

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
February 6, 2019
Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center
Warren, Arkansas

The regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held February 6, 2019 at the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center. The meeting convened at 10:33 a.m. pursuant to the call of the Board Chair.

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

STAFF PRESENT: DDS Director Melissa Stone, Jeff Gonyea, Sarah Murphy, Kerry Gambill, Steve Farmer, Mark Wargo, Avis Lane, Tammy Benbrook, Dale Woodall, Thomas Tarpley and Hannah Knight.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jan Fortney, Rita Hoover, Southeast Arkansas HDC staff, parents and family members of HDC residents, and Gregg Reep, President of the SEAHDC Volunteer Council.

Mr. Pickney called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked the Southeast Arkansas HDC Superintendent, Mark Wargo, for hosting the Board meeting.

Mr. Pickney called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2018 regular meeting of the DDS Board. Ms. McCommon made a motion that the minutes be approved. Mr. Rosegrant seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Pickney asked for clarification of the current subcommittee chairs. He was advised Ms. Hardin serves as Chair of the Physical Management Subcommittee and Ms. McCommon serves as Chair of the Administrative Services Subcommittee.

Mr. Wargo presented the report for the Human Development Centers and shared items of interest about each center. Steve Farmer, Superintendent of Jonesboro HDC, provided information regarding Nursing Home Administrator training that is currently taking place at JHDC. Ms. McCommon commended Mr. Farmer and noted the training to be an excellent initiative for leadership development. Jeff Gonyea, Superintendent of Booneville HDC, outlined scheduled demolition projects. Ms. Hardin offered a note of appreciation to all Superintendents for the excellent job they are doing to consistently engage clients in activities.

DDS Director Melissa Stone began her report with an update on the Legislative Session. The DHS Executive staff meets daily to track bills that are of interest to DHS/DDS. HB 1281 sponsored by Representative Ladyman will replace the terms "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" with "intellectual disabilities". SB 221, The Al Hunt Act, is sponsored by Senator

Hammer to address these terms. There is opposition to naming the Act after a person as that appears to exclude other DD clients. HB 1331 addresses a process for the distribution of funds and property of HDC clients upon their death. HB 1166 changes the term "Director" of the Department of Human Services to "Secretary". Ms. Stone also advised the Board of SB 117 sponsored by Senator Chuck Schumer that addresses closure of human development centers. VOR State Coordinator, Rita Hoover, encouraged everyone to read/follow SB 117 and to reach out to Arkansas Congressional Delegates.

The Blue Umbrella grand opening is scheduled for February 7th. The Governor and Legislators have been invited. The store manager and clients who make crafts for the store will be in attendance. To promote the store's opening, Ms. Stone and a client will be interviewed on Good Afternoon Arkansas on February 6th.

Ms. Stone concluded her report by advising that the PASSE model has been functional for 22 days to ensure there are no interruptions in services.

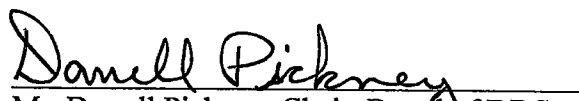
Following discussion of the travel methodology Ms. McCommon made a motion to accept the rates for 2019. Ms. Hardin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At 11:00 a.m. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The Board returned at 11:13 a.m. A motion was made by Ms. Hardin to accept Ms. Kerry Gambill as Superintendent of the Arkadelphia Human Development Center. Ms. Suzann McCommon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Pickney, on behalf of the Board, congratulated Ms. Gambill on her new position.

Following a thank you from Mr. Reep for the Board and Staff's visit to Warren Mr. Pickney called for a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Rosegrant made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Ms. Jones seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 p.m.

ATTEST:


Mr. Darrell Pickney, Chair, Board of DDS


Executive Secretary