

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**  
**August 9, 2012**  
**Hendrix College**  
**Conway, Arkansas**

A regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held on August 9, 2012 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: Ms. Suzann McCommon, Mr. Ron Carmack, Ms. Artie Jones, 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. Gail Miller, Ms. Shelley Lee, Mr. Brooks Reese and Mr. James Brader.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Eric Treat, Ms. Brenda Green, Mr. Dusty Maxwell, Ms. Brandy Marks, Mr. Jerry March, Mr. Darrell Pickney, Mr. Melvin Pickney, Mr. Tom Hill, Ms. Carole Sherman and Mr. Mark Ohrenberger, Attorney General's Office.

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

Ms. McCommon called for a motion on the minutes from the May 2, 2012 regular meeting of the Board of DDS.

Mr. David Rosegrant made a motion the minutes from the May 2, 2012 regular meeting of the Board of DDS be approved. Mr. Sally Hardin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McCommon invited consumers, advocates and guests to address the Board. Mr. Darrell Pickney, President of Friends and Families of Care Facility Residents, expressed the concern held by him and others regarding the HDCs coming under attack by other organizations and divisions by offering incentives and alternative services to those in the HDCs. Mr. Pickney also stated that after reviewing the HDC Statistical Reports; he has questions regarding the waiting lists, the number of actual beds available to prospective clients and using promotional ideas to keep the HDCs in the public eye.

Ms. McCommon thanked Mr. Pickney for his comments and stated Dr. Charlie Green would be addressing the issues he presented in his Division Director's report.

Ms. McCommon stated there are no reports from the Physical Management or Administrative Services due to neither convening this quarter.

Mr. Jeff Gonyea, Booneville Human Development Center (BHDC) Superintendent, presented the report for the human development centers (HDCs). Mr. Gonyea reminded the Board the monthly reports for the HDCs were included in the Board packets. Mr. Gonyea presented items of interest about each HDC along with recent survey results 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 the excellent job they were doing and had always done with the "BTB" Conference. He also reminded Mr. Price that this was his 10<sup>th</sup> year of being Superintendent at CHDC and that it was Dr. Green's 10<sup>th</sup> year as being the DDS Commissioner.

Next, Dr. Green gave a report on all the budget meetings taking place and he explained the budget process to the Board regarding the balanced budget, federal matching money and proceeds from the ICF provider tax. There will also be onetime money for Booneville HDC for the construction of new living units there.

Dr. Green continued his report to address Mr. Pickney's suggestions and concerns. Dr. Green explained that there are not enough resources at this time for promoting/advertising the HDCs but that the vacancies shown on the reports are not always as simple as they seem. All HDCs are different by the way they admit clients according to their special needs. Even though there may be a vacancy shown, it may not be an appropriate setting for the clients such as it may be in a female unit or it may be in a least restrictive area for someone that requires more supervision. Dr. Green discussed the difference between functional capacity and licensed capacity. Many of the Superintendents gave examples of their vacancies and their applicants for placement. Mr. Dusty Maxwell, representative from Pathfinders, also commented on private providers and their needs for emergency placements in HDCs when a need arises.

Dr. Green asked the Superintendents to give reports on the new weekly and weekend shifts and how it is helping with staffing problems. This is reportedly working out well in most facilities and helping cut down on some of the call in problems. There are concerns of new employees only working on weekend shifts but Mr. Carmack stated that it has worked out really well with the new employees at CHDC on his son's unit.

Dr. Green reported on the Arkansas Payment Improvement Initiative meetings. DDS Has been involved with these changes and meetings since the beginning so we will be prepared and it will be beneficial to our clients and their services. Ms. McCommon asked about the time and renewals of the new assessments. There was discussion from the group regarding the question and Dr. Green stated he felt the assessment would be individually formatted which is a good thing for our clients.

Dr. Green introduced Mark Ohrenberger, Attorney General's Office Representative and welcomed him to the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Executive Secretary

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Ms. Suzann McCommon, Chair  
Board of Developmental Disabilities Services