**Northwest Louisiana Human Service District (NLHSD)**

Meeting Minutes for

**Monday, May 15, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m.**

1310 N. Hearne Avenue – Shreveport Behavioral Health Clinic – Shreveport, LA 71107

Meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chairman Nolen.

Invocation was offered by Fletcher Carter.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dee Fowler.

Chairman Nolen welcomed guests, ED, and members and expressed her appreciation for everyone taking time to attend tonight’s meeting.

**Roll Call was taken. Board had a quorum with 8 of 10 active members present.**

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| Bienville-**Vacant** | Bossier-George Sewell **P** | Caddo-Njeri Camara **P**  | Claiborne-**Vacant** |
| DeSoto- Fletcher Carter **P** | Natchitoches-Sandy Wiggins Long **Resigned** | Red River-Wanda Brock **P**  | Sabine-Marcelle Slaughter **P** |
| Webster-Ora Rice **P** | Gov.-Deanna Fowler **P** | Gov.-Reece Middleton **P**  | Gov.-Chris Nolen  **P**  |
| Staff ED-D. Efferson |  |  |  |
| Guests-  | Duane Ebarb, LaCAN | Janet Miller, LACG |  |

**Approval of Agenda--** Wanda Brock moved with a second by Dee Fowler to accept the agenda as printed. Motion was carried.

**Approval of the Minutes of April 24, 2017 NLHSD Meeting--**Wanda Brock moved with a second by Fletcher Carter to accept the minutes of the regular meeting as printed. Motion was carried.

**& the Minutes of April 24, 2017 NLHSD Retreat Meeting--**Wanda Brock moved with a second by Reece Middleton to accept the minutes of the Board Retreat Meeting as printed. Motion was carried.

**Guest and Public Comments:**

*Duane Ebarb, LaCAN* presented that there are massive cuts to LA Department of Health (LDH) that are included in current version of the budget (House Bill 1). These cuts total over $237 which when one adds the matching federal funds totals over $700 million. It is essential these cuts be avoided to protect people with developmental disabilities and other vulnerable populations.

Dee Fowler moved that we write a resolution to not support a State General Fund reduction beyond what is currently in HB1 because it would result in reduced funding for developmental disability services in our District. This was seconded by George Sewell.

*Janet Miller, LACG* presented a list of a total (8) HB’s that may impact dedicated state funding. The current specific dedicated fund we acquire our LDH contract money from is called **“Compulsive and Problem Gambling Fund.”** Helplines and Core could go away.

Dee Fowler amended the previous motion to include two resolutions dealing with these proposed cuts:

* NLHSD Board does not support a State General Fund reduction beyond what is currently in HB1 because it would result in reduced funding for developmental disability services in our District.
* NLHSD Board does not support any bill that changes or eliminates the state dedicated *Compulsive & Problem Gambling Fund* because such a change or reduction would threaten the unique state services currently provided by the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling (LACG).

Reece Middleton seconded. Motion carried. Resolutions follow:

**NLHSD BOARD RESOLUTION—DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES**

On the 15th day of May, 2017, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District (NLHSD), a Local Governmental Entity located in Shreveport Louisiana, with a quorum of the Directors present, the following Board Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the NLHSD Board of Directors recognizes the $237 million budget shortfall

currently facing the Louisiana Department of Health as House Bill One left the House for

deliberation by the Senate;

WHEREAS, NLHSD relies on State General Fund dollars to fund Mental Health, Addictive

Disorder, and Developmental Disabilities services for residents of nine parishes in the State of

Louisiana including Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River,

Sabine and Webster Parishes;

WHEREAS, NLHSD has sustained significant reductions in developmental disability funding

over the past few years, including a reduction of $35,604 in Flexible Family Funds and

$127,423 in Individual and Family Support Funds for Fiscal year 2017;

WHEREAS, House Bill 1 shows that NLHSD agreed to annualize the Fiscal Year 2017 mid-

year reductions of $483,474 in State General Funds for Fiscal Year 2018, but that the

annualization was adjusted to include more travel, supplies and operating service reductions

so that Flexible Family Funds and Individual and Family Support Funds would be preserved

in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget process;

WHEREAS, the NLHSD Board of Directors has been informed that any additional State

General Fund reduction to the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District in Fiscal Year

2018 will result in additional reductions to the Flexible Family Funds and Individual and

Family Support Funds currently used to assist disabled clients in the NLHSD nine-parish area;

BE IT RESOLVED, that on this fifteenth day of May, 2017, the Northwest Louisiana Human

Services District Board of Directors hereby requests the Louisiana Department of Health, the

Louisiana Senate, and the Louisiana House of Representatives fully fund developmental

disability services in Northwest Louisiana by maintaining the $7,272,478 in State General

Funds currently budgeted to NLHSD in House Bill 1, since further reductions would result in

reduced services to our disabled clients.

The above resolution was passed by a majority of board members present and voting in

accordance with the by-laws of NLHSD. I certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true

and correct copy of a part of the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of NLHSD held

on the 15th day of May, 2017.

Deanna Fowler, NLHSD Secretary

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**NLHSD BOARD RESOLUTION—GAMBLING FUND**

On the 15th day of May, 2017, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northwest Louisiana

Human Services District (NLHSD), a Local Governmental Entity located in Shreveport

Louisiana, with a quorum of the Directors present, the following Board Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the NLHSD Board of Directors recognizes the unique work of the Louisiana

Association on Compulsive Gambling (LACG), like operating the Louisiana Problem

Gamblers Helpline, managing Center for Recovery-CORE, the only state residential treatment

facility for compulsive gambling, and providing free outpatient counseling services to

compulsive and problem gamblers who are residents of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the NLHSD Board of Directors recognize that LACG relies heavily on the

Compulsive & Problem Gambling Fund to provide these unique services;

WHEREAS, the NLHSD Board of Directors recognizes that a number of bills are currently

proposed to change or eliminate the state dedicated Compulsive & Problem Gambling Fund,

including HB 91, HB 585, HB 295, HB 323, HB 52, HB 457, HB 398, HB 236, SB 226;

WHEREAS, the NLHSD believes that any change or elimination of the Compulsive &

Problem Gambling Fund would result in a reduction or elimination of the unique services

currently provided by the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling (LACG);

BE IT RESOLVED, that on this fifteenth day of May, 2017, the Northwest Louisiana Human

Services District Board of Directors hereby requests the Louisiana Senate and the Louisiana

House of Representatives reconsider all legislative attempts to change or eliminate the state

dedicated Compulsive & Problem Gambling Fund, thereby maintaining the integrity of the

fund as a source to be used only for the support of Compulsive and Problem Gambling

services.

The above resolution was passed by a majority of board members present and voting in

accordance with the by-laws of NLHSD. I certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true

and correct copy of a part of the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of NLHSD held

on the 15th day of May, 2017.

Deanna Fowler, NLHSD Secretary

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**Agenda Items for Discussion/Action:**

**New Business**

**1.    Executive Limitations -- Official Executive Director Report on File with the Secretary and**

 **available for public inspection.**

Dee Fowler moved to accept the ED’s Report as in compliance with the Governance

 Policy Manual. Fletcher Carter seconded. Motion carried.

 **Comments if any:** Presented current Emergency ED Succession Plan for Boards information.

 Also discussed SB 58 with George Sewell moving and Reece Middleton seconding to ratify the

 ED’s position that is lined out in email to Board Members on May 3, 2017. Motion carried.

 Also note that d. of this section was tabled till our June meeting due to time constraints of this

 lengthy meeting.

**a.  Communication and Support to the Board Page 1**

**b. Financial Condition & Activities Page 7**

 **c. Emergency Ex. Dir. Succession Page 12**

 **d. Status Update on NLHSD Strategic Tabled till June’s Meeting**

 **Plan Selected Initiatives**

**2. Governance Process**

 **a. Board Committee Principles Page 24**

Fletcher Carter moved that the Board Committee Principles as written in the Board Governance

 Policy Manual not be changed at this time. Wanda Brock seconded.

 Motion was carried

**b. Chairperson’s Role Page 18**

 Dee Fowler moved that the Chairman’s Role as written in the Board Governance Policy not be

 changed at this time. Wanda Brock seconded. Motion was carried.

**c.** **Board Member’s Code of Conduct/ Page 19**

**Conflict of Interest Form**

Dee Fowler moved that the Board Member’s Code of Conduct/ Conflict of Interest Form as written

 in the Board Governance Policy Manual, not be changed at this time. Wanda Brock seconded.

 Motion was carried

**d. Board Monitoring Summary Report April 2017.**

 Dee Fowler handed out April’s Summary Report. All areas evaluated were above 4.5 or at a 5.0

 which makes this a very positive report.

**3. Board Business**

Members were reminded that Annual Ethics training (On-line training) was due now. Certificates were to be turned in to ED. Members were also to turn in verification that they had submitted the Annual Financial Disclosure Statement (Form 417, Tier 2.1) to State Board of Ethics by May 15th deadline via email notification or copy of fax transmittal form.

Presentation of the Slate of Officers by Nominating Committee was tabled till June meeting. Members of this Committee are Njeri Camara, Ora Rice, Wanda Brock, and George Sewell.

Membersnot present last month signed the Conflict of Interest forms.

**4. Old Business**

1. **May 2017 Board Compliance Monitoring Tool Completion (*Board Member Self Evals.*)**

Monitoring Tool handed out and later collected by Dee Fowler for analysis.

**Announcements/Acknowledgements**

Reece Middleton will be unable to attend next month’s meeting—he will be out of town.

**Next Proposed Meeting Date: Monday, June 19, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m.**

Wanda Brock moved for adjournment with a second by Fletcher Carter. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Deanna L. Fowler**

Deanna L. Fowler

Secretary