

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**  
**May 1, 2013**  
**Conway Human Development Center**  
**Conway, Arkansas**

A regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held on May 1, 2013 at the Conway Human Development Center's Visitation Center in Conway, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. pursuant to the call of the Vice Board Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. David Rosegrant, Ms. Artie Jones, Ms. Sally Hardin, 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. Sarah Murphy, Ms. Debbie Eddington, Mr. James Brader, Ms. Tammy Benbrook, Ms. Gail Miller, Mr. Jerry March and Ms. Earline Stoddard.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Phillip Adams, Governor's office, Mr. Eric Treat, Dr. Frank Selman, Mr. Wes Eddington, Ms. Annette Matthews, Mr. Darrell Pickney, Ms. Jan Fortney, Ms. Carole Sherman, Ms. Rita Hoover, Ms. Susan Pierce, Disability Rights and Ms. Amy Ford, Attorney General's Office.

Mr. David Rosegrant, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Mr. Rosegrant asked to take a few minutes to read a thank you note from Ms. Pat Carmack. Ms. Carmack thanked the DDS Board for the flowers and for the expressions of sympathy. Mr. Ron Carmack has served the DDS Board for many years. He passed away in March and he will be missed by everyone for all his hard work, being a great advocate for people with disabilities and being a great man. Dr. Green also expressed his sympathy for the Carmack family and stated Mr. Carmack had been a good friend to him the past 14 years and he thoroughly enjoyed working with him.

Mr. Rosegrant called for a motion on the minutes from the February 6, 2013 regular meeting of the Board of DDS.

Ms. Artie Jones made a motion the minutes from the February 6, 2013 regular meeting of the Board of DDS be approved. Mr. Robert James seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Rosegrant invited consumers, advocates and guests to address the Board. Mr. Darrell Pickney, President of Friends and Families of Care Facility Residents (FFCFR) addressed the Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) Board and thanked the members, Dr. Green, Superintendents and staff for all the hard work they do on a daily basis. Mr. Pickney expressed that he knows there are many good things happening within DDS and he wants everyone to know that FFCFR is on DDS's team. He said he feels like he always notes negative concerns at the meetings but this is the time designated to address the Board. Mr. Pickney expressed concerns as previously mentioned of the functional capacities on the monthly statistical reports and would like a clear definition of what "functional capacity" exactly means on the reports. Mr. Pickney stated he and other family members/guardians are concerned with the unoccupied beds at the human development centers (HDCs).

Ms. Jan Fortney, parent of a client that resides at Conway HDC, addressed the Board with positive news. Ms. Fortney stated her daughter completed her new assessment recently and that the process went smoothly and the assessor was very knowledgeable. She also encouraged all the parents/guardians to make sure that they complete the survey after their loved one is assessed. Ms. Fortney complimented the Legislators for meeting

with family members and groups during the session. The legislators were eager to hear more about the HDCs and learn the ins and outs of the services provided.

Ms. Carole Sherman addressed the Board with her concerns with the physical plant needs at Booneville HDC. She would like to volunteer the FFCFR's members to help form a subcommittee to address the construction or remodeling of the buildings on the campus. Ms. Sherman also wants to know how the new Medicaid Reform and Payment Improvement Initiative plan will affect the clients served by DDS.

Ms. Rita Hoover, parent of a Conway HDC client, thanked the DDS Board and Staff for all the planning and hard work on revamping the weekend staffing options at the facilities but she doesn't think the plan is working out as she had hoped. She asked the DDS Board to rethink the new weekend staffing option and try to improve the staffing ratios or find a new option that will help with weekend coverage. Ms. Hoover's other concern was the same as Ms. Sherman's concerns regarding the upkeep of the Booneville HDC. Ms. Hoover emphasized to the Board that funds are needed to keep this facility alive and thriving.

Ms. Susan Pierce from Disability Rights of Arkansas wanted to know the policy of allowing sex offenders on HDC premises.

Ms. Sally Hardin, member of the DDS Board, stated she is concerned that these same problems and concerns have been brought up by members of FFCFR at each meeting for the past several meetings and there are still no resolutions. She encouraged the other members to "step up to the plate" more effectively.

Mr. Rosegrant thanked the advocates and guests for their comments and stated Dr. Charlie Green would be addressing the issues presented in the Division Director's report.

Ms. Artie Jones presented the report for the Administrative Services Subcommittee and stated the Subcommittee had one item for recommendation to the Board for action. Ms. Jones stated it was recommended and motion made that the DDS Board funds would remain in the Stephens Account and representative from Stephens will meet with committee for financial guidance. Motion carried.

Mr. Calvin Price, Superintendent at Conway HDC, presented the report for the human development centers (HDCs). Mr. Price told everyone that he was glad to be back from leave and that lunch would be served after the meeting. At this time, Mr. Price reminded the Board the monthly reports for the HDCs were included in the Board packets. Mr. Price presented items of interest about each HDC along with recent survey results as provided to him by each Superintendent. Mr. Price informed the group that Conway HDC would not be hosting the Beyond the Border Conference this year.

Dr. Charlie Green presented the Division Director's report. Dr. Green began his report by thanking Mr. Price and staff for hosting the Board meeting. Dr. Green thanked Forrest Steele on the good job he is doing in his new position and for filling in for Mr. Price when he was on leave. Dr. Green recognized Mr. Philip Adams, liaison from the Governor's office and Amy Ford from the Attorney General's office. Dr. Green thanked the Parent Group for their commitment during the legislative session.

Dr. Green asked Forrest Steele to address some of the concerns related to the human development centers. Mr. Steele addressed the functional bed capacities and admissions process. He informed the group that the Superintendents would be meeting this month to evaluate the waiting list, available openings and admissions process. Mr. Steele reported that the funding didn't come through for the renovations at Booneville HDC but they are already assessing the needs and meeting to see what can be done presently to renovate some of the existing buildings. July 1st is the target date to see what monies can be used after the fiscal year begins with the 2013/2014 budget. Mr. Steele confirmed that the weekend staffing option is being utilized at each facility and that Jonesboro HDC was the first facility to start a year ago and hopefully data from the year can be reviewed to see if the option is benefiting the staff, clients and facility. If modifications are needed, they will be made. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, all the HDC campuses will be smoke free. There were some concerns from the audience about client's rights but Ms. Ford from the Attorney General's office and Mr. Adams from the Governor's office verified that it is within the legislator's authority to mandate these types of rules for state facilities.

Dr. Green continued his report by thanking Forrest for the input on some of the concerns and stated he would be glad to meet with any of the groups to discuss further. Dr. Green commended the Superintendents for operating the facilities in an efficient and productive way maintaining accreditation from Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Dr. Green reminded the group that while the DDS Board accepted the plan

for renovations at Booneville HDC, the funding did not get approved and hopefully we can use money in our budget to start some of the renovations in July. There have been some requests from parents to view the DDS Budget for each HDC for this coming year but the budget has not yet been developed to that detail.

Dr. Green explained the Medicaid Expansion, Payment Improvement Initiative and subsidized premiums for poverty level individuals. The great majority of people in our DD population will remain on regular Medicaid.

Mr. James Brader addressed the policy for visitation of sex offenders on HDC campuses. Mr. Brader and Ms. Ford stated that public notification regarding sex offenders was something law enforcement entities are responsible for but any concerns of visitors with clients will be addressed in the client's individual plans and safety measures will be put into place when warranted.

At 11:35 a.m., Dr. Charlie Green, Mr. Forrest Steele and the DDS Board left the meeting to enter Executive Session.

Following the Executive Session, Mr. Rosegrant announced that it was the recommendation of Dr. Green for Ms. Debbie Eddington to be named Superintendent at Jonesboro Human Development Center.

Ms. Linda Selman made a motion that the recommendation for Ms. Eddington be appointed the position of Superintendent at Jonesboro HDC be accepted. Mr. Robert James seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Executive Secretary

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Mr. David Rosegrant, Chair  
Board of Developmental Disabilities Services