

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**  
**November 4, 2015**  
**Arkadelphia Human Development Center**  
**Arkadelphia, Arkansas**

The regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held November 4, 2015 at the Arkadelphia Human Development Center in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. pursuant to the call of the Board Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Board Chair Mr. David Rosegrant, Ms. Sally Hardin, Ms. Suzann McCommon, Mr. Darrell Pickney, Mr. Randy Laverty, Ms. Artie Jones and Dr. Linda Selman.

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Melissa Stone, Mr. Jeff Gonyea, Ms. Linda Scales, Ms. Sarah Murphy, Mr. Forrest Steele, Mr. Steve Farmer, Mr. Charles Smith, Ms. Tammy Benbrook, Ms. Avis Lane and Ms. Geania Dickey.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Jan Fortney, Ms. Rita Hoover, Ms. Carole Sherman, Ms. Annette Matthews, Mr. Frank Selman, parents and family members of HDC residents, Ms. Phyllis Bell, Governor's Office Liaison, Mr. Thomas Nichols and Mr. Christian Adcock both from Disability Rights Arkansas.

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

Mr. Rosegrant called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2015 regular meeting of the DDS Board. Ms. Suzann McCommon made a motion that the minutes from the August 5, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of DDS be approved. Mr. Darrell Pickney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. David Rosegrant called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2015 called meeting of the DDS Board. Ms. Suzann McCommon made a motion that the minutes from the August 18, 2015 called meeting of the Board of DDS be approved. Mr. Randy Laverty seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

After approval of the minutes, Mr. David Rosegrant asked Sarah Murphy, Interim Superintendent of the Conway Human Development Center, to come forward to accept an Outstanding Service Award from the Board to Calvin Price, former Superintendent of the Conway Human Development Center. The plaque was given in appreciation for his years of dedicated service and to congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Price was unable to attend the meeting.

After presentation of the award, Mr. David Rosegrant requested that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m. and returned at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. David Rosegrant called for a motion to accept Ms. Melissa Stone as Interim Director of Developmental Disabilities Services. Mr. Darrell Pickney made a motion to accept Ms. Stone as Interim Director. Ms. Suzann McCommon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

After the motion was made and accepted Mr. David Rosegrant, on behalf of the Board, congratulated Ms. Melissa Stone on her new position.

Mr. David Rosegrant called for a motion to accept Interim Director Melissa Stone's recommendation to appoint Ms. Sarah Murphy as Superintendent of the Conway Human Development Center. Ms. Sally Hardin made a motion to accept Ms. Murphy as Superintendent. Ms. Artie Jones seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

After the motion was made and accepted Mr. David Rosegrant, on behalf of the Board, congratulated Ms. Sarah Murphy on her new position.

Ms. Melissa Stone introduced Ms. Phyllis Bell, Governor's Office Liaison and Ms. Geania Dickey, DHS Director of Human Capital.

Mr. David Rosegrant introduced Ms. Avis Lane, Administrative Assistant/DDS Program Coordinator for the DDS Director. Ms. Lane replaced Tammy Benbrook who is now Program Administrator/Trainer for DDS.

There were no subcommittee reports to present.

Mr. David Rosegrant invited consumers, advocates and guests to address the Board.

Ms. Jan Fortney, parent of a Conway HDC Resident, addressed the Board with the following inquiries;

- 1) Update on Hazard Pay and/or 6% Geographical Differential Pay for Direct Care Staff.
- 2) Update on tracking of calls received by HDCs regarding requests for services.
- 3) The potential affect the Stephens Group's proposal for managed care would have on HDC residents.

(See Attachment 1:1)

Ms. Carole Sherman, parent of an Arkadelphia HDC resident, thanked the DDS Board, HDC Superintendents and staff for their support of human development centers and residents. Ms. Sherman also requested clarification of a 10/31/15 newspaper article which addressed DHS software contracts to access client information. (See Attachment 1:2)

Mr. David Rosegrant thanked Ms. Fortney and Ms. Sherman for their statements and advised Ms. Melissa Stone, Interim Director, would address their concerns in her report.

Mr. Steve Farmer, Superintendent of Arkadelphia HDC, presented the report for the human development centers and reminded the Board that monthly reports for the HDCs were included

in the Board packets. Mr. Farmer presented items of interest about each HDC along with recent survey results and CARF accreditation provided to him by each Superintendent.

Mr. Darrell Pickney addressed the Board regarding comments of our facilities being viewed as "institutions" and made note of the home-like atmosphere of our human development centers. Mr. Pickney recently attended a seminar in Chicago and stated he embraced some of the new terminology such as "residents" as opposed to "clients" and urged everyone to make an effort to use such language when referencing our residents and facilities. Mr. Pickney also noted a positive point that was voiced in that it has been found that people who reside in facilities are never lonely compared to those who live isolated in the communities.

Ms. McCommon offered remarks regarding the HDC report and commended Mr. Jeff Gonyea, Booneville HDC Superintendent, noting the number of individuals requiring restraints have decreased.

Ms. Melissa Stone began her report by recognizing and extending appreciation to the Board for their continued service and thanked Mr. Steve Farmer and Arkadelphia HDC for hosting the DDS Board Meeting. Ms. Stone then asked Ms. Geania Dickey, Director of Human Capital, to come forward and give the Board an update on current events regarding staff retention, hiring and incentives.

Ms. Geania Dickey provided an explanation of her position and duties. Mr. Randy Laverty asked that she expound upon her meaning of "retention" with regards to staff of the human development centers. Ms. Dickey reported that HDCs are listed in the top three divisions with staff retention problems and that we must consider if the correct people are being hired and/or trained properly. Ms. Dickey also outlined ideas for pay increases and other incentives to increase staff retention for residential care staff. Incentives are also being considered for all of the HDC positions.

Ms. Melissa Stone continued her report by discussing recent inquiries from the parents and Board members. The following topics were addressed;

- 1) Tracking calls to the human development centers and obtaining information for admissions, respite, transfers and wait list numbers.
- 2) Explanation of the priority list for waiver when a resident currently resides in a human development center.
- 3) Choice options for services.
- 4) Stephens Group report. Stephens Group visit to Jonesboro HDC and rescheduling of the visit to Booneville HDC.
- 5) Information on managed care recommendations.
- 6) Legal questions regarding policy will be discussed with Attorney General Representative, Nina Carter, who was unable to attend.
- 7) Assessments continue to be completed on waiver clients but not human development center clients. Explanation of the assessment procedure including the tier results.
- 8) Outcome of the Parents Group meeting with the Governor.

After much discussion between Board members, Mr. Darrell Pickney asked if any of the capital improvement projects on Mr. John Selig's list had been designated for funding and if so, what priority was used. Mr. Pickney also wanted an explanation of the attachment from the August Board Meeting on capital improvements. Ms. Melissa Stone advised she would obtain the information as Mr. Dale Woodall was not in attendance today.

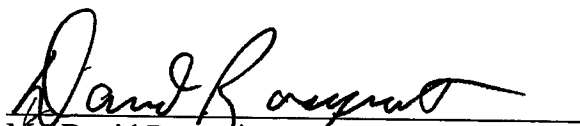
Mr. Darrell Pickney proposed the DDS Board meet with the Governor on a semi-annual basis. Members of the Board and DDS staff explained to Mr. Pickney meetings are accomplished through reports and correspondence. Mr. Pickney recommended the Board conduct meetings face-to-face with the Governor to inform him of what the DDS Board stands for and to be the voice of the residents. After much discussion, it was decided Ms. Melissa Stone would review the policy with the Attorney General Representative and Ms. Phyllis Bell would check the Governor's meeting schedule.

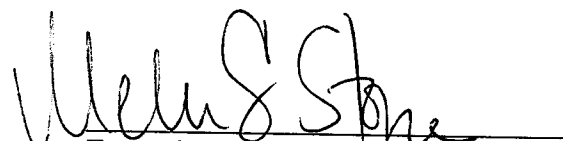
Mr. David Rosegrant instructed the Board to review the Travel Methodology so that Board members can be reimbursed for their services through the state system. Ms. Suzann McCommon made a motion to accept the Travel Methodology rates for 2016. Ms. Artie Jones seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At this time, the election of DDS officers for 2016 year was conducted. Ms. Suzann McCommon made a motion to accept the following slate of officers; Randy Laverty as Chairman, Darrell Pickney as Vice Chairman and Sally Hardin as Secretary. Dr. Linda Selman seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The gavel was presented to Mr. Laverty.

Mr. David Rosegrant called for a motion for the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Sally Hardin made a motion for the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Darrell Pickney seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Mr. David Rosegrant, Chair, Board of DDS

  
Executive Secretary

Comments for DDS Board Meeting – 11/4/15

Good Morning, I am Jan Fortney. I am the parent & guardian of Kim who lives at CHDC. First, I want to thank you for continuing to watch the issues that arise concerning our Human Development Centers, and most recently handling the situation with the DDS/HDC Task Force.

I have three questions for you today.

- 1) What is the update on the Hazard Pay and/or 6% Geographical Differential Pay for Direct Care Staff?
- 2) Do you have an update or report on the Tracking of Calls that the HDCs receive for Request for Services?
- 3) The Stephen Group consultants have proposed to the Health Care Task Force a recommendation of Managed Care for “high cost” populations, which would include residents at the Human Development Centers.  
Would you give us your insight on how Managed Care will affect our loved ones and what to expect if this happens, and will the DDS Board still govern what happens with our HDCs?

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today, and thank you for your continued service.

DDS Board meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Statement of Carole L. Sherman

Arkadelphia HDC Mother and Co-Guardian of John

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Thank you for your work in support of our human development centers and in support of our HDC residents.

I read an article last weekend in the Democrat Gazette that concerns our state's DHS contracts with software companies. The description of the contracts is that companies were hired to develop

"a tool that would move developmental disability assessments by the department to a computerized service administered by nurses and other professionals.

The project would determine how much care should cost for each person and track results. The department plans to use the software for roughly 12,000 Arkansans with developmental disabilities."

Could you provide information on this project?

How will the project affect our HDC residents?

Thank you.