

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**  
**November 6, 2019**  
**Jonesboro Human Development Center**  
**Jonesboro, Arkansas**

The regular meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held November 6, 2019 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 Darrell Pickney, Sally Hardin, Randy Laverty, Suzann McCommon, and Artie Jones.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jan Fortney, Helen Beebe, Teresa Bailey, Jonesboro HDC staff, parents and family members of HDC residents.

Mr. Pickney called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked Jonesboro HDC Superintendent, Steve Farmer, for hosting the Board meeting.

Mr. Pickney called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2019 regular meeting of the DDS Board. Ms. McCommon made a motion that the minutes be approved. Ms. Jones seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Pickney called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2019 called meeting of the DDS Board. Ms. McCommon made a motion that the minutes be approved. Ms. Hardin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Hardin, chair of the Physical Management Subcommittee, advised the Board that the subcommittee reviewed a proposal for an amendment to the existing lease with the city of Conway. At this time the city leases 59 acres and requests 57 additional acres, currently being utilized as farm land. It will be used to build a soccer complex, handicap accessible splash pad and a nature trail all which Conway HDC will have access to. Ms. Hardin made a recommendation for approval to pursue a draft of the addendum. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Ms. Hardin also made a recommendation on behalf of the Physical Management Subcommittee that Booneville HDC proceed with collecting bids to harvest timber. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Mr. Farmer presented the report for the Human Development Centers and shared items of interest about each center. He also advised lunch being served following the meeting was

provided by the Employee Relations Committee. Ms. Hardin and Mr. Pickney commended the superintendents and staff for the outstanding work put forth by the HDCs to keep clients engaged.

DDS Director Melissa Stone reported DDS is moving forward with master plans and the installation of electronic time clocks as well as fiber optics. Mr. Woodall, Mr. Tarpley and the superintendents are working on new designs for campus structures. An unveiling will be scheduled soon for the new buildings on the Booneville HDC campus.

Two new employees have been hired for The Blue Umbrella and are assisting the HDCs with the development of business plans. There are currently 134 HDC clients creating products for the store and over \$15,000 in sales have been generated since February. Ms. Stone was pleased to announce The Blue Umbrella has been given the opportunity to sponsor a pop-up shop at the Junior League Holiday House this year. The store was also invited by Senator Irving to do a pop-up shop at Public Health.

The Arkansas Repertory Theatre in Little is partnering with DDS and The Blue Umbrella to do an event in the spring, 2020 as the Rep will produce a play on Autism.

Mr. Tarpley and Ms. Stone discussed correspondence from Stephens, Inc. which advised the clearinghouse portion of the company has been sold. The sale, however, will not affect the DDS account. Stephens will remain custodian of the account and Troy Clark will continue as investment advisor.

Mr. Pickney asked if the DDS budget will adequately fund the current HDC projects. Ms. Stone advised it would. She also advised the budget was sufficient to cover any increases in salary.


Bryan Redditt was introduced as the new DDS CFO.

The Board was provided the 2019 Mileage Reimbursement Methodology (Attachment 1). Ms. McCommon made a motion to approve the methodology. Ms. Jones seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Jan Fortney introduced her mother, Helen Beebe, to the Board and on behalf of Carole Sherman thanked the Board for the work they do for the clients and families.

There being no further business Mr. Pickney called for a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Ms. Hardin made the motion. Ms. Jones seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

ATTEST:

  
Mr. Darrell Pickney, Chair, Board of DDS

  
Executive Secretary