

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
August 3, 2016
Jonesboro Human Development Center
Jonesboro, Arkansas

The regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held August 3, 2016 at the Jonesboro Human Development Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. pursuant to the call of the Board Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Board Chair Mr. Randy Laverty, Ms. Sally Hardin, Mr. Darrell Pickney, Ms. Artie Jones and Dr. Linda Selman via conference call.

STAFF PRESENT: DDS Director Ms. Melissa Stone, Mr. Jeff Gonyea, Mr. Glenn Clark, Ms. Sarah Murphy, Ms. Diane Keith, Ms. Debbie Eddington, Mr. Forrest Steele, Mr. Steve Farmer, Ms. Avis Lane, Ms. Tammy Benbrook, Mr. Henry Jones, Mr. Andrew Branch, Mr. Dale Woodall and Mr. Thomas Tarpley.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Jan Fortney, Ms. Carole Sherman, Jonesboro HDC staff, parents and family members of HDC residents, Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, Representative Jack Ladyman, Mrs. Linda Ladyman and Mr. Christian Adcock from Disability Rights Arkansas.

Mr. Laverty called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked Jonesboro HDC Interim Superintendent Diane Keith for hosting the DDS Board meeting. Ms. Keith introduced Assistant Superintendent Debbie Eddington who in turn introduced Mayor Harold Perrin. Mayor Perrin welcomed the Board on behalf of the Jonesboro City Council and provided an overview of the city's dedication to quality of life and an update of the Miracle League.

Mr. Laverty introduced Representative Jack Ladyman, parent of an HDC resident. Representative Ladyman spoke highly of the center, staff and the Board expressing his appreciation for the work they do. Representative Ladyman also offered his service in any capacity needed.

Mr. Laverty called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2016 regular meeting of the DDS Board. Mr. Pickney noted one correction. Mr. Laverty made a motion that the minutes be approved with the correction. Mr. Pickney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

As there were no subcommittee reports to present Mr. Laverty invited consumers, advocates and guests to address the Board.

Ms. Diane Keith, Interim Superintendent of Jonesboro HDC, presented the report for the Human Development Centers. Ms. Keith shared items of interest about each center along with information regarding Jonesboro's new Ecoworks Center and the Handiworks online website. The website displays residents' artwork which is available for purchase.

DDS Director Melissa Stone informed the Board of upcoming events: August 15th, Human Development Center Subcommittee Meeting at Booneville HDC. August 17th, Stakeholder Meeting. August 22nd, Task Force Meeting. DDS will present planned strategies to become more efficient and achieve better outcomes. September 16th, DDS Fall Food and Craft Fair. Homemade crafts produced by clients from HDC's and community organizations will be available for purchase.

Ms. Stone advised the Board of David Rosegrant's request to serve on a Board Subcommittee. Ms. Hardin recommended Mr. Rosegrant serve on the Physical Plant Subcommittee and also suggested that all subcommittees be reviewed and restructured.

Mr. Pickney requested information from Ms. Stone regarding the total funds generated by the Bed Tax and what percentage is allocated to the Human Development Centers. Ms. Stone introduced Andrew Branch, DHS/DDS Director of Plans and Management Evaluation Systems. Mr. Branch is currently researching those figures and anticipates a complete budget analysis within a few months. Ms. Stone noted the funds should be used for operations, not capital improvements.

Mr. Pickney advised the Board capital improvements were discussed during the most recent FF/CFR meeting held in Conway. There is concern as some structures are old and campuses are in need of new residential buildings. Mr. Pickney proposed a 10 year capital improvement plan be devised within the next three to six months to present to the Legislature. Representative Ladyman agreed but suggested a five year plan. Mr. Lavery concurred and recommended the Physical Plant Subcommittee, HDC Superintendents and Dale Woodall be involved. Mr. Lavery added that as the Board seeks Legislative support; critical needs should be the focus of the plan. Ms. Stone also pointed out that while capital improvements are important, the Board must be mindful of limited funding and the presence of competing needs from other community programs.

Ms. Carole Sherman, parent of an Arkadelphia HDC resident, thanked the DDS Board, HDC Superintendents and staff for their support of the Human Development Centers and residents.

Mr. Lavery called for a motion for the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Pickney made a motion for the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Hardin seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

ATTEST:


Mr. Randy Lavery, Chair, Board of DDS


Executive Secretary