

**DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2001**

**DSB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Becton  
Les McDaniel  
Searcy Ewell  
Nola McKinney  
Ernie Davis  
Lindi Johnson

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Pierre Curry  
Jim Hill  
Buddy Spivey  
Donna Hunt

**DSB BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ray Stewart

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ramona Sangalli

DHS Representative: Kurt Knickrehm

Attorney General's Office Representative: Tom Gay

DSB Staff Present: Jim Hudson, Katy Morris, Coral Virden, Bob Maxwell, Charlie Cain, Richard Behra, Linda Paxton, Donna Hartzell, Chris McKenzie, Jim Pearson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Board Secretary, Mr. Les McDaniel, called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** ... Mr. Searcy Ewell made a motion to accept the agenda. Mr. John Becton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Persons in attendance introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF THE 06/09/01 MINUTES.** Motion was made by Mrs. Lindi Johnson and seconded by Mr. Searcy Ewell to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2001 Board Meeting. Motion passed.

**WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS...** . The DSB Director Jim Hudson extended a to two board members, newly appointed by Governor Huckabee: Mr. Ernest (Ernie) Davis of Little Rock and Mrs. Nola McKinney of Bonnerdale. Mr. Davis replaces Lions' representative Gerald Carr, and Mrs. McKinney replaces ACB Representative Randy Burress. Governor Huckabee is also in the process of appointing two new board members to represent the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and

Visually Impaired (AER) and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB).

Currently Mr. Ray Stewart and Mr. Les McDaniel, respectively serve in those capacities but are either no longer available or no longer eligible to serve.

## **DSB DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Nationally, the major concern is federal Budget Appropriations and the position of rehabilitation funding when Congress convenes.

The National Federation of the Blind and the American Council of the Blind each held very successful annual meetings in July.

President Bush recently appointed JoAnn Wilson, Director of the Louisiana Center for the Blind, as the new Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Ms. Wilson has a long history of advocacy in the area of blindness.

The Arkansas JumpStart Program sponsored 27 participants this year, and has been identified as one of the "Best Practices" in the county in the area of transition from high school to work or post-secondary education. Field Administrator Linda Paxton is scheduled to make a formal presentation regarding the design and experience of the Arkansas Jumpstart Program at the Rehabilitation Employment Conference in Dallas in December.

In July, Arkansas Radio Reading Services for the Blind (a program of DSB) moved to the studios of Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) in Conway. The Reading Service and the Telephone Reader is running well. The telephone reader provides consumer access to selected articles from various publications. In Conway call 852-5127. In Little Rock call 683-2005 or statewide call 1-800-645-8125).

During the late summer and fall. DSB welcome one UAPB Intern and three UALR interns to work alongside veteran DSB staff to gain knowledge in the practice of the respective rehabilitation disciplines.

July 1, the state implemented the Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System (AASIS) As originally designed by the contractor (SAP Internet Solutions). AASIS is Inaccessible to blind persons. SAP is now working with state AASIS managers to retrofit the system to permit accessibility to blind individuals.

Governor Huckabee recently appointed Division Director James C. Hudson to the state Workforce Board placing DSB in compliance federal rehabilitation regulations.

Doug Lawton the new regional representative from the Rehabilitation Services Administration conducted a federal review July 23-27 of the interaction between DSB and the Workforce Development Centers. The Division is awaiting the final report.

The Vending, Facility Program held its annual Statewide Meeting, August 3-5. Major issues discussed were the difficult recruitment of younger vendors, innovations in vending and new training ideas. The average earnings for a vendor now is \$17.500.

The Division of Services for the Blind is scheduled to move September 21, 2001 to the newly constructed Donaghey Plaza South Building at the Southwest corner of Seventh and Main Streets in Little Rock. The building will house 1200 employees. A new vending facility location will be operated on the first floor of the building.

## **END OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**-Motion was made by Mr. Searcy Ewell and seconded by Mrs. Nola McKinney to postpone election of a chairperson pending completion of board appointments. Motion passed.

**CALENDAR FOR BOARD ORIENTATION**-Following appointments of all board members orientation will be scheduled for new appointees.

**BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE**-Prior to the next quarterly board meeting December 8, 2001 DSB board members are invited to tour DSB facilities in the new Donaghey Plaza South building. The tour is set for 9:00 a.m. 1

Mrs. Lindi Johnson suggested that direct service staff might make presentations to future board meetings regarding their experiences.

**ARKANSAS INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (AILC)**-The report submitted by outgoing AILC Director Jim Eakin was read into the record. AILC is working on development of the Olmstead Plan for presentation to the governor. It has also submitted the required Independent Living State Plan to federal Rehabilitation Services and has conducted a survey on Medicare/Medicaid barriers. Currently the AILC is offering a PowerPoint presentation and other training to individuals and groups regarding various consumer activities. Interested individuals should contact the AILC office for details.

**CONSUMER INPUT**-Ms. Irma Nelson reported that new independent living support group, "First Care" meet the third Tuesday of each month at First Lutheran Church 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The group assists consumers with shopping needs, sewing. Independent living needs etc.

Mrs. Nola McKinney reported a positive response to the installation of CCTV's in certain Senior Centers around the state. This is a Joint venture between the Division of Services for the Blind, Division on Aging and Adult Services and the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Also the Lioness Club of Hot Springs will present a Vision Fair at the Garland County Library in January 2002.

A discussion was held regarding the accessibility of the Arkansas Administrative

Statewide Information System (AASIS) to blind consumers.

The new mailing address for the Arkansas Council of the Blind, 4727 Cypress Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116. Telephone number 501-758-7078 or 1-800 562-6101.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next DSB Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. December 8, 2001 In the new Donaghey Plaza South building. First Floor Conference Room A.

Respectfully Submitted.  
Les McDaniel  
Secretary