

**METROPOLITAN HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
December 16, 2016  
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Human Services District was held on Friday December 16, 2016 at the District Office, located at 3100 General de Gaulle Drive, New Orleans, La. 70114. The meeting was called to order at 12:37 pm. Roll was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Board members in attendance were Dr. Joe Constans, Dr. Cathy Lazarus, Charlotte Parent, Michael Pechon, Sarintha Stricklin, Gary Mendoza and Sylvie Tran. Chair, Gary Mendoza was the ranking member of the Board and ran the meeting.

Other individuals present were: MHSD, Rochelle Head-Dunham, MD Executive Director/Medical Director, Steven J. Farber, Deputy Director of Administration/General Counsel, David Timoll, Chief Operating Officer, Traci Brown, Chief Financial Officer, Geraldine Turner-Warner, Director of Child and Youth Services, Desiree Packard, Families Support Coordinator, Amanda Kay Henderson, Executive Staff Officer, and Kimberly Bourque Executive Assistant to Dr. Dunham. Plaquemines Care: Julie Olsen.

**Call to Order by Board Chair Gary Mendoza, there were no new members for introductions.**

**Motion to approve the November 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Dr. Cathy Lazarus. Mike Pechon seconded the motion. All voted unanimously to accept.

**Chair's Report**

**a. Update: Discussion of Judge Calvin Johnson's request regarding payment of past retirement funds owed to Lasers. Update from Laser's.**

Board members review memorandum from MHSD's Human Resources Director, Krystal Griffin, regarding Laser's response to Judge Johnson's request. A motion was made by Dr. Cathy Lazarus to reimburse the amounts previously paid by Judge Johnson to Lasers. Sylvie Tran seconded the motion. Dr. Lazarus, Gary Mendoza, Sylvie Tran, Joe Constans, and Charlotte Parent and Michael Pechon voted in favor of the motion. Sylvia Strickland abstained from voting.

A second Motion was made by Sylvie Tran to pay the remaining funds owed to Laser's in accordance with the approval of Lasers. Mike Pechon seconded the motion. Dr. Lazarus, Gary Mendoza, Sylvie Tran, Joe Constans, and Charlotte Parent and Michael Pechon voted in favor of the motion. Sylvia Strickland abstained from voting.

**Executive Director's Report**

**a. Introduction of New Staff**

Dr. Dunham introduced MHSD's two new staff members, Ariel Wilson the new Director of Communications and Sharon Barnett-Starks Mental Health Area Regional Director.

**b. Update on MHSD Activities**

Dr. Dunham gave brief updates on the new Quality Reports and reviewed the data within them.

**c. Budget**

Dr. Dunham and Traci Brown reviewed and gave updates regarding the latest estimates and plans for budget cuts.

**d. Climate of the State Budget**

Dr. Dunham gave an update and summary of the last budget meeting held by the State. Dr. Dunham explained the proposed budget cuts that all agencies were being asked to exercise and that MHSD is running very

efficiently and leanly. No projected layoff were seen because of the projected cuts. Because of the money saved due to the Medicaid expansion, there has been a significant cost savings to MHSD.

**e. Board of Education: Children and Youth Division Presentation and Report**

Geraldine Turner-Warren, Director of Child and Youth Services, and Desiree Packard, Families Support Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation on MHSD's Child and Youth Services.

**Parish Updates**

Orleans – Two new board members are going to the City Council meeting for approval.

Plaquemines – Plaquemines Cares gave update on budget climate in Plaquemines, The Care Center is stable, but did take a budget cut of 5-10% of budget from local funds provided by the Parish of Plaquemines.

**Other Business**

Gary thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and asked if there were any suggestion regarding the meeting time and dates. Everyone agreed to the current meeting times were the best option.

**Public Comment**

Julie shared that everyone at Plaquemines Community C.A.R.E. Center Foundation, Inc. is very excited about the addition of Dr. Mamon. She also shared that there will be a jambalaya cook off in March, that MHSD may want to bring the Mobile Unit to the event.

**Date of Next meeting: Proposed Friday, January 27, 2016.**

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Joe Constans; Dr. Cathy Lazarus seconded. All voted in favor of adjournment.