



**ACADIANA AREA
HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT**
Serving Acadiana with Quality Compassionate Care

Acadiana Area Human Services District

Special Board Meeting Minutes

Office of Public Health 825 Kaliste Saloom Rd

November 13, 2019

Members Present: Micah Moscovis (Chair/St. Landry Parish) Elizabeth F. West (Vice Chair/Governor Appointment/Evangeline Parish); Janise Hardy (Secretary/Vermilion Parish); John Stefanski (Acadia Parish); Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish); David Merrill (Governor Appointment/Iberia Parish); Quinta Thompson (Governor Appointment/Lafayette Parish); Mike Fontenot (Evangeline Parish); Alison Boudreaux (St. Martin Parish); Yazmin Welsh (Lafayette Parish)

Members Absent:

Employees: Brad Farmer, Executive Director; Jennifer Stelly, Director of Human Services, Tynese Breaux, Director of Clinical Services, Yancey Mire, Director of Behavioral Health, Tammara Smith, Corporate Compliance Officer

Others: Dr. Tina Stefanski, Alyshia Boagni, PLPC, Donna Broussard, Darce Byrd, Katherine Prejean, Laina Raggette, LCSW, plus 5 members of the general public


Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Call to Order		Call to order by Micah Miscovis, at 4:37 p.m.
Roll Call	10 board members personally present	
Quorum	10 board members personally present	Secretary announced a Quorum present.
Solicit Public Comment Requests	Public Notices were posted at the AAHSD clinics and on the website. Open meeting laws are available.	
Comments from Chair	Micah Moscovis provided reminders to the board to include a review of legislation	

	<p>that formed the board and its duties. These duties include hearing the concerns of the public to include access to mental health services to the citizens of the seven parishes of Acadiana. The chair also reviewed the mission, vision, and purpose. He explained the board's relationship with the agency and how it makes recommendations to the Executive Director and monitors and reviews his performance. He advised that the board serves as a link between the district and community, with an emphasis on proactive, collective decisions.</p>	
Public Comments/Input	<p>Dr. Tina Stefanski: Current medical director for Region IV Office of Public Health. Dr. Stefanski discussed her concerns of the lack of access for mental health services particularly for the 0-5 age range nationwide; the need for the human services district to be "the best"; the district is not "the best" and she has presented proposals several times over the years that have not been discussed; her concerns are being presented to the board.</p> <p>Alyshia Boagni, PLCP school counselor: Current school counselor at a "D" rated school in the Lafayette Parish. Ms. Boagni expressed her concerns regarding the lack of trauma-informed care available to the students at her school; she reached out to LDH to provide an avenue to treat and educate "traumatized children"; advised that there is a process in place for providers to come into the schools; would like for there to be ways to become trauma-informed; providing information from a personal standpoint; would like for</p>	

	<p>venders to provide mission, intervention services at Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 levels in schools, provide trauma-informed professional development and crisis intervention.</p> <p>Darce Byrd: Currently the coordinator at the Family Preservation Court of the 15th JDC and adoptive parent of a former foster child who received services from the district through ECSS. Expressed concerns regarding the lack of services for the families they work with, many of whom have substance abuse problems; Advised that Judge Duplantier has educated the community on resources and getting the help that they need and have not been able to access; Tyler Mental health has no openings, do not call back, has time limits, families have difficulty getting services; Once they are involved the 12 month clock starts before DCFS has to work towards terminating parental rights; there is frustration in the courtroom as parents discuss difficulty with getting services; Tyler is on the bus route and offers bus passes and gas cards however no one has been able to access them; they have been forced to refer to Phoenix Life and Center for Children and Families whose services are inadequate and many employ workers who are not qualified; there has been a steady decline in services since ECSS was cut; Families are looking for PCIT, medication management; DCFS no longer wants to refer to Tyler; there is a 2, 4, 6 week wait before receiving services; her family received services through ECSS which was life changing.</p>	
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	<p>Dr. Stefanski interjected that she made a proposal to the district in 2018 for a revamped ECSS program looking at the budget to see if there is funding or researching grant money for funding. “we are not doing the best that we can”</p> <p>Katherine Prejean: Provided an overview of the ECSS program; expressed that the case management piece would be difficult to take on; family is the focus of treatment; has evidenced-based interventions.</p> <p>Board member Janise asked if any of these concerns had been brought up to the District before.</p> <p>Dr. Stefanski interjected that she had seven (7) meetings with the District since the federal grant was cut in 2014; OPH has contracted with a child psychiatrist who works with families at the health unit twice a month and a social worker who works with families twice a week</p> <p>Board member Quinta asked if the other service providers provided quality care and if families had access to Medicaid transportation.</p> <p>Laina Raggette: Current director for Project Launch, interned at LADAC, worked at an MHR that had lack of quality, high turnover, lack of evidence-based interventions; concerned about gap in services for young children; has no problems with Tyler for aftercare services; school system has a high influx of MHR providers who are not adequately trained; pediatricians don’t refer to Tyler and have</p>	
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	<p>not had positive outcomes; had a grandfather in her office who could not receive an appointment without sending proof of custody and the person on the phone was rude; calls don't get put through; Center for Evidenced Based practices offers free training; Held peer support meeting and only four people showed up, no one from the district; district has providers trained in the ADOS and PCIT and is unaware if those providers are still employed by the district</p> <p>Donna Broussard: Clinical care coordinator at UHC; is concerned about consistency, continuity, and communication; works with 6000 children at UHC who are 90% high risk and disabled; discussed challenges of 8year old who was suicidal and mother called seeking assistance, Donna called Tyler and let the phone ring 25 times, hung up and let it ring another 21 times, hung up and let ring 15 times before it was finally answered. She was put on hold, then when she asked to speak to Tynese Breaux, person on the phone didn't know who she was, school had done a risk assessment and sent the mother to Tyler where she waited for 30 minutes, went to ER and had to wait 5 hours for CART who referred her back to Tyler and mother is refusing to go to Tyler; Donna spoke with Tynese Breaux for over 30 minutes and was provided step by step process that she has given to her staff.</p> <p>Dr. Stefanski reminded Donna of a situation with a young gentleman with autism. Donna advised that she had</p>	
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	<p>received a call from a mother of a 23-year-old man with autism who was in an appointment at Tyler with someone who kept coming in and out of the office and finally told the mother that the child could not participate in therapy, mom expressed that Dr. Howes wanted medication management by a psychiatrist. She spoke with Tynese Breaux, and Donna is unaware of the final disposition; Donna indicated that Dr. Howes no longer wants to refer to Tyler; there needs to be singular access, and the health unit does not have the capacity.</p> <p>Katherine Prejean requested clarification on the admissions process and for this information to be disseminated.</p>	
Comments from Chair	Board chair expressed thanks to the community regarding their concerns and stated that “we are not there.” Several other board members expressed thanks to the public for their concerns.	
Date, Time & Location of Next Meeting	Monday, November 18, 2019 @3:15pm	<p>Date and Time: Monday, November 18, 2019@ 3:15pm</p> <p>Location : Tyler BHC 302 Dulles Drive Lafayette, LA 70506</p>
Adjournment	David Merrill/Carol Broussard moved/seconded adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.
Submitted by Secretary		Secretary, AAHSD Board of Directors