



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

STATE INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS BOARD

ZOOM MEETING ~ JULY 14, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present: Porter Brownlee, Board Vice-Chair
Steven Blackwood
James Luker

DHS Staff Present: Kara Benca, Assistant Director, Quality Assurance, Division of Youth Services
Michael Crump, Director, Division of Youth Services
Sarah Cunningham, DYS Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel
Alicia Davis, Executive Assistant, Division of Youth Services
Jay Hill, Director, Division of Aging Adult and Behavioral Services
Mark Hooten, Physical Plant Manager, Division of Youth Services
Scottie Leslie, Admin. Analyst, Division of Aging Adult and Behavioral Services

Guests: Phyllis Bell, Senior Advisor for Child Welfare, Governor's Office

Agenda Item 1: **CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the State Institutional Systems Board was held via ZOOM and called to order by Mr. Porter Brownlee, Vice-Chair, at 1:10 p.m., July 14, with three (3) board members present.

Agenda Item 2: **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2021 MINUTES**

Mr. Porter Brownlee, Vice-Chair, asked if all members had received and reviewed the minutes from the April 2021 meeting and if there were any questions, additions, or corrections.

There being none, **Mr. Steven Blackwood made a motion to approve the April 14, 2021, minutes. Mr. James Luker seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

Agenda Item 3: **DIVISION OF AGING ADULT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
QUARTERLY REPORT**

Mr. Jay Hill, Director, presented the DAABHS report.

Arkansas State Hospital (ASH)

- The room by room project started a while back but has been slowed due to the public health pandemic. The project is scheduled to be completed in October of this year.
- The asbestos removal project for three (3) rooms in the materials building was completed by Nabholz Construction in May, with a total cost of \$28,000.
- The approved fencing project and the additional courtyard projects are in the final review phase with the Arkansas Building Authority before bid requests are released.
- DHS Staff is still seeking estimates for tile repairs/replacement that might include a non-slip epoxy flooring for forensic unit patient bathrooms and showers.
- As discussed in previous meetings, ASH adolescent patients have abused and destroyed three (3) different models of “secure” doors. Under new business, Mr. Hill will be asking for approval to move forward with upgrading doors at this unit to penal-grade double doors at a cost of \$22,000 per set ~ or \$154,000.

There were no new updates to report for the Arkansas Health Center.

Vice-Chair Brownlee asked if there were any questions or comments for DAABHS. There being none, **Mr. Steven Blackwood made a motion to approve the report. Mr. James Luker seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

Agenda Item 4: **DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES (DYS)**

Ms. Kara Benca, Assistant Director for Quality Assurance, Service Delivery, and Compliance, referenced the comprehensive report submitted to board members and asked Mr. Mark Hooten, DYS Physical Plant Manager, to briefly discuss the projects underway at DYS facilities.

Mr. Hooten said that the majority of large projects for DYS have been completed. A previous concern of the Board was a drainage issue at the Dermott facility. There have been no problems with the rains we have had recently, but measures are in place to help determine where serious problems exist the next time DJTC experiences a rain blowing in from the north.

Upon completion of his report, Mr. Hooten asked if there were any questions. Mr. Jim Luker asked about the septic system problems discussed at the April meeting. Mr. Hooten stated that a purchase order has been issued to Scott's Plumbing and work is proceeding to replace the deteriorated lids at the five (5) concrete septic tanks at Lewisville.

Mr. Luker asked if it was Lewisville or another location that we at one time had hopes we could tie into a local municipal system. Mr. Hooten responded saying that was discussed concerning Mansfield JTC, but it was too costly for DYS to pursue.

Mr. Michael Crump, DYS Director, added that sewer repairs are currently underway at Mansfield, and only a few more "dry" weeks are needed for the contractor to install the liner. Mr. Crump also reported that he, along with staff from DAABHS, traveled to Lewisville to see the substance abuse treatment program in action and that the facility looked great. All the windows have been replaced, buildings and trim have been painted, the greenhouse is operational, and drainage issues are being addressed.

Mr. Luker stated that the minutes reflect drainage and septic issues are a recurring problem in these low-lying areas and any opportunity to tie into a municipal system would be good. Mr. Hooten replied that at Lewisville, with the city so far away and the rural location of the facility, it will be awhile before there is an occasion to do so.

Vice-Chair Brownlee asked if there were any further questions. There being none, **Mr. Steven Blackwood made a motion to approve the DYS report. Mr. James Luker seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

Agenda Item 5: **OLD BUSINESS**

Vice-Chair Brownlee asked if there was any old business. There was none.

Agenda Item 6: **NEW BUSINESS**

Vice-Chair Brownlee asked if there was any new business.

Mr. Jay Hill stated that new penal-grade double doors would be a significant security enhancement for the adolescent unit at the Arkansas State Hospital as and he is seeking approval from the Board to proceed with upgrading the existing doors to these at a cost of \$22,000 per set ~ or approximately \$154,000 total.

Mr. Porter Brownlee asked about funding for this project and Mr. Hill explained the project would be funded by IDE, which is the Division's capital account and the balance is sufficient to cover the cost.

Vice-Chair Brownlee asked if there any other questions. Mr. Jim Luker asked if there were multiple potential vendors so that we know we're receiving a decent bid. Mr. Hill replied that vendors for this specialty product are limited, but that hospital staff has done a good job at shopping around for a door that is safe, secure, and workable within the existing structure. It's not necessarily a sole source, but the vendors for this specific product are definitely limited.

Mr. Steven Blackwood made a motion to approve the Unit D door replacement project at the State Hospital. Mr. James Luker seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Vice-Chair Brownlee asked if there is any other new business. Mr. Jim Luker asked about the status for the enhanced funds received from the federal government and if DHS would have to wait to use the funds until the legislature appropriated funds during the next session. He continued by stating that this might be a good time to consider a major construction project to replace an inadequate facility. Mr. Hill replied by saying he isn't certain of the full amount DHS will receive, but he is aware there have been some conversations among community members about expanding the State Hospital using the federal rescue funds. He isn't aware of approval yet from the Governor's office.

Mr. Hill's understanding is that DF&A will hold all funds and that agency divisions, such as DAABHS and DYS, will put together proposals to present to the legislature for approval. Only after approval by the legislature and DF&A will funds shift to the requesting party. Mr. Luker's understanding is that the state will receive a substantial sum of money and he wants us to be ready if that happens.

Agenda Item 7: **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Steven Blackwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. James Luker seconded the motion. Motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be held via zoom on October 13.

Respectfully Submitted:



Steven Blackwood, Secretary
State Institutional Systems Board