

NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)

Board Meeting MINUTES

July 09, 2024

Ouachita Parish Health Unit – Community Room

1650 DeSiard 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 Tasha Washington and seconded by Dr. Tiffany Bates to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Minutes of June 11, 2024: A Motion was made by Dr. Tiffany Bates and Tasha Washington to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Members Present: Thelma Merrells via conference call, Christina Johnson, Tasha Washington Randy Williams, Dr. Tiffany Bates and Andy Bryan

Board Members Absent: Randy Williams, 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's mini music festival was a resounding success. The event was held downtown Monroe and featured four regional artists. The mini fest will be aired on NEDHSA's Facebook and YouTube channels Tuesday, July 17, 2024, at 5:00 pm as part of NEDHSA's from New Orleans to Northeast Louisiana Art as Medicine initiative.

NEDHSA recently 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.

NEDHSA signed its three-year contract with LDH June 27, 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 finalizing a draft MOU for Ochsner Conway's review. More to come.

NEDHSA hosted its annual Opioid Summit June 13, 2024. It was held at ULM's Bayou Pointe. It was a standing room only crowd. LDH Secretary Dr. Ralph Abraham was one of the featured speakers along with Dr. Monteic A. Sizer.

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 and the Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC) are finalizing a memorandum of understanding to provide mental health and addiction services to college students. NEDHSA will also be working with LDCC and regional businesses to provide mental health and addiction services to students and employees who fail drug tests. NEDHSA is still waiting on LDCC to execute the MOU.

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 held a Health Literacy forum for the general public Friday, June 7, 2024. This initiative is designed to help empower individuals to take control of their health. Modules include learning about insurance coverages, medications, how to discuss health problems with doctors and nurses, etc. Forums are being planned across the region. Stay tuned.

NEDHSA hosted its annual JiggAerobics event at the Monroe Civic Center on June 27, 2024. This event is part of NEDHSA's behavioral and primary healthcare wellness model. This was a standing room only event. It's very popular.

NEDHSA has been 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. Dr. Sizer and Dr. Bhatta will be representing NEDHSA and Louisiana at this event. They will be presenting NEDHSA's Bridging Barriers: NEDHSA's Innovative Approach to Behavioral Health Stigma Reduction in Rural Communities work in West Virginia from Monday, July 22, through Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

Executive Director –

- Monthly Executive Director Report
- Monthly Fiscal Report

A Motion was made by Christina Johnson and Tasha Washington to approve / accept the ED Report and Minutes. 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 FY24 appropriated budget is \$17, 036,591. Total excluding SGR= \$16,228,692. Our IAT = \$5,085,087. Self-generated = \$807,899.

Board –

- Upcoming Events/Community Activities
- Board Development Activities - Board members expressed they would like a CEU training on the problem of Sex trafficking in our local communities addressed and also guidelines established on following up on IEP's after kids graduate high school.

BOARD MANAGEMENT – Ongoing

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

ADJOURN

Next Meeting – August 13, 2024 Ouachita Parish Health Unit-Community Room
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