MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
November 7, 2012
Conway Human Development Center
Conway, Arkansas

A regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held on November 7, 2012 at the Conway Human Development Center’s Visitation Center in Conway, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 10:30 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, Dr. Linda Selman, 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, Mr. Dale Woodall, Ms. Gail Miller, Mr. Brooks Reese and Mr. James Brader.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Darrell Pickney, Mr. Steve Wilson, Mr. Tom Hill, Ms. Annette Matthews, Ms. Rita Hoover, Ms. Jan Fortney, Ms. Carole Sherman and Ms. Amy Ford, 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 August 9th, 2012 regular meeting of the Board of DDS.

Mr. David Rosegrant made a motion the minutes from the August 9, 2012 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. Mr. Darrell Pickney, President of Friends and Families of Care Facility Residents (FFCFR) and Ms. Rita Hoover, Mr. Steve Wilson and Ms. Jan Fortney, parents and members of FFCFR expressed many concerns and questions that the FFCFR members need addressed. (Attached is a copy of the questions to the DDS Board and DDS Commissioner.) Other members of FFCFR, Mr. Steve Wilson and Ms. Jan Fortney,

Ms. McCommon thanked the Friends and Families of Care Facility Residents (FFCFR) for their comments and stated Dr. Charlie Green would be addressing the issues presented in his Division Director’s report.

During this time, the Friends and Families of Care Facility Residents asked that their written questions and concerns be included in the minutes of this DDS Board Meeting.
Ms. McCommon called for a motion for the request that the information to be added to the minutes. Ms. Sally Hardin made a motion for the FF CFR information be added to the minutes. Ms. Linda Selman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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 the existing lease/contract with the City of Conway and the proposed new lease with the City of Conway. Superintendent Calvin Price gave a detailed display of the leased land and the options of retaining a new lease with incentives such as free landfill services for the center for the duration of the lease. Mr. Ron Carmack and Ms. Suzann McCommon informed the Board of the history of the sub-lease and other complications that had occurred in the past. The Subcommittee’s recommendation and motion was for the Board to approve the lease between the Board and the City of Conway. Ms. Sally Hardin made a motion to allow the sub lease with the Board’s approval to the City of Conway. Mr. Ron Carmack seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McCommon, Board Chair, stated there was not a scheduled Administrative Services Committee meeting but it is 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. Ron Carmack made a motion to accept the Travel Methodology rates for 2013. Mr. David Rosegrant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

At this time, the election of DDS officers for 2013 year was also conducted. Mr. Ron Carmack made a motion to accept the following slate of officers: David Rosegrant – Chairman, Artie Jones – Vice Chairman and Sally Hardin as Secretary. Robert James seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the gavel was handed to Mr. Rosegrant.

Mr. Forrest Steele, Jonesboro Human Development Center Superintendent, presented the report for the human development centers (HDCs). Mr. Steele reminded the Board the monthly reports for the HDCs were included in the Board packets. Mr. Steele presented items of interest about each HDC along with recent survey results as provided to him by each Superintendent. A special recognition was given to Ms. Judy Adams, Superintendent at Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center for the second OLTC survey without any deficiencies.

At this time, Dr. Charlie Green and the DDS Board left the meeting to enter into an Executive Session.

Following the Executive Session, the DDS Board Meeting convened. It was announced that no formal action would be taken from the discussion of the Executive Session.

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 asked DDS Attorney, James Brader, to address the Board regarding the $31,000.00 that has been left to the Conway Human Development Center through someone’s will. Mr. Brader stated that the donation has been reviewed and that it’s a legitimate inheritance without any compromises or complications such as undeveloped land or other unusual gifts like
the Board has had to deal with in the past. We should receive the money before the next Board Meeting if accepted.

Ms. McCommon called for a motion to accept the $31,000.00 inheritance and that it will be deposited into the Conway HDC’s gifts/bequests fund. Ms. Linda Selman made a motion the inheritance money be accepted and approved for the Conway HDC. Mr. David Rosegrant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Green continued his report to include the following:

Placements at the HDCs: 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. There are approximately 100 overall on the waiting lists. Dr. Green will get exact number on the waiting list for the members of the FFCFR.

Dr. Green reported that only 50 beds went to Arkansas Pediatric Facility and that none of our clients moved with the beds. Dr. Green emphasized that we have licensed beds so that is not the issue, funding is the issue.

Dr. Green discussed DHS’s Leadership (Mentor) Program that is being developed; freeze requests being handled differently by the Office of Personnel Management and a list be set aside for critical positions; capital funding for the construction of buildings at Booneville Human Development center and the concern of mentally ill clients being admitted to human development centers. Dr. Green stated the strategic plan emphasizes tightening up guidelines for appropriate placements in the HDCs but with DD clients, there are some admissions of this type that are admitted. In the past, there have been some issues where Judges court-ordered clients to the HDCs but we have more control of the admissions in this area now with the assistance of James Brader, DDS Attorney, communicating well with the courts.

One more question was asked regarding the fees that will be reimbursed by the Department of Justice lawsuit and what date should we expect the funds. Mr. Brader stated that’s it’s in the works and be assured that the $151,000 is coming.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
ATTEST:

Ms. Suzann McCommon, Chair
Board of Developmental Disabilities Services

Executive Secretary