

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
August 5, 2015
Conway Human Development Center
Conway, Arkansas

A regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held August 5, 2015 at the Conway Human Development Center in Conway, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. pursuant to the call of the Board Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. David Rosegrant, Ms. Sally Hardin, Ms. Suzann McCommon, Mr. Darrell Pickney, Mr. Randy Laverty and Ms. Artie Jones. Dr. Linda Selman was absent but participated by telephone until a bad connection disrupted the call.

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Jim Brader, Mr. Jeff Gonyea, Mr. Glenn Clark, Ms. Sarah Murphy, Mr. Forrest Steele, Mr. Charles Smith, Ms. Tammy Benbrook, Mr. Dale Woodall, Ms. Melissa Stone, Ms. Shelley Lee, Mr. Brooks Reese, Ms. Teresa Bailey, Ms. Jennifer Evans, Mr. Carl Redding, Ms. Linda Henderson, Ms. Kathy Marsden, Mr. Jody Nichols and Ms. Kathy Guffey.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Jan Fortney, Ms. Rita Hoover, Ms. Carole Sherman, Ms. Annette Matthews, Mr. Stacey McCullough, Ms. Christy McCullough, Mr. Paul Rainwater and Ms. Deborah Rainwater, parents and family members of HDC residents; Ms. Phyllis Bell, Governor's Office Liaison, Mr. Tom Masseur from Disability Rights Arkansas, and Ms. Nina Carter, 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 May 6, 2015 regular meeting of the DDS Board.

Mr. Darrell Pickney made a motion that the minutes from the May 6, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of DDS be approved. Ms. Sally Hardin seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Ms. Sally Hardin also asked the Board to review the last two paragraphs of Ms. Carole Sherman's letter presented to Board at the May meeting. Board Chair Rosegrant read the paragraphs aloud which were as follows:

"Our vulnerable HDC residents - present and future-depend on the Board's leadership and that of the Director in identifying and addressing the challenges at our centers-whether it is hiring and retention of staff or identifying and prioritizing the current capital improvements needed at the five centers-we depend on the Board developing on going action plans and working with the Director to meet the challenges. Please call on us. We want to be involved in your work and we are ready to support and assist wherever possible."

After approving the minutes, Mr. David Rosegrant requested that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The board entered into the executive session at 10:38 a.m. and returned at 10:55 a.m.

David Rosegrant called for a motion to accept Director Jim Brader's recommendation to appoint Mr. Glenn Clark as Superintendent of the Southeast Arkansas Human Development. Ms. Sally Hardin made a motion to accept the recommendation. Ms. Suzann McCommon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

After the motion was made and accepted, Chair Board David Rosegrant, on behalf of the Board, congratulated Mr. Glenn Clark on his new position and welcomed him.

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 with the following concerns: Arkansas Building Authority Assessment Report; DDS Task Force meetings and suggestions/options and the FF/CFR statewide parent/guardian association's stand. (See Attachment 1:1)

Following Ms. Fortney's concerns, there was much discussion from the Board Members. Mr. Darrell Pickney inquired to how much of this information had been circulated and that he personally thinks the "DDS Task Force" is off course. Mr. Pickney went further to say that he has always questioned why adversaries were placed on the Task Force that was supposed to be designed to strengthen the human development centers, not close them. Mr. Pickney stated he thinks the past Director didn't have the sole purpose of strengthening the HDCs when appointing community providers and others on the Task Force. Ms. Sally Hardin asked how the members were appointed. Mr. Jim Brader, DDS Director, stated that it was set up to have all key stakeholders represented on the Task Force in order to have a fair representation of all interested parties.

Ms. Suzann McCommon stated she thought maybe the Task Force had gotten off course with their duties and perhaps the Board needed to narrow the options and scope of the duties to only the improvement and expansion of services for the HDCs. Board members emphasized again that none of them are considering the possible closure of a human development center (HDC).

Ms. Sally Hardin then inquired if there was a Board Member on the Task Force to represent the Board, and the answer was no. She then recommended that a Board member be added to the roster. Ms. Hardin and Ms. McCommon both entertained suggestions and discussed either disbanding the Task Force or minimizing its current membership. Ms. Jan Fortney reminded the Board that the Governor is expecting a report from the Task Force. There was also discussion that the request to the Arkansas Building Authority not from the DDS Board or the Task Force, but originated by the previous Governor.

Ms. Carole Sherman, parent of an Arkadelphia HDC resident, thanked the DDS Board, HDC Superintendents, staff and other organizations that advocate for her son's care in a human

development center. Ms. Sherman also addressed her suggestions to get further funding for the HDCs from possible rural development grants, energy savings grants or to review bed tax revenue to possibly ear mark for capital improvements. (See attachment 1:2)

Mr. Stacy McCullough, former resident of the city of Booneville and former Director of Booneville Development Corporation, spoke on behalf of Booneville Human Development Center staff and clients. Mr. McCullough stated that when he first moved to Booneville and began getting involved with the community, he was amazed of the community acceptance of the Booneville HDC clients and the true fellowship of the community. Mr. McCullough stated he had lived other places and had not seen the level of community involvement and love to people with disabilities. He stated over and over that Booneville HDC was a special place and the community consisted of special people that accepted all people to be a part of the city.

Mr. Darrell Pickney thanked Mr. McCullough for his statement and elaborated on the human development centers being a part of the community and the community being a part of the centers. In each area of the state where an HDC is located, the community is receptive and helpful to the centers.

There were no subcommittee reports to present.

Mr. Forrest Steele, Superintendent at Jonesboro HDC, 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. Mr. Steele presented items of interest about each HDC along with recent survey results and CARF accreditation provided to him by each Superintendent. There was also a report on Calvin Price's retirement party that was held Friday, July 31st. Calvin will certainly be missed at the center and in the community. We all wish him a happy retirement. Ms. Sarah Murphy, Asst. Superintendent, will be Interim Superintendent for the next few months until a new Superintendent is hired.

Mr. Jim Brader, DDS Director, began his report by recognizing and extending appreciation to the Board for their continued service and thanked Ms. Sarah Murphy and Conway HDC for hosting the DDS Board Meeting.

Mr. Brader continued his report by discussing recent inquiries from the parents and board members. The following topics were included in Director Brader's report:

- 1) Capital Improvements/Funding
- 2) USDA rural development grants (requirements for obtaining a grant). Mr. Brader stated he contacted the state director of this program and was informed that these type grants are not available to state or federal agencies.
- 3) Energy Savings Grants. Three or four years ago DDS and the HDCs were involved in exploring an energy savings contract. Former DDS Board member Ron Carmack, who spent his career managing facilities for the state university system, was charged by the board to lead the effort for the HDCs, and had determined at that time that it was not a feasible program for the Centers and the clients we serve.
- 4) DDS Task Force options and disbanding the group were discussed extensively.
- 5) Arkansas Building Authority findings and our facility certifications were discussed.
- 6) Current upgrades for salary positions, hazardous pay and nursing grid requirements.

- 7) DDS Director Brader ended his report by handing out a completed outline of funding and projects for each of the human development centers over the past 6 years.
(Attachment 1:3)

Dale Woodall, DDS, explained the process of new projects, obtaining money, depreciation and using designated money for improvements.

Randy Laverty, (former Senator Laverty) Board Member, also explained the capital money, special language, cost reports and extra revenue dividends and how the system works within the Legislature.

After much discussion between Board Members, Mr. Darrell Pickney requested to know if any of the other capital improvement projects on Mr. Selig's list has been designated for funding and if so, what priority was used.

Board Members suggested that a DDS Board Member be included on the Task Force and Chair David Rosegrant asked for volunteers. Darrell Pickney volunteered to be added and all Board Members approved. Mr. Pickney will represent the DDS Board at the meeting on September 2, 2015.

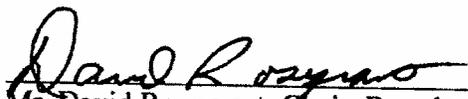
Mr. Brader explained that after the HDC Task Force meeting and other reports, there may be a need to call a DDS Board Meeting before the next regularly scheduled meeting so everyone will be informed of the report.

Mr. Darrell Pickney stated he has been reviewing DDS Board Policies and wanted clarification of handling mailings for the parent groups. It was explained that the HDCs now accept parent articles for their quarterly newsletter but do not pay postage for separate mailings by the parent group.

Mr. Pickney also brought up the Board meeting with the Governor on a semi-annual basis. Other board members and DDS staff explained to Mr. Pickney that this is completed through reports and correspondence. Mr. Pickney stated he thought we needed to meet face-to-face with the Governor to inform him of what the DDS Board stands for and to be the voice of the clients. Mr. Pickney was displeased with the scheduling and postponing of the Board Meeting and Board Chair David Rosegrant stated he would communicate individually with the Board Members if this arises again.

Mr. David Rosegrant called for a motion the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Sally Hardin made a motion the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Artie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

ATTEST:


Mr. David Rosegrant, Chair, Board of DDS


Executive Secretary