

**NORTHEAST DELTA HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (NEDHSA)**  
**Board Meeting MINUTES**  
**February 29, 2024**  
**Northeast Delta Human Services Authority, Video Conference Room,**  
**2513 Ferrand Street, Monroe, LA. 71202**

**5:30PM**

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Yvonne Lewis via phone and prayer was led by Thelma Merrells and a quorum was met.

**Adopt Agenda:** A Motion was made by Thelma Merrells and seconded by Randy Williams to approve /accept the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adopt Minutes of November 14, 2023:** A Motion was made by Randy Williams and seconded by Tasha Washington to approve / accept the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Board Members Present:** Thelma Merrells, Rev. Latanya Whiteside, and Yvonne Lewis via phone, Andy Bryan, and Tasha Washington

**Board Members Absent:** Dr. Tiffany Bates and Dr. Tony Young

**Board Members Resigned: (3)**

Rev. Shawn Hornsby – Ouachita Parish – effective 02/26/2024

Latanya (Anderson) Whiteside – West Carroll Parish effective 12/31/2023

Cynthia Mathes – Ouachita Parish – effective 12/01/2023

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**GOVERNANCE PROCESS/EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS for DECISIONS**

**Upcoming Events/Community Action –**

NEDHSA received a 100% or perfect Louisiana Legislative audit. This was previously provided to each board member.

NEDHSA recently had its LDH OBH clinical audit. NEDHSA Ruston scored 99%, NEDHSA Monroe scored 99%, and NEDHSA Columbia scored 100%. These

audits primarily examined addiction best practices related to federal SAMHSA funding.

NEDHSA's HR dependent is preparing for an annual Civil Service audit. We expect to obtain a perfect or near perfect audit. The report will be made available to NEDHSA's Board upon completion.

NEDHSA is prepping for its CARF re-accreditation. CARF accreditation is one of the highest organizational standards in the world. We were awarded a three-year accreditation back in 2021. We also expect to be awarded another three-year accreditation. The accreditation report will be made available upon completion.

NEDHSA is on pace to open the state's largest inpatient facility for addicted pregnant women with dependent children. The twenty-four hour facility has more than ten thousand square feet and fifteen bedrooms. Each bedroom will be able to house up to three individuals each (mother, infant, and up to two dependents). See attached blueprint.

NEDHSA published all of its innovative FY23-24 events and news in its annual wrap-up report. See the attached document and look inside your packets. Additionally, NEDHSA published its FY23-24 annual data and outcomes report. See the attachment and look inside your board packets. Both documents can also be found on NEDHSA's website.

NEDHSA sponsored the Biedenharn Museum & Gardens' "Scripture Through Many Eyes" Art Exhibition. "Scripture Through Many Eyes" opening reception is set for February 22 at 5 p.m. at Biedenharn Museum & Gardens, 2000 Riverside Dr., Monroe, La. This exhibition is part of NEDHSA's Art Is Medicine special initiative, an integrated health care, evidence-based prevention, communications, and treatment strategy to help serve persons with mental health, addictive disorders, and developmental disabilities. As part of NEDHSA's Art Is Medicine initiative, NEDHSA had its own commissioned mental health artwork showcased at the Northeast Louisiana African American Heritage Museum, Ruston Artisans Museum, and recently at the Union Parish Museum of Art and History.

Some parishes are receiving opioid money from the state. NEDHSA was encouraged to apply for Lincoln Parish's award. Let me know of other parishes who would like us to apply or assist in the execution of their award. We have the state's foremost opioid and harm-reduction model currently operating.

Continue to look for NEDHSA in various regional parades, festivals, and at community events

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

Executive Director –

- Executive Director Report
- Monthly Fiscal Report
- Prioritized Strategic Initiatives for coming year/Updates ( Policy Manual p 11)

The Executive Director Report, Monthly Fiscal Report and Prioritized Strategic Initiatives for FY24-25 was presented. A Motion was made by Randy Williams and seconded by Tasha Washington 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 FY24 appropriated budget is \$17, 036,591. Total excluding SGR= \$16,228,692. Our IAT = \$5,085,087. Self-generated = \$807,899.

### **Board –**

Select nominating committee for 2023 - 2024 Officers was tabled until the March 13, 2024 meeting. . A Motion was made by Tasha Washington and seconded by Randy Williams to approve\accept tabling selection of the nominating Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

- Board member status - on going to recruit new members from vacancy by parishes with current members helping with recruitment

### **BOARD MANAGEMENT – Ongoing**

- Board Development/ Parish Outreach

## **ADJOURN**

**Next Meeting – March 12, 2024 - 5:30 pm**

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority, Conference Room, 2513 Ferrand Street, Monroe, LA 71201