

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**  
**August 1, 2018**  
**Jonesboro Human Development Center**  
**Jonesboro, Arkansas**

The regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held August 1, 2018 at the Jonesboro Human Development Center. The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. pursuant to the call of the Board Chair.

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

STAFF PRESENT: DDS Director Melissa Stone, Jeff Gonyea, Sarah Murphy, Mark Wargo, Johnathan Jones, Steve Farmer, Avis Lane, Tammy Benbrook, Dale Woodall, Thomas Tarpley and Jim Brader.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jan Fortney, Rita Hoover, Barbara Posey, Linda Ladyman, Jonesboro HDC staff, parents and family members of HDC residents.

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

Mr. Laverty called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2018 regular meeting of the DDS Board. Mr. Pickney made a motion that the minutes be approved. Mr. Rosegrant seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Rita Hoover of A Voice of Reason (VOR) addressed the Board. VOR, a national organization, advocates for public and private ICFs. Ms. Hoover recently attended the annual VOR conference in DC where she was elected as a Board Member. Topics addressed during the conference included quality care, Olmstead is a choice, and researching dental care for ICFs. Ms. Hoover also had the opportunity to visit with Congressional Delegates and presented them with placemats made by residents from the Booneville Human Development Center. In additions, Ms. Hoover serves as the Arkansas State Coordinator and Co-leader of the State Coordinator Program. The Board was provided an overview of VOR's mission (attachment 1) and the Arkansas 2017 State Report (Attachment 2). Jan Fortney of Families and Friends of Care Facility Residents shared that Ms. Hoover was also presented with the National Voice Award. Mr. Laverty congratulated Ms. Hoover on her election to the Board, the recognition award, and thanked her for her continued service.

DDS Director Melissa Stone began her report by advising the Board that additional information is needed regarding the World of Wireless cell tower lease discussed during the May 2, 2018, meeting. Amendments to the proposed lease agreement will be reviewed by the Physical Management Subcommittee and then presented to the full Board.

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Ms. Stone announced that thanks to the efforts of Governor Asa Hutchinson and DHS Director Cindy Gillespie legislation passed allowing for a special account to benefit the Booneville Human Development Center. Funds have been allocated to build a new residence on campus in the area where abandoned buildings have been demolished. Construction is set to be completed in 18 to 24 months.

DDS IT Liaison, Rosemarie Lovato, has been tasked with the installation of time clocks and updated security cameras. All human development centers have now been equipped with time clocks which will decrease the use of paper and the need to key time by hand. She is currently exploring a security camera update which will allow viewing from the central office.

The new Early Intervention Day Treatment (EIDT) and Adult Developmental Day Treatment (ADDT) programs began August 1, 2018.

On August 9, 2018, Governor Hutchinson will recognize farmer's markets. Ms. Stone made the Board aware that Jonesboro Human Development Center is currently operating a farmer's market.

The third annual DDS Fall Festival is scheduled for September 28, 2018. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the DDS store will also take place on this date. HDC crafts and crafts created by other community providers will be marketed. Clients will be employed at the store through SAME, the State Agency Model Employer.

The Arkadelphia Human Development Center 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will be held on October 9, 2018.

Beginning January 1, 2019, the plus premium tax will go into effect to help eliminate the wait list. Also, community providers with pay a daily rate for respite care.


Steve Farmer, Superintendent of Jonesboro HDC, presented the report for the Human Development Centers by sharing items of interest regarding each center and reminded the Board details of all events are contained in the Board packet. Mr. Farmer noted games are held at Miracle League Park on campus in both the spring and fall and offered a tour at the conclusion of the meeting

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:15 a.m. to discuss personnel issues and returned at 11:35 a.m. Ms. McCommon made a motion to accept Kerry Gambill as Interim Superintendent of the Arkadelphia Human Development Center effective August 26, 2018. Ms. Hardin seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board extended thanks to Johnathan Jones for serving in a dual capacity in both Conway and Arkadelphia.

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With there being no further business Mr. Laverty called for a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Pickney made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Rosegrant seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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Mr. Randy Laverty, Chair, Board of DDS

  
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Executive Secretary