

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
November 2, 2016
Conway Human Development Center
Conway, Arkansas

The regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held November 2, 2016 at the Conway Human Development Center in Conway, Arkansas. The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. pursuant to the call of the Board Chair.

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

STAFF PRESENT: DDS Director Melissa Stone, Jeff Gonyea, Sarah Murphy, Johnathan Jones, Diane Keith, Linda Scales, Forrest Steele, Steve Farmer, Avis Lane, Tammy Benbrook, Andrew Branch, Dale Woodall and Thomas Tarpley.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jan Fortney, Carole Sherman, Conway HDC staff, parents and family members of HDC residents, DHS Director Cindy Gillespie, DHS Executive Staff members; Dawn Stehle, David Sterling, Kelley Linck, Misty Bowen-Eubanks, Amy Webb, Jeff Dean and Glenn Eisenhauer, Attorney General Representative Olan Reeves, Christian Adcock from Disability Rights Arkansas, Cindy Mahan, Peggy Nabors, Rita Hoover and Melvin Pickney.

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

Mr. Laverty called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2016 regular meeting of the DDS Board and the September 16, 2016 called meeting of the DDS Board. Mr. Pickney made a motion that the minutes be approved. Ms. Harding seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Carole Sherman, parent of an Arkadelphia HDC resident, thanked the DDS Board, HDC Superintendents and staff for their support of the Human Development Centers and residents. Ms. Sherman also noted the Arkadelphia Human Development Center celebrated 48 years of service. Ms. McCommon then thanked Ms. Sherman for an article published by the Democrat Gazette she'd written regarding HDC residents.

Mr. Laverty introduced DHS Director Cindy Gillespie and invited her to address the Board. Ms. Gillespie thanked Mr. Laverty and utilized the opportunity to introduce the DHS Executive Staff and briefly share their roles within DHS. Ms. Gillespie also spoke of efforts being made to position DHS as a strong client centered organization. Mr. Laverty thanked Ms. Gillespie for the Executive Staff's presence and for providing an understanding of their roles. Mr. Laverty also advised the Board would serve as a partner in the DHS shared services mission. Mr. Pickney thanked Ms. Gillespie and voiced his reassurance DHS will move forward positively in their relationship with the Human Development Centers.

Mr. Lavery introduced the HDC Superintendents and Attorney General Representative Olan Reeves.

There were no subcommittee reports to present.

In lieu of the Human Development Centers report being presented by Ms. Murphy, a copy of the items of interest related to each center along with information regarding recent activities was entered into the record. (Attachment 1)

Mr. Woodall provided the Capital Projects Report and Mr. Lavery complimented him for his tireless efforts in this area. (Attachment 2)

Mr. Lavery read a letter of appreciation from HDC Superintendents thanking DDS Director Melissa Stone and others for their successful efforts in securing an increase in wages for residential care staff. (Attachment 3)

Mr. Gonyea presented information to the Board regarding a lease agreement renewal between Booneville Human Development Center and Magazine Telephone Company. (Attachment 4) Ms. McCommon made a motion that the lease agreement be approved. Mr. Rosegrant seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Pickney requested that Mr. Woodall provide a list of HDC leases.

DDS Director Melissa Stone began her report with an update on the RFP for Assessments. The current HDC Subcommittee recommendation involves independent assessments being conducted on clients entering public or private ICFs beginning July 1, 2017. The assessments will not be used to determine eligibility but rather place clients in one of two tiers; one which requires twenty-four hour care and one that does not. Existing HDC clients will not be affected. Mr. Pickney inquired if a family has any recourse if the assessment results indicate a client does not require twenty-four hour care. Ms. Stone advised there is an appeal process. Mr. Pickney also requested he be provided with a report of clients who are determined to not require twenty-four hour care and noted he would like to see clients moved from the wait list to available empty beds.

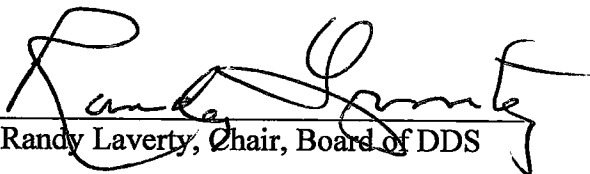
Mr. Lavery requested the Administrative Services Subcommittee meet to discuss the previous action to transfer duties and authority to the DDS Director. The Subcommittee members are; Chair, Suzann McCommon, David Rosegrant, Darrell Pickney, Sarah Murphy and an HDC parent to be determined.

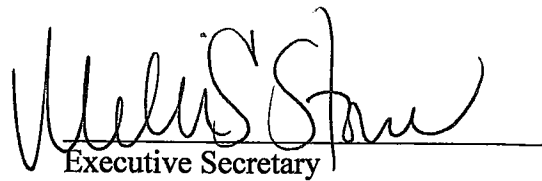
The Board was provided the 2017 Reimbursement Methodology. (Attachment 5) Mr. Lavery and Ms. McCommon raised questions concerning state policy associated with hotel and meal reimbursement. Chief Procurement Officer Misty Bowen-Eubanks advised she would review the policy for clarification. Ms. McCommon made a motion to approve the methodology. Mr. Pickney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Pickney requested an update regarding the vacant Superintendent position at the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center. Ms. Stone advised the Board of Steve Farmer's exceptional performance in his current dual role. She further advised freeze approval has been received and that she, Forrest Steele and Glenn Eisenhauer, Director of Human Resources, are working to identify qualified candidates. Ms. Stone also provided the Board with the HDC budgets. (Attachment 6)

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

ATTEST:


Mr. Randy Laverty, Chair, Board of DDS


Executive Secretary