



**AAHSD Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2023**

Meeting held at 302 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506 in Auditorium #4.

Members present: Richard Landry (Vermilion Parish); Yasmin Welch (Lafayette Parish); Carol Broussard (Iberia Parish); Bambi Polotzola, (St. Landry Parish); Elizabeth West, Chair (Governor Appointee/Evangeline Parish); Darce` Byrd (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish), and Quinta Thompson, Vice-Chair (Governor Appointee/Lafayette Parish) arrived at 3:26 pm.

Members absent: John Stefanski (Acadia Parish); Sydia Robin (Evangeline Parish), and Carla JeanBatiste, Secretary (St. Martin Parish).

AAHSD Staff in Attendance: Brad Farmer, Executive Director; Troy Abshire, DD 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 3:20 pm.
 - a. Meeting Objective(s):
 - i. Conduct business per approved agenda calendar
 - ii. Address any new business as needed
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board Chair, Elizabeth West and recited by attendees.
3. Roll call performed by Elizabeth West, Board Chair, 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
 - i. November regular Board meeting
 - ii. Nominating Committee meeting
 - b. Program reports:
 - A motion is made by Carol Broussard, and seconded by Bambi Polotzola to approve and accept the Consent Agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Comments from Chair:

- a. Board advocacy reports – None to report**
- b. Agenda Calendar items**

- i. Executive Limits Pol 1.6: Executive Director Succession (pg 9)**

- **Board vote – accept or not accept Executive Director report**
 - **A motion is made by Richard Landry, and seconded by Carol Broussard to accept the Executive Director report. Motion carried unanimously.**

- ii. Governance Process Pol 2.7: Board Committee Principles (pg 20)**

- iii. Board Business: Officer elections**

- **Board vote:**

- **The Board voted to accept the nominations from the November 20, 2023 meeting and elect Quinta Thompson as Chair; Carla JeanBatiste, Vice-Chair; and Elizabeth West as Secretary. A motion is made by Yasmin Welch, and seconded by Carol Broussard to accept the Board’s vote. Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Comments from Executive Director:

- ❖ **Troy Abshire was asked by the ED to share information of recent DD events:**

- **The Christmas Extravaganza recently held at the Robicheaux Recreation Center, noted 445 attendees signing in, with over 600 in attendance, and was a huge success;**
 - **A current DD client recently purchased his own mobile home and will be finalizing that process in the very near future;**
 - **Raising Cane’s offered to sponsor future events such as the Treats at the Village / Halloween events and Christmas Extravaganzas.**

- a. CCBHC update:**

- **AAHSD’s CCBHC has received CARF’s 3-year accreditation (first in the State of Louisiana and in the country) and the ED presented the Board for their viewing with the official certificate from CARF, explained the importance of having this accreditation and the impact it will have to our district clinics and community. ED also explains the anticipated PPS rate (Prospective Payment System) that may derive from the recent accreditation by CARF.**
 - **ED received an email inviting AAHSD/CCBHC to submit an application for membership to the MHCA (Mental Health Corporations of America) a membership by invitation only entity, and will move forward with the application; noted AAHSD/CCBHC is contracted with the National Council, and MTM Services providing training and consultations to AAHSD/CCBHC staff.**

- b. Same Day Access update:**

- i. current access time follow-up**

- **Same Day Access will go live on January 8, 2024; ED explains how the program works, the proposed implementation plan, and how it will positively affect our clients and community as to wait time for services.**

c. Crisis services update:

- ED recently attended several meetings in the Acadiana area, including Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department regarding their Crisis Intervention Outreach program, met with the Lafayette Police Department last week regarding a similar program and will have more follow up in the near future.
- No prospects on the larger community effort for Crisis services that will meet the defined 4-levels of care required by CCBHC standards and approved by CMS.

d. Board refresher training:

- Kay Irby, AAHSD Board Liaison, has agreed to provide refresher training to the Board members during the first few months of 2024 and mentioned in-person training would be better, however, in order to accommodate the Board, she is willing to provide the training via Zoom.

8. Next meeting:

a. January 8 or 22, 2024

- January 15 is a holiday
 - The next regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2024.
 - Meeting notices will be sent out and posted.

9. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn is made by Bambi Polotzola, and seconded by Richard Landry. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting is adjourned at 4:18 pm.

Submitted by: 

Carla JeanBatiste, AAHSD Board Secretary