

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority Administrative Office
835 Pride Drive, Suite B
Hammond, LA 70401
Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting
March 24, 2016

Danielle Keys, Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA) Governing Board to order at 9:30 a.m.

Rebecca Soley conducted a roll call. A quorum was established.

Attendees

Governing Board: TaMarlon Carter; Celeste Falconer; Danielle Keys; Mary Pirosko; Jan Robert

Absent: David Cressy; Ligia Soileau; Carol Stafford

Board Appointment Pending

The following board appointment is pending:

- St. Helena Parish

FPHSA Staff/ Guest: Melanie Watkins, Executive Director; Rachelle Sibley, Chief Financial Officer (CFO); Rebecca Soley, FPHSA/Administration; Janise Monetta, FPHSA/DDS; Schoener LaPrairie, M.D., FPHSA/Administration; Tina Linder, FPHSA/HR

Prayer was offered by Rev. Carter.

Swearing-In Ceremony

Attorney Patrick Coudrain with CASHE COUDRAIN SANDAGE, issued the oath of office to Rev. TaMarlon Carter, Tangipahoa Parish, for his reappointment to serve a consecutive board term during a swearing-in ceremony conducted prior to the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Keys extended an offer for additional agenda items or new business. No new business was presented.

Agenda

Ms. Pirosko made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Rev.Carter.

The motion passed unanimously.

Excused Absence(s)

Ms. Pirosko made a motion to excuse the absences of Mr. Cressy, Ms. Soileau, and Ms. Stafford; seconded by Ms. Falconer.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Pirosko made a motion to adopt the February 26, 2016, meeting minutes as written; seconded by Rev. Carter.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

Ms. Keys welcomed all in attendance and extended an opportunity for public input.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Watkins submitted a copy of the Executive Director's Report for March to members of the governing board. She outlined the content which included:

1. **Challenging Times:** The past month has been a challenging period with the recent special legislative session, budget reduction scenarios, compounded with the recent flooding experienced in our area, which impacted the Bogalusa Clinic. Now, the agency is dealing with the regular legislative session, which began on March 14, 2016, and will run until June 6, 2016. In addition, the agency is still involved with the Legislative Auditors' audit process and their various requests for information. All of this is in addition to the regular, ongoing daily operations that the agency is dealing with, which have been impacted by the implementation of the furlough days for staff.
2. **Budget Update (FY16):** At this point, the agency has not received any notification of additional budget reductions for the current fiscal year; however, there has been no official notification from the Commissioner of Administration, as yet, as to which specific areas or programs are to be impacted in order to deal with the projected deficit for the current fiscal year, which is estimated to be \$70 million. We are still waiting to hear the specific details related to this plan.
3. **Budget Update (FY17):** For next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2016, FPHSA was instructed to develop a plan and impact statement to deal with a 10% budget reduction in State General Funds, instead of a 24% reduction, as we had done previously. While the 10% proposed reduction is less than the 24% proposed reduction, it is still a significant reduction and will have a significant impact on our services. The proposed plans and impacts will be elaborated on during the Financial Report.
4. **Bogalusa Clinic Flood:** The Bogalusa Clinic was flooded over the weekend of March 12th and sustained 20 inches of water in the building. There was extensive damages to both the building and the contents. The insurance adjuster and the remediation team have been out to the building, and we are in the process of dealing with the clean-up process at that location. Staff have been temporarily reassigned to other sites until such time as we can work out arrangements for them to return to work in Washington Parish. Potential available office space has been located at the DCFS office and the OPH office in Bogalusa. The agency is exploring all options and working on the details related to computers, internet access, phone and fax lines, etc. It is the hope and intention to relocate the staff back in the Washington Parish area as soon as possible. FPHSA is also seeking to expand mental health outreach services to another day, in addition to Thursday, at the Franklinton Public Health Unit, which was started in February. The agency continues to have discussion with Dr. Gina

Lagarde, DHH/OPH Regional Medical Director, regarding the possibility of expansion at that site.

5. Merit Increase Update: As discussed previously, FPHSA made the decision to grant merit pay increases this past October for staff with a sound business rationale for making the decision. Ms. Watkins felt that she needed to review this topic once again as it has become a very hot button item in the current legislative session. Because of this, Ms. Watkins expressed to the board that she wanted them to be fully informed and thoroughly understand the rationale behind the decision to grant merit pay increases to staff and share what knowledge the agency had at that time regarding the budget. A copy of an email that Ms. Watkins sent to Representative John Schroder on February 17th was disseminated to the board. The email was sent following the House Appropriations Committee (HAC) hearing during the recent special legislative session after strong concerns were expressed that several of the LGE's granted performance adjustments. The email was subsequently shared with the other executive directors for the other districts and authorities, as they, too, felt similar and shared in the frustration. Given the current state of affairs and fiscal crisis, it is a flashpoint issue and there has been proposed legislation to "control" the districts and authorities and to restrict their authority to grant merit pay raises, unless they have the written approval of the DHH Secretary. There are various issues related to this proposed legislation, including the basic legality of the matter since LGEs are separate from DHH through legislation. It should be noted that there is a strong sentiment among the legislators that the various LGEs decided to grant pay raises at a time of dire fiscal crisis without any regard to the consequences. Nothing could be further from the truth, and it should be noted that we were not fully informed of the dire fiscal crisis until after the Revenue Estimating Conference in mid-November. It is unfortunate that key DHH staff have promoted this perception. Damage has been done to our reputation and credibility, and it is vital that the board be knowledgeable about the truth and facts of the matter.

Rev. Carter made a motion to accept the Executive Director's Report as presented; seconded by Ms. Robert.

The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report- March 2016:

Ms. Sibley, CFO, disseminated a current budget analysis for FY 2016 (July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016) which reflected a projected deficit as of February 29, 2016. It was explained that a portion of the projected deficit is due to delays in billing and collections related to the implementation of the new electronic health record and billing clearinghouse, as well as the transition to the ICD-10 diagnosis codes and Bayou Health.

The mid-year budget reductions are also contributing to the projected deficit. FPHSA received a budget reduction in State General Funds in November 2015 and a second reduction in February 2016.

The agency is continuing to monitor expenditures and revenue to deal with the projected deficit.

In regards to FY 2017 (July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017), FPHSA has been asked to prepare impact statements for a 10% reduction in State General Funds. A copy of the proposed reductions and impact statements for the 10% reduction in State General Funds was disseminated to the board.

Ms. Piroosko made a motion to accept the Financial Report; seconded by Ms. Falconer.

The motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning

Ms. Piroosko made a motion to table discussions regarding Strategic Planning to the next meeting; seconded by Rev. Carter.

The motion passed unanimously.

Confirmation of the next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting date of the FPHSA Governing Board is Friday, April 22, 2016, at the Administrative Office at 835 Pride Drive, Suite B, and Hammond, LA.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Soley

Rebecca Soley, Secretary

4/22/16

Date

Melanie Watkins

Melanie Watkins, Executive Director

4/22/16

Date

Carol Stafford

Carol Stafford, Board Chair

4/22/16

Date