

**NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)**

**Board Meeting MINUTES**

**March 9, 2021**

**Remote meeting held via ZOOM format**

**5:30PM**

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Michael Shipp and prayer was led by Thelma Merrells and a quorum was met.

**Adopt Agenda:** A Motion was made by Dr. E. H. Baker seconded by Thelma Merrells to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt Minutes of February 9:** A Motion was made by Yvonne Lewis and seconded by Rev Shawn Hornsby to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Board Members Present:**

Mike Shipp, Latanya Whiteside, Thelma Merrells Rev. Shawn Hornsby and Yvonne Lewis

**Board Absent:** Dr. E. H. Baker

**Northeast Delta HSA staff present:** Dr. Monteic Sizer and Delores Harris

**Ownership Linkage-Recognition of Guests:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – No requests for comment.

**BOARD EDUCATION/ ENDS Items for DISCUSSION**

**Upcoming Events/Community Action**

Like other state and federal agencies, Northeast Delta deferred/temporarily suspended sending vulnerable communities to collections due to their inability to pay for clinical services. We will begin resending patients billing statements on April 1, 2021, now that increased state and federal help is on the way to assist with economic hardships.

To ask vulnerable, marginalized communities to pay fees when they don't have the financial ability to do so would have created further stress and force many to abandon life-saving clinical services. As a state safety-net provider of behavioral services to vulnerable communities, we have a clinical, state, and moral obligation to not harm the patients we serve.

Agency prevention Mardi Gras activities occurred the weekend of February 13-14. Northeast Delta partnered with West Monroe leaders.

Dr. Monteic A. Sizer continues to be asked to join statewide panels as a subject matter expert relative to the state's Covid-19 response. The most recent LDH Office of Community Partnerships and Health Equity panel focused on the disproportionate deaths in the African American community. Mistrust was discussed as well within this population relative to Covid-19 vaccination. On February 27, Dr. Sizer was asked by the Urban League of Louisiana to discuss trauma and related mental illnesses at its Empowerment and Policy Conference. Upcoming panels

Dr. Sizer will participate in include a faith-based response and examining how negative social determinants of health contribute to health care inequities and untimely death outcomes.

Northeast Delta departments continue to develop plans for a phased, full reopening model where clients are seen face-to-face. All plans include universal precaution measures, technology, PPE gear, etc. Planning is being done following the Governor's recent phase 3 announcement. We have already secured many of the items needed to ensure the safety of staff and clients. If all goes well, on April 5, 2021, all staff will be working from their Northeast Delta assigned workstations.

We continue to participate in many social media campaigns, including suicide prevention and various addiction ones. We have also started a massive digital public awareness campaign about our programs and various services. This digital campaign includes Google, website, news banners, various social media outlets, etc. One commercial features our agency, and the other discusses opioids and what we are doing about it. See attached Prevention and Wellness attachments.

We are getting closer to outsourcing our pharmacy services as a cost saver with GEONOA Pharmacy. Again, we would maintain our current infrastructure. GEONOA would give us maximum flexibility and improve our services to regional clients.

We are partnering with LSU Ochsner Conway to administer Northeast Delta staff the Covid-19 Pfizer vaccine. Additionally, we are planning to have our soon-to-be pharmacy offer the Covid-19 vaccine to Northeast Delta staff who prefer the Moderna vaccine. We will be offering the vaccine to our outpatient and inpatient clients. We will do the same for contractors as well.

Northeast Delta board member representing Madison parish – Yvonne Lewis and employee also of The City of Tallulah Mayor's office will jointly host a Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, March 27, 2021 starting @ 10am-1pm The Northeast Delta board members was each invited if they were available to attend the event.

#### **BOARD MANAGEMENT – Ongoing**

- Board Development/ Parish Outreach
- Board Member's code of Conduct (Sign Form – pages 4-6)
- Public official Ethics Training - due by May 15 (page 32)

Personal financial disclosure – due by May 15 (page

#### **Board –**

- Board Committee Principles (Governance Manual page 7)
- Board Member Self-Evaluation (governance Manual pp 3-4)

Mr. Shipp stated the board members can create any committee needed such as ad hoc according to the Governance manual. He also stated that the only committee the board has needed to create has been the nominating committee to elect new Northeast Delta officers.

The Committee Principles was discussed and no changes was recommended by Northeast Delta Human Services board members. Mr. Shipp will send the self evaluation forms to board members so they can began the process of completing evaluations on themselves according to

the Governance manual.

On February 22, 2021 the Ouachita Council of Governments nominated Mrs. Marsh Linam. Mr. Shipp sent the Position Description and Responsibilities via email and spoke with her via telephone going over these items. But due to family obligations she had to decline the nomination. Mr. Shipp will contact the OCOG either by mail or phone to ask for another person to represent Ouachita parish on the board.

### **Board Development Activities**

Mike Shipp is still working on getting Representative Pat Moore and Senator Katrina Jackson to attend via ZOOM the April 13, 2021 Northeast Delta board meeting. Each board member was asked to come up with questions they wish to ask during the Zoom meeting so they can be given to the guests prior to the meeting. Dr. Sizer has been sent the Agenda and Mr. Shipp will also try and get Senator Thompson also to attend the meeting.

### **GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS**

#### **Executive Director – Monthly Activity and Fiscal Reports**

After the ED's report was presented and the monthly Fiscal data Report was presented to the board a Motion was made by Latanya Whiteside seconded by Yvonne Lewis to approve / accept reports as submitted. 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 FY20-21 appropriated budget is \$15,169,624. Our SGF = \$7,730,554. Our IAT = \$6,665,226. Self-generated = \$773,844.

**ADJOURN** a Motion made by Latanya Whiteside and seconded by Yvonne Lewis to close the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting – April 13, 2021 - 5:30 pm**  
Remote meeting to be held via ZOOM format