

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
August 4, 2011
Hendrix College
Conway, Arkansas

A regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held on August 4, 2011 at the Hendrix College during the Conway Human Development Center's Beyond the Borders Conference in Conway, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. pursuant to the call of the Vice Board Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Ron Carmack, Ms. Sally Hardin, Mr. David Rosegrant and Mr. Robert James.

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Charlie Green, Ms. Margo Green, Mr. Forrest Steele, Mr. Jeff Gonyea, Ms. Judy Adams, Mr. Calvin Price, Ms. Tammy Benbrook, Ms. Marilyn Junyor, Ms. Donna Madden, Ms. Shelley Lee, Mr. Dale Woodall and Mr. James Brader.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Luke Heffley, Mr. Thomas Dolislager, Mr. Ben Finley, Ms. Ethel Finley, Ms. Terri Fain, Ms. Brandy Marks, Ms. Jan Fortney, Mr. Alan Fortney, Mr. Jerry Marsh, Ms. Eva Davis, Mr. Craig Cloud, Ms. Pat Carmack, Mr. Larry Taylor, Ms. Rita Hoover, Ms. Carole Sherman, Mr. Bill Sherman, Ms. Betty Allbritton, Mr. Parnell Allbritton and Ms. Amy Ford, Attorney General's Office

Mr. Ron Carmack, Vice Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Mr. Ron Carmack welcomed the newly appointed Board member Mr. Robert James to the Board.

Mr. Carmack read a letter addressed to Senator Percy Malone to be signed by the Board Chair and President of the statewide human development center (HDC) parent group president and a letter addressed to Mr. Forrest Steele, Jonesboro HDC (JHDC) Superintendent, to be signed by the DDS Director and the Board Chair. Mr. Carmack asked for the Board's approval of the letters. Ms. Sally Hardin made a motion the letters be approved for the Board Chair's signatures. Mr. David Rosegrant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carmack presented on behalf of the Board a plaque in appreciation for years of service on the Board and a plaque in appreciation for serving as Board Chair to Mr. Thomas Dolislager and Mr. Luke Heffley.

Mr. Carmack called for a motion on the minutes from the May 4, 2011 regular meeting of the Board of DDS.

Mr. David Rosegrant made a motion the minutes from the May 4, 2011 regular meeting of the Board of DDS be approved. Mr. Sally Hardin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carmack invited consumers, advocates and guests to address the Board. Ms. Rita Hoover, member of the HDC parents' and guardians' group at Conway HDC (CHDC), addressed the Board and included the following in her comments: the question if legal fees incurred due to the Department of Justice lawsuit would be recouped and, if so, to which accounts the recouped money would be deposited; then questioned staffing issues with regard to what was being done to resolve shift differential pay issues, staffing shortages and time frame for hiring procedures. Ms. Hoover stated that the parents group continues to hear these problems are being reviewed but would like to know how long before any progress is made. Ms. Hoover stated the parents have been told that other agencies have been granted shift differentials for their agencies and that the HDCs need this incentive also. Mr. Carmack thanked Ms. Hoover for her comments and stated Dr. Charlie Green would be addressing the issues she presented in his Division Director's report.

Mr. Carmack requested the report from the Physical Management Subcommittee.

Ms. Hardin presented the report for the Physical Management Subcommittee. Ms. Hardin stated the Subcommittee had reviewed an easement request at the Booneville Human Development Center (BHDC) from a land owner wanting access to the land owner's property. The Subcommittee's recommendation and motion was for the Board to approve the easement. Mr. Rosegrant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hardin presented the second request reviewed by the Physical Management Subcommittee. Ms. Hardin stated there is a request to extend the current lease between Jonesboro Human Development Center (JHDC) and the City of Jonesboro of the acreage being used for the baseball/softball fields. The current lease expires in 16 years but in order for the City of Jonesboro to receive grant money for the fields, they must obtain a lease for an additional 25 years. Ms. Hardin stated the Subcommittee's recommendation and motion was for the Board to approve these additional years of lease with the exception, if the construction does not begin within the next five years, the lease will go back to its original time frame. Mr. Rosegrant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carmack requested the report from the Administrative Services Subcommittee.

Mr. Rosegrant presented the report for the Administrative Services Subcommittee. Mr. Rosegrant stated the Subcommittee had reviewed making one change to the Board of DDS 1013 policy and provided the change to be the Conway Human Development Center (CHDC) Assistant Superintendent become a member of a subcommittee replacing the Superintendent of the Alexander Human Development Center (AIHDC). Mr. Rosegrant stated the Subcommittee's recommendation and motion to be to approve the change to the policy. Ms. Hardin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rosegrant presented a second item reviewed by the Subcommittee. ICF beds are needed in the community for persons served by DDS and the Board is being requested to approve transferring sixteen (16) beds to the community that are not being used by DDS. These beds would be transferred to an outside provider that would provide crisis intervention for DDS clients. Mr. Rosegrant stated the recommendation and motion of the Subcommittee to be to approved transferring the beds to an outside provider. After discussion from the attendees and clarification, licensing bed and funding procedures from Dr. Charlie Green, Ms. Hardin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Calvin Price, Conway Human Development Center (CHDC) Superintendent, presented the report for the human development centers (HDCs). Mr. Price began his report with information on the CHDC's "Beyond the Borders" (BTB) Conference presently being held on the Hendrix College campus to include the following: present Board meeting as have past meetings being held to coincide with the conference; 18th year for the "BTB" conference and record registration/attendance. Mr. Price informed the Board the monthly reports for the HDCs were included in the Board packets. Mr. Price presented items of interest about each HDC as provided to him by each Superintendent. He concluded his report with a reaffirmation that CHDC had won the Department of Justice lawsuit.

Dr. Charlie Green presented the Division Director's report. Dr. Green began his report with a "thank you" to Mr. Price and Conway HDC staff for the excellent job they were doing and had always done with the "BTB" Conference; thanked Mr. Dolislager and Mr. Heffley for their service on the Board; commented on winning the DOJ lawsuit and the suit officially being over; thanked the Board members for their efforts with the DOJ lawsuit and thanked the HDCs' staff for the work done on the lawsuit. Dr. Green presented Mr. Price with a token of appreciation for his efforts with the lawsuit: an engraved whistle for being the "coach" of the efforts.

Next, Dr. Green asked DDS Attorney James Brader to explain the process for recouping legal fees incurred due to the DOJ lawsuit to include the following: papers/motions filed and re-filed; chances the agency will be awarded fees; account(s) recouped fees will be deposited; time frame for hearing on the recoup motion. Mr. Brader also reported nothing had been received on a DOJ appeal of the lawsuit.

Dr. Green continued his report to include the following: Ms. McCommon and his meeting with Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regarding the differential pay issue; differential pay currently being used by DDS; pilot program at Jonesboro Human Development Center for staff retention. Dr. Green asked Forrest Steele to report on the pilot program and Mr. Steele stated that the next two or three months, the pilot program at JHDC will show results whether this program is working. At that time, if effective, it will be tried in the other HDCs. This program will help weekend coverage as well as extra coverage by the overlapping of shifts.

Dr. Green continued his report to include the following: update on the closing of the AIHDC on June 6, 2011; AIHDC clients' transition; jobs offered to all staff and assistance was provided to staff for obtaining jobs; AIHDC memorabilia mugs for Board members; brief history and number of years AIHDC had provided quality services to residents; DDS' systems change process and plans being reviewed for the Booneville Human Development Center (BHDC) campus in conjunction with the systems change plan and future plans for the AIHDC campus.

Mr. Brader provided information on the systems change plan with regard to transitioning the children at Conway Human Development Center (CHDC) and noted the possibility of a final plan being presented to the Board at the next Board meeting.

Dr. Green finalized his report with information on Medicaid reform and the possible effects for DDS.


Questioning and discussion was held to include the following: differential pay, staffing issues, JHDC's pilot program, time frame for resolution of staffing issues and the applicant tracking system affecting the hiring process. Following discussion, decision was made that the parent group would write a letter to Dr. Green regarding their concerns with the tracking system which has created a hardship and lengthy hiring process for the Human Development Centers. Dr. Green is to present the letter to the person in DHS (Department of Human Services) who can assist with a resolution to the parents' concerns.

Mr. Carmack requested a motion from the DDS Board that the Board have a letter drafted on the same issue to be presented to the same person as the letter the parents were drafting regarding the applicant tracking system. Ms. Hardin made a motion. Mr. Rosegrant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

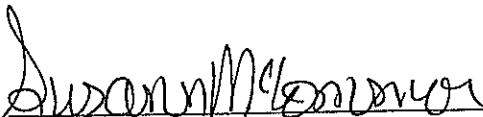
Mr. Carmack called for a motion the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Rosegrant made a motion the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Hardin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

ATTEST:



Executive Secretary



Ms. Suzann McCommon, Chair
Board of Developmental Disabilities Services