

**MINUTES OF CALLED MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
September 16, 2016
DDS Director's Conference Room
Little Rock, Arkansas**

The called meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held September 16, 2016 at the DDS Director's Conference Room, Little Rock, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. pursuant to the call of the Board Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Board Chairman Randy Laverty, Sally Hardin, Suzann McCommon, Darrell Pickney, David Rosegrant and Artie Jones.

STAFF PRESENT: Melissa Stone, Jeff Gonyea, Linda Scales, Sarah Murphy, Johnathan Jones, Forrest Steele, Charles Smith, Charlie Green, James Brader, Dawn Stehle, Diane Keith, Tammy Benbrook, Avis Lane, Dale Woodall and Andrew Branch.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jan Fortney, Carole Sherman, Thomas Nichols of Disability Rights Arkansas, Diana Wilson and Assiah Lewellen of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Olan Reeves of the Attorney General's Office and Jack Hopkins of the Governor's Office.

Mr. Laverty called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. He communicated the purpose of the meeting to be concern over the recent DHS reorganization and potential conflict with statutes which govern the Board. Mr. Laverty also advised the Board of a previous opportunity he had for a constructive introductory meeting with DHS Director Cindy Gillespie.

Mr. Laverty then introduced Attorney General Representative Olan Reeves and asked that he address the Board's concerns. Mr. Reeves elected to delay an opinion until additional information regarding the Board's concerns is obtained and the relevant statutes as they pertain to the Board and DHS reorganization can be researched. He also noted that additional information from DHS is needed to determine how the Board's duties are affected by reorganization. As a result Mr. Laverty proposed a meeting to include Ms. Gillespie, himself, Mr. Reeves and key DHS and DDS staff. Mr. Laverty also suggested a letter from the Board voicing their concern along with a meeting request be drafted and forwarded to Ms. Gillespie.

Ms. McCommon made a motion that a letter be authored by the Board, reviewed by Mr. Reeves and signed by Mr. Laverty's stating that in light of Amendment 33 and ACA 25-10-104 the Board requests clarification of DHS reorganization. Mr. Pickney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Laverty opened the floor for comments. Mr. Pickney requested updated information regarding general improvement funds. Ms. Stone and Mr. Branch advised funds from Senator

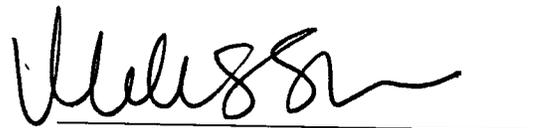
Rapert and Senator Cooper have been deposited and allocation of those funds will be discussed at the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Mr. Pickney offered compliments to Ms. Stone and staff over the success of the DDS Fall Festival held earlier today.

There being no further business, Mr. Laverty called for a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Rosegrant made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Pickney seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

ATTEST:


Mr. Randy Laverty, Chair, Board of DDS


Executive Secretary