



**AAHSD Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024**

Meeting held at 302 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506 in Auditoriums 2 & 3.

Members present: Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); Bambi Polotzola, (St. Landry Parish); John Stefanski (Acadia Parish); Carla JeanBatiste, Vice-Chair (St. Martin Parish); Yasmin Welch (Lafayette Parish); Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish); Elizabeth West, Secretary (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish); Darce` Byrd (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish); and Quinta Thompson, Chair (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish).

Members absent: Sydia Robin (Evangeline Parish).

AAHSD Staff in Attendance: Brad Farmer, Executive Director; and Gretchen Sudwischer, Administrative Assistant.

The Public Notice and Agenda were posted at the AAHSD clinics and on the website. Open meeting laws are available.

1. Call to order at 3:20 pm.
 - a. Meeting Objective(s):
 - i. Conduct business per approved agenda calendar
 - ii. Address any new business as needed
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board Chair, Quinta Thompson and recited by attendees.
3. Roll call performed by Elizabeth West, Secretary, noting a quorum was present.
4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments – No members of the public were present.
5. Consent Agenda items:
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. February regular Board meeting
 - b. Program reports:
 - i. BH & DD numbers and stats
 - o Motion made by Carol Broussard, and seconded by Yasmin Welch to approve and accept the minutes as printed and the Consent Agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.
 - o Program reports - Carol Broussard suggested a color change for the Adult Intensive Outpatient numbers on the BH persons served report. ED will inform Yancey of this request.

6. Comments from Chair:

a. Board advocacy reports –

- Yasmin Welch - request for advocacy – to update the rack cards / brochures to include SDA information. ED informed the Board our Marketing Coordinator is exploring ideas for new rack cards, brochures, etc., and will include all clinics, AAHSD website, CCBHC, and SDA information.
- Bambi Polotzola mentioned there are numerous Autism events in April throughout Acadiana. ED requested information on these events and he will forward that information to OCDD and/or Hannah Martin, Marketing Coordinator to share within the community.
- Bambi also requested information of the Legislative session bills that may have impact on AAHSD. ED stated he would send bill tracker information to the Board.
- Quinta Thompson mentioned her Sorority- Alpha Kappa Alpha is working with Life Church to set up a Mental Health Day on 5/4/2024.
- Bambi Polotzola mentioned NAUW (St. Landry branch) is having an event at the Southern Ag Center in Opelousas on 3/30/2024 focusing on Men & Mental Health.

b. Agenda Calendar items

i. Executive Limits Pol 1.9: Communication with and Support to the Board (page 12)

1. Board vote – accept or not accept Executive Director Report

- Motion made by Carol Broussard, and seconded by Elizabeth West to accept the Executive Director report as printed.
Motion carried unanimously.

ED informed the Board that due to unforeseen circumstances, the training session scheduled for today with Kay Irby, would need to be rescheduled. Carol Broussard requested training via zoom in lieu of in person. The Board agreed to zoom training. ED will contact Kay Irby for future scheduling options.

7. Comments from Executive Director:

a. CCBHC update:

- AAHSD is actively involved with the Louisiana Collaborative Learning Network, meeting every 3 weeks with a panel of experts from National Council that meets with all of the groups in Louisiana.
- AAHSD-CCBHC staff will be attending a mandatory SAMHSA meeting in mid-May.
- Indicated CCBHC efforts are going well.
- Continuing to add staff as part of the program, and is funded through a grant.

b. Same Day Access update:

- District wide numbers as of Friday, March 15, 2024, indicate AAHSD has conducted 557 assessments, and admitted 514 new clients, noting the program is going well.

- AAHSD will expand total hours of operation with regards to CCBHC requirements, with a target date of July 1, 2024.
 - SDA service hours will be adjusted at each clinic as needed. Discussions held as to the 8-day follow up plan, admission criteria, and various levels of care to consider.
 - The SDA information will be added to the AAHSD website.
 - c. Crisis services update:
 - ED is conducting ongoing meetings with the community for options to implement the Adult Crisis Services program.
 - The provider of the Child & Adolescent Crisis Services awarded to The Extra Mile has a target date for services of 4/1/2024.
 - Discussions held as to the current contract for similar services.
 - d. MHCA conference: ED attended the conference last month, indicating the meetings went well and was a great networking experience with similar organizations.
 - e. Attended House Appropriations session last week; and will attend the Senate Finance Committee session this Thursday.
 - f. Open Meetings Law update:
 - i. Draft policy review – Discussions held. Handout given indicating examples of language that other organizations are using. The Board will decide the language, policy, & procedures that should be used on the AAHSD website and agenda. The Board will re-visit this issue at the next meeting.
 - ii. Change in consent agenda listing – ED explained that he added details to the consent agenda items for clarity.
8. Next meeting:
- a. April 15, 2024
 - The next regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 15, 2024.
 - Meeting notices will be sent out and posted.
9. Adjournment:
- Motion to adjourn made by Yasmin Welch, and seconded by Elizabeth West. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm.

Submitted by: 

Elizabeth West, AAHSD Board Secretary