**Governance Board Meeting Minutes**

**Northwest Louisiana Human Services District**

**February 19, 2024**

1310 N. Hearne Avenue – Shreveport Behavioral Health Clinic – Shreveport, LA

Called to Order: Called to Order by Kristie Copeland at 5:34pm.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Invocation led by Doug Efferson, Pledge led by Kristie Copeland.

Roll Call: Crystal Rabo, Karisma Jones, Sara Ebarb, Trudie Abner and Kristie Copeland were present. David Hoey and D. McCoy was excused. Bossier, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, and Governor Appointee #1 have no board representative at this time. A quorum of 5 out of 7 board members confirmed by Trudie Abner. Doug Efferson, Executive Director was present.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Sara Ebarb to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Karisma Jones, and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes for January 22, 2024: Moved by Trudie Abner to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Sara Ebarb, and unanimously approved.

Guest and Public Comments: None.

Presentation from Tate Kendall from Hope Connections: Tate was not present at the Board meeting so no presentation given. Will contact and request presentation at a future Board meeting.

Executive Limitations: Doug Efferson gave a summary of his written report on Financial Conditions & Activities, Communication and Support to the Board, Treatment of Customers, and Strategic Plan Indicators Update. A brief discussion was held regarding the transition of leadership from LACG to CADA and how that may affect the numerous programs they provide for our service area. The Board reviewed the September C’est Bon Survey Results for the Shreveport Behavioral Health Clinic after which the Board complemented the Shreveport staff for such positive client ratings. Trudie Abner moved to except the Executive Director report as presented, seconded by Crystal Rabo, and unanimously approved.

Board Business: Kristie Copeland led a review of the Accountability to Owners policy. A brief discussion was held regarding the various ways Board members should communicate with owners regarding services provided and any concerns owners may have in their perspective service area. Karisma Jones motioned to accept the policy without changes, seconded by Crystal Rabo, and unanimously approved. Kristie Copeland presented the following draft Proclamation for Board consideration:

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling provides a number of unique services to the state of Louisiana including the operation of the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline 1-877-770-STOP, the management of Center for Recovery-CORE, the only state residential treatment facility for compulsive gambling, the www.helpforgambling.org website that answers calls/text from people struggling with gambling problems, and the provision of free outpatient counseling services to compulsive and problem gamblers who are residents of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has proclaimed March, 2024 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month;

WHEREAS, the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District Board of Directors would like to recognize the important work done by the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling and the need to raise community awareness regarding the resources available to those needing treatment for gambling addiction;

BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 19th day of February, 2024, the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District Board of Directors hereby proclaims support for Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling services and the month of March being used to promote awareness of Problem Gambling statewide.

Sara Ebarb motioned for the Board Proclamation to be approved as drafted, seconded by Trudie Abner, and unanimously approved. Kristie Copeland then requested Board members complete the Comments Form for ED Evaluation and submit them to her before the next Board meeting. The January Board Compliance Monitoring Summary Report was reviewed and accepted. The February Board Compliance Monitoring Tool was completed and given to Doug Efferson for summary. The next meeting date/time was agreed to be Monday, March 18, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Announcements/Acknowledgements: Doug Efferson informed the Board that the Governor submitted his budget to the legislature without the additional Developmental Disability Waiver position our District had requested. The reason given by LDH Fiscal is that “DOA/OPB did not fund any positions this year that were not conversions or required by a settlement”.

Adjournment: Trudie Abner moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20pm, seconded by Sara Ebarb, and unanimously approved.

Minutes Prepared by Trudie Abner, Board Vice-Chair