

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
May 4, 2011
Arkadelphia Human Development Center
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

A regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held on May 4, 2011 at the Arkadelphia Human Development Center (ArHDC) in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. pursuant to the call of the Board Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Suzann McCommon, Mr. Ron Carmack, Ms. Sally Hardin and Dr. Linda Selman.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Charlie Green, Ms. Margo Green, Mr. Forrest Steele, Mr. Jeff Gonyea, Ms. Judy Adams, Mr. Calvin Price, Mr. Matt McCue, Ms. Tammy Benbrook, Ms. Marilyn Junyor, Ms. Cheryl Shrankaz, Mr. Donald Hatcher, Mr. James Brader and Mr. Mike Cowart.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Debbie Sterling; Ms. Brandy Marks; Ms. Jan Fortney; Ms. Loretta Alexander; Ms. Annette Matthews; Ms. Pat Carmack; Ms. Artie Jones; Ms. Rita Edward; Mr. Larry Taylor; Ms. Rita Hoover; Ms. Carole Sherman; Ms. Betty Allbritton; Mr. Parnell Allbritton and Ms. Meredith Rebsamen, Attorney General's Office

Ms. Suzann McCommon, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Ms. Suzann McCommon welcomed the newly appointed Board member Ms. Artie Jones to the Board. Ms. McCommon explained that Ms. Jones had not yet been sworn in as a member of the Board of DDS so would not be voting as a member of the Board at the present meeting.

Ms. McCommon called for a motion on the minutes from the February 2, 2011 regular meeting of the Board of DDS.

Dr. Linda Selman made a motion the minutes from the February 2, 2011 regular meeting of the Board of DDS be approved. Mr. Ron Carmack seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McCommon invited consumers, advocates and guests to address the Board. Ms. Jan Fortney, member of the HDC parents' and guardians' group at Conway HDC (CHDC), expressed appreciation for the Board's listening to the concerns of parents and guardians and stated she would like for that commitment to continue with all the HDCs. Ms. Fortney stated that speaking for herself and on behalf of her husband, she wanted to express to the Board three concerns: 1) since June 2010, the hiring process at the HDCs has been too lengthy and she requested the Board check into the current hiring constraints and filling of positions; 2) questioned whether the DDS Board had requested the funding from Alexander HDC (AIHDC) be used to fund shift differential pay; and 3) questioned if the space made available after the school age clients transfer from Conway HDC (CHDC) would be utilized to create more private

rooms and/or to allow for more space for other clients. Ms. Fortney also requested clarification on whether CHDC would retain the staff assigned to work with school age clients.

Ms. Carole Sherman requested information about the State's Medicaid overhaul. She explained her request being in reference to an article in the newspaper the day before the Board meeting.

In response to Ms. Sherman's question regarding a news article on Medicaid, Ms. McCommon stated the DHS Director's remarks in the article were directed toward the DD (developmentally disabled) population as a whole which includes community programs, early childhood and HDCs. She asked Dr. Green to address the article in his report.

Ms. McCommon also asked Dr. Green to address the recent legislative session in his report and include information regarding a legislator who has been a real friend to the Board and parents.

Mr. Carmack presented the report for the Administrative Services Subcommittee and stated the Subcommittee had one item for recommendation to the Board for action. Mr. Carmack stated the Subcommittee's recommendation and motion was for the Board to approve \$750,000 from Gifts and Bequests for legal expenses related to DOJ (Department of Justice) activities. Dr. Selman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Margo Green, Arkadelphia HDC (ArHDC) Superintendent, presented the report for the human development centers (HDC). Ms. Green began her report with a "welcome to the Center" to the Board members and visitors attending the Board meeting. Ms. Green stated Jonesboro, Booneville and Conway HDCs had no reports at this time. Ms. Green provided items of interest about the Southeast Arkansas HDC (SEAHDC) as provided to her by that Center's superintendent and items about the Arkadelphia HDC (ArHDC). Information on the following HDC events was provided by Ms. Green: SEAHDC's Open Horizon's Conference on May 5-6 and an Elks Picnic on May 14 and ArHDC's Fun Day on May 6.

Ms. Green invited Mr. Matt McCue to provide the report for the Alexander HDC (AIHDC). Mr. McCue provided a report and included the following: 104 clients were at the Center in June 2010 and, as of the present date, 17 clients and 55 staff are at the Center; by May 27, 2011, two clients will be at the Center and are expected to transfer from the Center on May 31; operations will shut down at the Center on May 27, leaving only a 24 hour nursing staff and a small number of other staff; a reunion and barbecue will be held at AIHDC on May 27; current inventory of equipment and supplies are being diverted to the other HDCs; "Money Follows the Person" (MFP) support is being used to assist with transferring the Center's residents. Mr. McCue thanked Dr. Green, AIHDC staff and others he had encountered while working at the Center for their support and kindness.

Ms. McCommon presented Mr. McCue with a plaque in appreciation for his efforts while at AIHDC. Dr. Green thanked Mr. McCue and presented him with a Razorback coffee mug, a Razorback football and a Razorback t-shirt.

Dr. Charlie Green presented the Division Director's report. Dr. Green began his report by recognizing the new member of the Board Ms. Artie Jones. Dr. Green thanked Ms. Green and ArHDC staff for hosting the Board meeting. Dr. Green recognized and congratulated Forrest Steele for receiving the Northeast Arkansas Elks Citizen of the Year award.

Ms. McCommon recognized Ms. Meredith Rebsamen from the Attorney General's Office and expressed the Board's appreciation to her for attending the meeting.

Dr. Green continued his report and included information on the following: 2011 Legislative Session; efforts of Senators Percy Malone and Randy Lavery during the session for the DD population, with specific comments on Senator Malone's advocating for DDS as Ms. McCommon requested earlier in the meeting; agency budget and budget resultant of the legislative session.

Ms. Sherman questioned whether the Board and the parents' group might draft a letter of appreciation to Senator Malone. Ms. McCommon and Mr. Larry Taylor agreed to prepare the draft.

Mr. James Brader responded to questioning by Ms. Sally Hardin on DOJ action/non-action following a ruling on the CHDC lawsuit and his response included information on DOJ litigation in other states.

Dr. Green responded to Dr. Selman's questioning on community vs HDC costs for services and noted this data had been compiled by Tom York and his staff.

Dr. Green continued his report and included information on the following: transfer of the children residing at the CHDC; proposed changes at the Booneville HDC campus, including the creation of a task force to look at costs for creating better living situations on the campus; staff turnover and the need for differential shift pay increase on evenings, nights and weekends; the "up to 20%" shift differential pay requested by the Board not being approved in the State pay plan.

A decision was made to send a letter signed by Ms. McCommon to OPM (Office of Personnel Management) regarding shift differential at the HDCs and the letter is to include a request to visit with OPM staff on the issue.

Dr. Green provided information on a pilot project being tried at the Jonesboro HDC (JHDC) that offers staff an incentive option to work long weekends or weekdays only; explained the project and noted existing shift differential was being used to accomplish the incentive. He noted the Superintendents would be discussing the project in more detail at the next Superintendents' meeting.

Dr. Green provided information on Medicaid reform in response to Ms. Sherman's request earlier in the meeting regarding an article she had seen in the newspaper about Medicaid.

Dr. Green introduced Ms. Tammy Benbrook who he stated would be his administrative assistant upon Ms. Donna Madden's retirement and noted Ms. Benbrook would be transferring from AIHDC. Dr. Green provided information on the relocation of Alexander staff which he stated was going smoothly and briefly commented on the transfer locations being chosen by staff and employment opportunities being provided.

Dr. Green responded to questioning by Ms. Hardin about the transferring of children from the CHDC to include the following: staffing information; HDCs working together to exchange resources to the benefit of all involved; options for the children reaching the age of 18; and assistance being provided to concerned parents.

Dr. Green thanked Mr. McCue for the excellent care clients were provided while he had been at the AIHDC and his manner of working with the Center staff and he stated Mr. McCue would be missed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

ATTEST:

Executive Secretary

Ms. Suzann McCommon, Chair
Board of Developmental Disabilities Services