

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
February 1, 2012
Conway Human Development Center
Visitation Center
Conway, Arkansas

A regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held on February 1, 2012 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 and Mr. Robert James. Dr. Linda Selman participated in the meeting by a conference telephone call.

DDS 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, Mr. Brooks Reese, Ms. Gail Miller, Mr. Mark Guffey, Ms. Linda Scales and Mr. James Brader.

DHS STAFF PRESENT: Steven Jones, Nate McGee and Steven McKnight.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Jan Fortney, Ms. Pat Carmack, Mr. Darrell Pickney, Ms. Amy Ford, Attorney General's Office, Ms. Sara Israel, Ms. Carole Sherman, Mr. Bill Sherman, Ms. Brandy Marks, Disability Rights Representative, Ms. Evie Blad, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and Ms. Joyce Dees, DHS Liaison to the Governor.

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 November 2nd, 2011 regular meeting of the Board of DDS.

Mr. David Rosegrant made a motion the minutes from the November 2nd, 2011 regular meeting of the Board of DDS be approved. Ms. Sally Hardin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

After approving the current minutes, Ms. McCommon stated that Mr. James Brader, DDS Attorney needed to comment on the August 4th, 2011 minutes. The minutes from the August meeting need to be amended to correct the lease agreement amount of years documented in the minutes. The correction would be to change the amount of years of the lease from 25-34 years. All other information regarding the Jonesboro lease was correct.

Mr. Ron Carmack made a motion to amend the August 4th, 2011 minutes to make the correction from 25 to 34 years on the lease. Mr. David Rosegrant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McCommon invited consumers, advocates and guests to address the Board. There were none.

Ms. McCommon stated that there were no subcommittee meetings reports.

Ms. Judy Adams, Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center (SEAHDC) Superintendent, presented the report for the human development centers (HDCs). Ms. Adams informed the Board the monthly reports for the HDCs were included in the Board packets. Ms. Adams presented items of interest about each HDC as provided to her 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.

Dr. Charlie Green and Ms. McCommon both expressed their sympathy to Mr. Calvin Price in the loss of his sister the past week.

Dr. Charlie Green also congratulated Judy Adams and the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center on their recent survey and noted they had no deficiencies.

Dr. Charlie Green introduced out new DDS Information Technology person to the Board. A welcome was given to Mr. Brooks Reese.

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 at any time. All motions were filed on January 6, 2012. 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 were given to the DDS Board for review. Solutions regarding the applicant tracking problems and hiring process were discussed. Dr. Green stated that there is a need for a better system to be put in place for the effectiveness of hiring and promoting. He stated we hopefully will have a solution to these problems or an easier way to promote and hire by the next DDS Board Meeting.

Next Dr. Green reported on the renovation plans for Booneville Human Development Center. It has been assessed that BHDC is not a good candidate for bonds and that the renovation may have to be completed a little at a time in capital projects funds. There will be more discussion of the plans at the next DDS Board Meeting in May.

Dr. Green noted there will be a meeting Tuesday, February 7th at 10:00 a.m. at the Capitol regarding a bill that was filed last session regarding the transitioning of HDC clients into the community. Dr. Green said he would be at the meeting along with all the Superintendents and the DDS Attorney. Report of the meeting will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Dr. Green reported on the Language Bill that is trying to change or do away with the language of Mental Retardation and change it to Intellectual Disabilities. There were many concerns

expressed by the parents and care givers regarding this issue. Many stated making this change may be the beginning of taking away some of the individual needs of the clients and placing all the clients' needs in one generic group which would not be appropriate. Parents and attendees were encouraged to stay informed of these changes and try to participate in meetings about the changes.

Dr. Green stated recently the Medicaid policies had been revised by the Division of Medical Services and by mistake mental retardation was substituted with mental illness. This caused an uproar with many people so explanations have been sent to people with concerns and proper corrections are being made. Dr. Green thanked our parents for reviewing these policies and pointing out this mistake.

Dr. Green also gave reports on the Payment Initiative Workgroups and the new Universal Assessment. There will be more meetings in the near future.

The Office of Legislative Audit completed their audit of the clients from Alexander Human Development Center. Results show a good overall report. There was a concern that if another facility closes, there needs to be times set up for the new staff and the old staff to meet with the clients before their move. This will give the client and staff time to get to know each other and this will provide more thorough information resulting in the clients' needs being known.

After Dr. Green's report, Mr. Darrell Pickney and other parents had questions regarding the payment and process of the mock surveys that are being conducted at the HDCs. The Superintendents that have been through a mock survey gave reports of their experiences, results and satisfaction of the survey. Superintendent Adams from SEAHDC and Superintendent Green from ARHDC both reported positive results and were very complimentary of the staff interaction. Both stated that the cost of the surveys were around \$16,000.00

Last on the agenda were a power point presentation and a proposal from Mr. Nate McGee on the Strategic Energy Plan for the HDCs and other state agencies. Mr. McGee presented each DDS Board Member with a Strategic Plan Binder with all the information included for their review. After the presentation Mr. Ron Carmack and the other Board Members had many questions and concerns regarding the plan and how it would affect our facilities and mostly the services for our clients. Mr. McGee and Mr. Steven Jones both answered questions for the Board.

After the presentation, Ms. McCommon asked if we needed to vote on the proposal. David Rosegrant made a motion to defer the voting until the Physical Management Subcommittee could meet and bring information back to the Board. Ms. Sally Hardin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Dr. Green also introduced Mr. Joyce Dees, DHS Liaison to the Governor and Ms. Amy Ford from the Attorney General's office and thanked them for attending.

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 12:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Executive Secretary

Ms. Suzann McCommon, Chair
Board of Developmental Disabilities Services