

NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)

Board Meeting MINUTES

December 9, 2025

**Northeast Delta Human Services Authority, 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 Dr. Monteic A. Sizer and a quorum was met.

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

Adopt Minutes of October 14, 2025: A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Tasha Washington to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Members Present:

Thelma Merrells, Dr. Tiffany Bates via conference call, Yvonne Lewis and Tasha Washington

Board Members Absent: Randy Williams and Christina Johnson

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

Ownership Linkage-Recognition of Guests: None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – No requests for comment.

BOARD EDUCATION/ ENDS Items for DISCUSSION

Upcoming Events/ ENDS/Items for DISCUSSION

NEDHSA continues to look for ways to be more efficient and effective with its resources. Currently, NEDHSA is testing a new phone system that will save thousands of dollars. Additionally, NEDHSA is streamlining its billing processes and vetting a 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.

Board Chair Yvonne Lewis and Executive Director Dr. Monteic A. Sizer represented NEDHSA in Baton Rouge during HSIC's annual meeting. The meeting is hosted by LDH and is comprised of LDH leaders, elected officials, and LGE Board Chairs and Executive Directors. This meeting is time for organizations to share statewide innovations and lessons learned.

NEDHSA launched its Phoenix Clinic. The Phoenix Clinic is designed to provide specific mental health and addiction services to those who have developmental disabilities. Those with developmental disabilities typically do not receive psychiatric treatment or addiction related care. The Phoenix Clinic is housed in NEDHSA's Monroe Integrated Care Clinic.

Dr. Sizer recently signed a collaborative agreement with Madison High School that directs NEDHSA staff to provide critical resources and treatment when needed by school officials. A similar agreement exists with East Carroll Parish schools. NEDHSA currently works with the majority of regional schools systems providing evidence-based prevention services. NEDHSA also supports each Head Start program in the region as part of its ongoing prevention and wellness prevention efforts.

NEDHSA signed an MOU with the Monroe City Schools to provide vaping, intergenerational strategies, and related services to students and families. NEDHSA already provides gambling, drug and alcohol, mental health, parent training, etc., to Monroe City Schools. NEDHSA provides similar services in many regional school districts.

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 will be placed inside NEDHSA's outpatient clinic locations.

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 under the age of 12. Ochsner LSU Monroe is our primary care partner. NEDHSA is looking to cut the ribbon sometime between January 2026 and March 2026.

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 associated with both demographic groups. NEDHSA will be partnering with several regional organizations.

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, onetime emergency utility payments, etc. NEDHSA received funding from LDH to pilot this effort.

NEDHSA is establishing an MOU with the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation to build a workforce development center, construct affordable housing associated with RISE, and examine ways to establish a regional fresh food ecosystem. These projects are to be located near RISE, and on the property NEDHSA received from the state during a transfer in 2013. Dr. Sizer is seeking to make the area a Healthcare District or Zone for further development and tax related purposes.

NEDHSA Talk conducted its first session at the Monroe Civic Center. The second session will take place in Madison Parish on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at the Tallulah Community Center. These sessions are designed to gather information from regional citizens about various societal issues. Once done, NEDHSA intends to work with community groups to help resolve them. Parishes targeted are Madison, East Carroll, Ouachita, Franklin, and Lincoln.

NEDHSA will stream its Youth Summit on Facebook and YouTube December 19th. This event had nearly 1200 students in attendance.

NEDHSA released its FY25 annual report. All Board members should have received a copy.

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 Thelma Merrells and seconded by Tasha Washington to approve / accept the ED report and Fiscal reports as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Property Control Certificate and Treatment of Consumers was also presented by Dr. Monteic A. Sizer. A Motion made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Tasha Washington to approve/ accept the 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, 111,531. Our SGF = \$12,547,667. Our IAT = \$4,483,420. Self-generated = \$1,080,444

Board

A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Dr. Tiffany Bates to approve /accept the Board Policy Manual Reviews below with no changes to the Governance Manual. Motion passed unanimously.

- Global Executive Constraint (Policy Manual Page 12)
- Communication with and Support to the Board (Policy Manual 12-13)

A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Dr. Tiffany Bates to approve /accept that all board members will be on the nominating committee for 2025-26 Officers. Motion passed unanimously.

- Select nominating committee for 2025- 2026 Officers

A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Tasha Washington to approve /accept the NEDHSA Board Meeting Schedule for 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

- NEDHSA Board Meeting Schedule 2026
- Discuss Holiday Social- the Board was invited to attend the All Staff Meeting being held at LA Tech Davison Athletics Complex on December 12, 2025 beginning @8:30am.

MANAGEMENT - Ongoing

- Board Members Terms/Renewal of Appointments
- Travel Expense Forms due monthly

ADJOURN

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

Next Meeting – January 13, 2026 - 5:30 pm