

NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)
Board Meeting MINUTES
October 15, 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 Yvonne Lewis and prayer was led by Yvonne Lewis and a quorum was met.

Adopt Agenda: A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Andy Bryan to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Minutes of September 10, 2024: A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and Randy Williams to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Members Present: Thelma Merrells, Randy Williams, Andy Bryan and Yvonne Lewis

Board Members Absent: Tasha Washington and Dr. Tony Young, Christina Johnson and Dr. Tiffany Bates

Northeast Delta HSA staff present: Dr. Monteic Sizer, James “Jimmy” Powell and Delores R. Harris

OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

- Recognition of Guests- None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS

- Monthly Executive Director Report
- Monthly Fiscal Report
- Treatment of Staff

A Motion was made by Randy Williams and Thelma Merrells to approve / accept the ED & Fiscal Reports and Treatment of staff letter sent to the board by NEDHSA Compliance Department. Motion passed unanimously

Upcoming Events/Community Action –

The Northeast Delta Human Services Authority (NEDHSA) and Barkdull Faulk Elementary School announce a new partnership, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed on October 11, 2024 aimed at providing comprehensive support for students through integrated care services. This collaboration will expand access to essential behavioral health, mental health, and developmental disabilities services for the students of Barkdull Faulk, especially those most at risk. It will also connect families in NEDHSA's Reaching Independence Through Support & Education (R.I.S.E.) Treatment Center.

RISE Residential Treatment Center provides services for pregnant women and their dependent children. This treatment center provides substance abuse treatment and detoxication residential/inpatient care to pregnant women. The dependent children also receive services based on need and age. The center is located in the Barkdull Faulk school zone, and children who are in the center will enroll in the school.

NEDHSA Executive Director Dr. Monteic A. Sizer said, "This collaboration represents a significant step in addressing the social determinants of health that impact students' ability to succeed academically and thrive in their communities."

"By working closely with Barkdull Faulk, we can create a safer, healthier, and more supportive environment for students who need these critical services," Dr. Sizer said. "We have heard the needs of our citizens, and we have also seen their tears, now it is time for us to act in ways that inspire positive community change and results in South Monroe."

The partnership will offer coordinated access to a variety of services, including mental health care, addiction treatment, primary care, wellness services, and support for students with developmental disabilities. The agreement aligns with NEDHSA's mission of ensuring high-quality, compassionate, and accessible care for all individuals dealing with mental illness, addiction, and developmental challenges.

Barkdull Faulk will connect students to NEDHSA's comprehensive range of services. NEDHSA will provide behavioral health evaluations, addiction services, wellness programs, and primary care, ensuring a holistic approach to each student's needs. The initiative targets students who are most in need, offering tailored programs that promote mental health, prevent substance abuse, and provide life skills training. Both organizations will engage parents, caregivers, and the wider school community to ensure that students and families have full access to the resources provided. Through participation in school events and the promotion of integrated care services, the partnership aims to empower families to take proactive steps toward well-being.

Barkdull Faulk Principal Dr. Bakari Beckwith said, "The school is excited to partner with NEDHSA and the establishment of the R.I.S.E. facility."

"This facility symbolizes the continued growth, support, development, and education of our community as it relates to mental health and other related services provided by NEDHSA," Dr. Beckwith said. "We believe this partnership will strengthen the community, school, and home relationship. At Barkdull Faulk Elementary, we care about the whole child and the families that support them. The signing of this MOU solidifies those efforts and merges the mission and vision of both NEDHSA and Barkdull Faulk Elementary."

Dr. Sizer added: "This initiative represents a long-term commitment from both NEDHSA and Barkdull Faulk to provide an ongoing continuum of quality services, including prevention, crisis intervention, and coordinated care for students and their families."

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority (NEDHSA) announces the launch of its new Sponsorship Request Portal, designed to assist qualified local non-profit organizations and individuals seeking financial support for community-focused events and services. This initiative aligns with NEDHSA's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, competent care and excellent customer service to the people of Northeast Louisiana.

NEDHSA Executive Director Dr. Monteic A. Sizer said, "No agency or community can solve complex health problems vulnerable populations are challenged with alone."

"I believe that as a government agency, we can and are effectively helping our citizens meet many of their physical, behavioral health, financial, and social needs," Dr. Sizer said. "However, the government can't solve complex societal

problems alone, and so this is our call and challenge to others to work with us to bring hope and healing to those who are hurting in our region."

NEDHSA Launches Sponsorship Request Portal for Community Funding Opportunities

The portal will serve as a streamlined application process for those requesting funds to support initiatives that align with NEDHSA's strategic objectives. NEDHSA cannot guarantee that the full amount requested will be awarded and is based on availability of funds.

Sponsorships are not recurring, and each request must be submitted via the portal. As the agency continues to identify specific funding opportunities and address gaps in services, the information collected through the portal will play a vital role in forming new regional partnerships.

Dr. Sizer added: "We value our partners as an extension of the services we provide and are always open to dialogue with organizations and individuals who share our mission. This new portal is a testament to our unwavering commitment to supporting those doing important work in our community. It ensures we can effectively connect with them and provide the support necessary to make a lasting impact."

To apply or learn more about the Sponsorship Request Portal and NEDHSA's services, visit <https://nedeltahsa.org/sponsorship-request>.

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority (NEDHSA) and Genoa Healthcare are joining forces to offer flu shots and COVID-19 vaccinations to vulnerable populations in the region. The event is scheduled for Friday, October 4, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Monroe Integrated Care Clinic at 4800 S. Grand Street, Monroe, LA.

This community-focused vaccination event is part of NEDHSA's ongoing efforts to ensure that vulnerable populations have access to essential preventative healthcare services. Both insured and uninsured individuals are eligible to receive the vaccines, with flu shots available for those 7 years old and above and COVID-19 vaccines offered for individuals 17 years old and above.

NEDHSA Executive Director Dr. Monteic A. Sizer said this event is another extension of the "agency's commitment to addressing the complex healthcare needs of the region's most at-risk populations."

"By providing these vaccination events, we're showing the region that we're focused and committed to delivering lifesaving care to vulnerable people and communities," Dr. Sizer said. "NEDHSA will continue to work across race, class, and politics, collaborating with businesses, faith-based organizations, and others to ensure our region's healthcare needs are met."

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available at no cost to individuals. However, if an individual has insurance, Genoa asks that they bring their insurance card for billing purposes. Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) for all vaccines can be accessed through [Immunize.org](https://www.immunize.org). Specific VIS forms for the Flu Vaccine and COVID-19 Vaccine are also available online.

Genoa Healthcare Director of Operations Brandon Demerson, PharmD, said the importance of "making vaccinations accessible to underserved populations can't be taken for granted."

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority (NEDHSA) has partnered with the City of Tallulah as the title sponsor of the 5th Annual 1K/5K Walk/Run in memory of Bea Willis, an event set for Saturday, October 5 at 8 a.m. starting at Madison Parish High School, 1234 Madison High Drive, Tallulah, La.

NEDHSA's title sponsorship is one facet of its #getfitHSA initiative that supports the NEDHSA's integrated care model to increase access to healthy activities and inform communities about staying fit and active.

NEDHSA Executive Director Dr. Monteic A. Sizer said the agency has "always worked to create opportunities for citizens of Northeast Louisiana to engage in healthy activities and learn about the interconnectedness of their mental and physical health."

"Fitness plays a vital role in mental health and, when coupled with proper exercise, is a strong predictor of positive health outcomes," Dr. Sizer said. "So, when we combine our physical fitness initiatives with our prosocial mental health and primary healthcare mitigation strategies, we can expect to see overall regional population health improvements."

Dr. Sizer said data shows that heart disease, obesity, and other physical illnesses are comorbidities of trauma, stress, mental illness, and tobacco use, and added that the agency's understanding of "this level of comprehensive wellness is the

foundation of the agency's focus towards providing behavioral and primary care services."

"This type of event exposes regional citizens to valuable information concerning the importance of personal wellness and holistic mental, physical, and spiritual health," Dr. Sizer said.

Northeast Delta Human Services (NEDHSA) will host its fourth JiggAerobics event on October 16 at 6 p.m. at the Monroe Civic Center. This event is part of its #getfitHSA initiative that supports the NEDHSA's integrated care model to increase access to healthy activities and inform communities about staying fit and active.

NEDHSA Executive Director Dr. Montiec A. Sizer said this event provides a fun and upbeat activity for individuals of all ages and fitness levels. Additionally, he said it exposes regional citizens to "valuable information concerning the importance of personal wellness and holistic mental, physical, and spiritual health."

"We know physical fitness plays a critical role in positive health outcomes. So, when we combine our physical fitness initiatives with our prosocial mental health and primary healthcare mitigation strategies, we can expect to see overall regional population health improvements," Dr. Sizer said. "By hosting events like JiggAerobics, we are providing an opportunity for citizens of northeast Louisiana to further learn about the interconnectedness of their mental health, physical health, and spiritual well-being."

Dr. Sizer said data shows that heart disease, obesity, and other physical illnesses are correlated with various forms of trauma, stress, and mental illness.

This event is another layer to NEDHSA's Integrative Behavioral Health and Primary Care Model, which ensures that citizens in the region have access to the care they need, no matter where they enter the health care system.

This nationally recognized model includes collaborative work with regional partners in prevention, education, business, and regional municipalities and parishes. It helps NEDHSA create opportunities to reduce barriers to quality healthcare that arise from negative societal health determinants such as poverty, joblessness, and access to adequate housing.

JiggAerobics will be led by LaDonte Lotts, better known as "Mr. Get Right." Lotts founded JiggAerobics as a dance-based fitness program that fuses "jigging," an energetic Louisiana dance style, with Lotts' own personal dance moves and numerous plyometric exercises.

Lotts said he had some great opportunities throughout the state and country hosting JiggAerobic events and is excited to be back in northeast Louisiana.

"JiggAerobics has provided me with an amazing opportunity to bring physical and mental wellness to every person I encounter," Lotts said. "Your health is your wealth, and I want you to invest wisely."

Dr. Sizer said finding innovative ways to help solve significant societal problems "is at the heart of what we do."

"We consistently work to understand the unique health care needs of the citizens of northeast Louisiana. And once we understand the needs and wishes of the people, we actively put programs and services in place to help meet people where they are," Dr. Sizer said.

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority (NEDHSA) and Strauss Theatre are partnering to produce multiple showings of "Next to Normal," a musical that has garnered a Tony Award and Pulitzer Award with themes that include mental health, grief, medical ethics, suburban malaise, and attempting to define "normal." The showings will take place at Strauss Theatre on November 7-10 and 14-17.

NEDHSA Executive Director Dr. Monteic A Sizer said, "We must do different things to educate, engage, and inspire the public. We're helping people in our region to understand mental health issues with this innovative prevention approach."

"We believe there is medicine in creative expression, and the arts can help a person come alive in ways traditional treatment options can't," Dr. Sizer said. "We also intend to help make Northeast Louisiana a regional creative hub, a preferred destination that will generate much-needed regional economic development, diversity, job creation, and more."

"Next to Normal" tells the story of Diana Goodman, a suburban wife and mother who has bipolar disorder and is haunted by the loss of her infant son. The effects on her family have been profound. Her doctors suggest hypnosis and Electric Convulsive Therapy in an attempt to manage her condition.

Strauss Theatre Center President Scott Frick said, "Bringing musicals like "Next to Normal" to the community theater provides a powerful platform to address and explore mental health issues in an engaging and empathetic way."

"By partnering with the NEDHSA, Strauss aims to not only enrich the community but also foster essential conversations about mental health awareness and support," Frick said. "This musical will offer a profound look into the challenges of mental illness, encouraging dialogue and understanding in a setting that is both impactful and accessible."

"Through this collaboration, Strauss aims to create a space where individuals can find both solace and solidarity in shared experiences," Frick said.

As part of the partnership between NEDHSA and Strauss Theatre, NEDHSA will allow the public to attend the November 9 musical showing for free in an evening called "NEDHSA NIGHT." NEDHSA NIGHT aims to increase access to vulnerable populations who may not have the financial resources to attend.

Frick added, "The performing arts have a unique ability to break down barriers and connect us on a deeply human level, making it an invaluable tool in raising awareness and compassion for mental health."

Dr. Sizer added, "We intend to help create an environment where dreams are realized, families are strong, bodies are healthy, community institutions are thriving, and spirits are renewed."

Strauss Members can get tickets starting October 21, with public sale and NEDHSA night tickets available on October 28.



Partnership Announcement

OCTOBER 18, 2024
Monroe Medical Center

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority and Ochsner LSU Health Monroe have entered into a new partnership to strengthen healthcare services for citizens of Northeast Louisiana, with a specific focus on women with substance use disorders and their dependent children.

M.O.U.



Northeast Delta Human Services Authority
**Pregnant Women
with Children
Treatment Center**

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.

Board –

- Global Linkage (Policy Manual Page 10)
- Unity of Control Policy (Manual Page 10)
- Delegation to the Executive Director (Policy Manual Page 10)
- Accountability of the Executive Director (Policy Manual Page 10-11)

A motion was made by Randy Williams and seconded by Thelma Merrells to accept the above items as written in the Governance manual with no changes. Motion passed unanimously.

- Select nominating committee for 2024- 2025 Officers

A motion was made by Randy Williams and seconded by Andy Bryan to table the above item until the November 12, 2024 NEDHSA Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Business

A motion was made by Randy Williams and seconded by Andy Bryan to remove Dr. Tony Young as a Northeast Delta Human Services Authority Board Member representing Lincoln Parish due to a lack of attendance. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Management - Ongoing

- Board Development/ Parish Outreach
- Travel Forms

ADJOURN

Next Meeting - November 12, 2024 - 5:30 pm

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority Conference Room
2513 Ferrand Street, Monroe, LA 71201