

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
November 5, 2014
Conway Human Development Center
Conway, Arkansas

A regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held on November 5, 2014 at the Conway Human Development Center in Conway, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 1:40 p.m. pursuant to the call of the Vice Board Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. David Rosegrant, Ms. Suzann McCommon, Ms. Sally Hardin, Mr. Darrell Pickney, Dr. Linda Selman and Mr. Randy Laverty. Ms. Artie Jones was absent.

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Jim Brader, Mr. Jeff Gonyea, Ms. Judy Adams, Mr. Calvin Price, Mr. Forrest Steele, Mr. Steve Farmer, Ms. Tammy Benbrook, Mr. Dale Woodall, Ms. Melissa Stone, Ms. Sarah Murphy, Ms. Teresa Bailey, Mr. Brad Rogers, Ms. Lisa Hancock, Ms. Angela Green, Ms. Kathy Guffey, Ms. Shelley Lee, Mr. John Jones, Mr. Carl Redding and Chaplain Kim Leach.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Jan Fortney, Ms. Rita Hoover, Ms. Deborah Rainwater, Mr. Paul Rainwater, Mr. Melvin Pickney, Ms. Carole Sherman, Ms. Annette Matthews, Ms. Patricia Lee, Ms. Elissa Douglas, Ms. Jackie Fliss, Director Tom Masseur, Ms. Susan Pierce, Ms. Cassie Howell, Mr. Christian Adcock from Disability Rights Center and Mr. Brandon Robinson, Attorney General's Office.

Mr. David Rosegrant, Board Chair presiding, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Mr. Rosegrant called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2014 regular meeting of the DDS Board.

Dr. Linda Selman made a motion that the minutes from the August 6th, 2014 regular meeting of the Board of DDS be approved. Ms. Suzann McCommon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Rosegrant called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2014 called meeting of the DDS Board.

Mr. Randy Laverty made a motion that the minutes from the October 21, 2014 called meeting of the Board of DDS be approved. Dr. Linda Selman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

There were no reports from any of the subcommittees at this time.

Mr. David Rosegrant, Board Chair, invited consumers, advocates and guests to address the Board.

Ms. Jan Fortney, parent of a Conway HDC resident, addressed the Board and asked the Board to review the email dated October 20, 2014 regarding three items of discussion: 1) Data collection; 2) Cost of Care differences, and, 3) Staffing in the human development centers. (See attachment 1:1)

Ms. Fortney also had a concern that the word "institution" is being used instead of "homes" and expressed her desire that language referring to human development centers be more positive than negative.

Next to speak was Mr. Tom Masseau, Director of Disability Rights Arkansas, who began by announcing the new name change from Disability Rights Center to Disability Rights Arkansas and new mission statement of the organization.

Mr. Masseau gave a brief summary of the last DDS Ad Hoc subcommittee meeting him and his staff attended and stated he would like to not be "targeted" with questions at the next open subcommittee meeting. Mr. Masseau stated he and his staff are there to listen to the information being presented so he can better represent the DDS population in the human development centers and address needed concerns. Mr. Masseau sated he appreciates the board members, Dr. Green, Mr. Brader and the parents groups and wants them to know he is not working against them in any way. Mr. Masseau addressed Ms. Fortney's concern of the word "institution" and said he didn't think this was a negative word that the facilities were institutions and this word was in statue and policy when referring to people with disabilities.

Mr. Masseau presented comments regarding the following topics of interests:

- 1) Community First Choice Option
- 2) Policy delegating Board to have authority of hiring/firing superintendents.
(In Mr. Masseau's opinion this could be a conflict of interest due to some members being parents of children in facilities)
- 3) Waiting Lists
- 4) Use of restraints and the difference of restraint use from one facility to another.

Mr. David Rosegrant reminded Mr. Masseau that he did not have to respond to the remarks and questions at the Ad Hoc Subcommittee meetings.

Ms. Suzann McCommon stated she apologized on behalf of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee if Mr. Masseau thought he was asked to participate in the discussions. She said this was not intended and would not happen again.

Mr. Darrell Pickney reminded Mr. Masseau that as long as he or DRA continues to take actions against the human development centers then he will be targeted with questions as to why DRA is doing so.

Ms. Judy Adams, Superintendent at SEAHDC in Warren, presented the report for the human development centers (HDCs) and reminded the Board that monthly reports for the HDCs were included in the Board packets. Ms. Adams presented items of interest about each HDC along with recent survey results provided to him by each Superintendent.

Mr. David Rosegrant, Board Chair, reminded the Board and audience that Dr. Charlie Green is now Interim Director at Behavioral Health and James "Jim" Brader is currently our Interim Director at Developmental Disabilities Services.

Mr. Jim Brader began his report by recognizing and extending appreciation to the Board for their continued service and thanked Calvin Price and Conway HDC for hosting the DDS Board Meeting.

Mr. Brader began addressing items asked to discuss starting with data collection. Brooks Reese, Information Technology representative at DDS has begun a web application for designated employees at the HDCs to add information for inquiries for admission, transfers, etc. We hope to have this fully operational by the next board meeting in February with information to share.

Next item, cost of care, was discussed. Average costs in facilities compared to community placement are different on various levels.

Mr. Brader continued with his report on the wording of "institutions" being used throughout the DD vocabulary. He stated he has defended using this word and did not think it was negative and reminded everyone that it is used in statutory and regulatory language.

Other items discussed were staffing and budgets in the human development centers, parents being the best advocates for the centers and everyone working together to make things possible.

Mr. Brader introduced Ms. Melissa Stone, Assistant Director of Compliance for DDS. Ms. Stone started working for DDS recently, having moved from the Office of Policy and Legal Services, and will be a great asset to the division.

There were many questions on the changes in DHS/DDS. Mr. Brader said with the election of a new Governor and transition team, we should have more solid answers by the next board meeting in February.

Mr. Darrell Pickney reminded all of his displeasure about the handling of the 2013 capital request and that he was still concerned that the board members were not able to talk to Mr. Selig prior to Mr. Selig making the final and official list request to DF&A for consideration. Mr. Brader stated board members had been sent out copies of the budget requests and Mr. Selig had prioritized the list and the budget requests have been sent over to Department Finance and Administration.

Mr. Pickney expressed he liked the new format for the "monthly statistical report" but would like the total licensed bed numbers added to the form. This was addressed and information given concluded that these numbers were recently added.

Mr. Darrell Pickney stated he still had some clarification concerns regarding roles of the board members on powers of hiring/firing and changes of policies that delegated those authoritative powers to the director of DDS.

After much discussion between board members and Mr. Brandon Robinson of the Attorney General's office, it was decided to refer the issue to the Administrative Services Subcommittee.

Mr. Randy Laverty stated he had toured the Booneville HDC this week and enjoyed his visit. Mr. David Rosegrant thanked all the superintendents for their continued good work.

At this time, the election of DDS officers for 2015 year was also conducted. Ms. Suzann Mc Common made a motion to accept the following slate of officers: David Rosegrant – Chairman, Sally Hardin- Vice Chairman and Artie Jones as Secretary. Randy Laverty seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the gavel was retained by Mr. Rosegrant.

Mr. David Rosegrant called for a motion the meeting be adjourned. Randy Laverty made a motion the meeting be adjourned. Suzann McCommon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

ATTEST:



Mr. David Rosegrant, Chair
Board of Developmental Disabilities Services


Executive Secretary