



**AAHSD Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2024**

Meeting held at 302 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506 in Auditoriums 2 & 3.

Members present: Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); Bambi Polotzola, (St. Landry Parish); Elizabeth West, Secretary (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish); Darce` Byrd (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish), Quinta Thompson, Chair (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish); John Stefanski (Acadia Parish); and Carla JeanBatiste, Vice-Chair (St. Martin Parish).

Members absent: Yasmin Welch (Lafayette Parish); Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish); and Sydia Robin (Evangeline Parish).

AAHSD Staff in Attendance: Brad Farmer, Executive Director; and Gretchen Sudwischer, Administrative Assistant.

Public Notices and Agendas were posted at the AAHSD clinics and on the website. Open meeting laws are available.

1. Call to order at 3:19 pm.
 - a. Meeting Objective(s):
 - a. Conduct business per approved agenda calendar
 - b. Address any new business as needed
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board Chair, Quinta Thompson and recited by attendees.
3. Roll call performed by Elizabeth West, Secretary, noting a quorum was present.
4. Recognition of Members of the Public / Public Comments – No members of the public were present.
5. Consent Agenda items:
 - a. Minutes:
 - a. December regular Board meeting
 - b. Program reports:
 - A motion is made by Elizabeth West, and seconded by Carla JeanBatiste to approve and accept the minutes as printed and the Consent Agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Comments from Chair:

- a. Board advocacy reports – None to report**
- b. Agenda Calendar items**
 - a. Executive Limits Pol 1.7: Asset Protection (pg 10)**
 - 1. Board vote – accept or not accept Executive Director report**
 - A motion is made by Carla JeanBatiste, and seconded by Elizabeth West to accept the Executive Director report as printed. Motion carried unanimously.**
 - b. Governance Process Pol 2.7: Cost of Governance (pg 21)**
 - c. 2024 meeting schedule: The schedule will be confirmed upon verification of the Juneteenth holiday observed date.**
 - d. Board training follow-up: Discussions held. The members in attendance agreed to training in person immediately after a Board meeting in February or March, depending on Kay Irby, Board Liaison’s availability. ED will contact Kay Irby to schedule the training in either February or March. Board members will be notified of the confirmed date.**

7. Comments from Executive Director:

- a. CCBHC update:**
 - Confirmed AAHSD has been issued CARF’s accreditation for a CCBHC (first organization in the United States), having received many congratulations from providers and other organizations around the country, with some inquiries as to the process of receiving this accreditation. Explained the importance of having this accreditation.**
 - Received notice on January 1, 2024 from SAMHSA accepting AAHSD’s information and confirmed AAHSD meets CCBHC criteria.**
 - ED has been in communication with OBH and will schedule a meeting regarding their formal recognition process, as AAHSD has met all the external standards.**
- b. Same Day Access update:**
 - Same Day Access went live on January 8, 2024. ED reports from January 8, 2024 through January 19, 2024, and noting during those first two (2) weeks all AAHSD locations closed for a scheduled holiday on January 15, 2024, and closed on January 16, 2024 due to inclement weather, AAHSD conducted ninety-nine (99) assessments with a licensed Mental Health professional, admitted ninety-two (92) new clients. ED explained the Same Day Access process, how it positively affects our clinics, clients, and community as to wait time for services, as well as ongoing meetings and trainings with staff.**

- c. **Crisis services update:**
 - o **ED met with various community groups today. Discussions held regarding the various programs by these community groups (Beacon, Lafayette Police Department - CARES team, Lafayette Parish Sheriff Office, etc.). ED will follow up with OBH to inquire what AAHSD can do to potentially respond to this Crisis team in our area. If AAHSD is awarded that program or grant, AAHSD may contract with a person or group to serve as the coordinator of those services, which fits with the CCBHC status.**
- d. **Board refresher training: This matter was discussed earlier in this meeting.**
- e. **Open Meetings Law update: Discussions held regarding various interpretations of the new Open Meetings Law as to public participation, and the options of persons that are unable to attend the meetings in person, and disabled persons that meet the ADA criteria to attend the Board meetings via Zoom, etc., whichever may be applicable to AAHSD. Suggestions were made by Board members of options that will be considered regarding this topic. The Board requested ED to prepare a list of accommodations that are feasible to AAHSD for public participation by the next Board meeting, which will be considered at that time.**

8. Next meeting:

a. February 19, 2024

- o **The next regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024.**
- o **Meeting notices will be sent out and posted.**

9. Adjournment:

- o **Motion to adjourn is made by Elizabeth West, and seconded by Darce` Byrd. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.**

Submitted by: 

Elizabeth West, AAHSD Board Secretary