

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
November 2, 2011
Conway Human Development Center
Visitation Center
Conway, Arkansas

A regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held on November 2, 2011 at the Conway Human Development Center Visitation Center in Conway, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. pursuant to the call of the Vice Board Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Suzann McCommon, Mr. Ron Carmack, Ms. Sally Hardin, Mr. David Rosegrant, Ms. Artie Jones, Dr. Linda Selman 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, Mr. Dale Woodall and Mr. James Brader.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Jan Fortney, Ms. Pat Carmack, Mr. Larry Taylor, Ms. Betty Allbritton, Mr. Parnell Allbritton, Ms. Amy Ford, Attorney General's Office, and Mr. Lamar Richmond, Disability Rights Representative.

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

Ms. McCommon called for a motion on the minutes from the August 4, 2011 regular meeting of the Board of DDS.

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

Mr. 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), addressed the Board and included the following in her comments: Ms. Fortney stated she was present at the Medicaid Reform meeting the day before along with Dr. Green and that she thinks it would be a great idea to use the human development centers as service center models so the outside providers could use them for resources. Ms. McCommon thanked Ms. Fortney for her comments and stated Dr. Charlie Green would be addressing the issues she presented in his Division Director's report.

Ms. McCommon 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 a proposed master plan for the Booneville Human Development Center (BHDC). Transition of clients during the renovation period was discussed and

Superintendent Jeff Gonyea stated there would be minimal disruption to the clients and housing would be available. The Subcommittee's recommendation and motion was for the Board to approve the master plan of Booneville Human Development Center. Mr. Rosegrant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

There was no Administrative Services Subcommittee meeting. Ms. McCommon, Board Chair, stated that this was the time of year that the DDS Board reviews the Travel Methodology so the Board members can be reimbursed for their services through the state system. Mr. Sally Hardin made a motion to accept the Travel Methodology changes for 2012. Dr. Linda Selman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Forrest Steele, Jonesboro Human Development Center (JHDC) Superintendent, presented the report for the human development centers (HDCs). Mr. Steele informed the Board the monthly reports for the HDCs were included in the Board packets. Mr. Steele presented items of interest about each HDC as provided to him by each Superintendent.

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 hosting the DDS Board Meeting.

Next, Dr. Green and the DDS Board reviewed the Merrill Lynch report and asked James Brader, DDS Attorney, to give an update regarding the court's decision to award the legal fees and costs of the Department of Justice case. Attorney Brader stated we are waiting to hear on a ruling and the time should be near and that the State is entitled to a sizeable amount of the fees if not all requested. Our ultimate goal is to have the funds returned to the appropriate accounts.

Dr. Green continued his report to include the following: Responses/letters from the Office of Personnel Management and Jerry Berry regarding the applicant tracking problems and the pilot program at Jonesboro Human Development Center for staff retention. Dr. Green presented handouts to show percentages of staff retention on each shift. The new program piloted at JHDC is exhibiting help with weekend coverage as well as extra coverage by the overlapping of shifts. The program will soon be piloted at the other HDCs.

The applicant tracking is still an unresolved issue. Questioning and discussion was held to include the following: 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 and the DDS Board would write a letter to Dr. Green regarding certain positions such as resident care workers, etc. to be exempt from the long applicant tracking process so they can be hired individually at the centers. Some of these positions are needed to meet state regulatory requirements and need to be filled as soon as vacated.

Dr. Green is to present the letter to the person in (DHS-OPM), Department of Human Services Office of Personnel Management who can assist with a resolution to the concerns.

Dr. Green continued his report on the Medicaid Transformation meeting that was held November 1st. Dr. Green stated the human development centers and the providers can use each other's services and utilize each center for their special service area. He also noted that there are not a lot of changes in the model except for the way that the centers and providers are reimbursed.

The Office of Legislative Audit continues to follow up on all the clients from Alexander Human Development Center after it was reported that some of the clients were not receiving adequate services or had expired since their transfers to other human development centers and private providers. It was noted that there had only been four clients who had passed away in the eighteen months since the decision to close Alexander, and most were due to ongoing health problems. Dr. Green stated that the audit is a good thing and hopefully the auditors will see the success of the transition process. Reports from the audits should be completed in 2-3 months.

Last on the agenda was election of DDS officers for the 2012 year. Sally Hardin made a motion to retain the officers already in place: Suzann McCommon – Chairman, Ron Carmack, Vice Chairman and Linda Selman, Secretary. Mr. Rosegrant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McCommon 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 11:50 a.m.

ATTEST:

Executive Secretary

Ms. Suzann McCommon, Chair
Board of Developmental Disabilities Services