Health Stigma Reduction in Rural Communities was recognized in West Virginia on Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

NEDHSA sponsored several regional back-to-school efforts as part of its prevention and wellness initiatives. See social media platforms for images.

Executive Director –

- Monthly Executive Director Report
- Monthly Fiscal Report
- Report on Grants and Contracts
- Treatment of Consumers Quarterly-Satisfaction, Grievance, Complaints Reports
- Financial Conditions and Activities
- A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Randy Williams to approve /accept the ED Report, Fiscal Report, Report on Grants and Contracts, Treatment of Consumers Quarterly-Satisfaction Reports on each facility as submitted. It was also noted Northeast Delta Human Services Authority did not receive any Grievances or Complaints. Financial Conditions and Activities –Fiscal Report ending 06/30/2024 was also approved as submitted. Motion passed unanimously

Board –

- Upcoming Events/Community Activities

Board Policy Manual Reviews –

- Review NEDHSA Global Ends Statement (page 3)
- Global Governance Commitment (page 3)
- Governance Style (page 3-4)
- Board Job Description (Page 4)
- Upcoming Events/Community Activities

A Motion was made by Randy Williams and seconded by Thelma Merrells to approve /accept all Board Policy Manual Reviews as listed above to leave as written with no changes. Motion passed unanimously.

- Board Business

BOARD MANAGEMENT – Ongoing

- Parish Outreach
- Travel Forms due monthly
- Board Member Recruitment

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. Total excluding SGR= \$15,792,422. Our IAT = \$4,483,420. Self-generated = \$773,844.

ADJOURN

Next Meeting – **October 8, 2024 - 5:30 pm**

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority –Video Conference

2513 Ferrand Street –Video Conference Room, Monroe, LA 71201