

**METROPOLITAN HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 27, 2017
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Human Services District was held on Friday January 27, 2017 at the District Office, located at 3100 General de Gaulle Drive, New Orleans, La. 70114. The meeting was called to order at 12:37 pm. Roll was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Board members in attendance were Dr. Cathy Lazarus, Charlotte Parent, Michael Pechon, Sarintha Stricklin, Gary Mendoza and Marsha Broussard, MPH, Dr.P.H. Chair, Gary Mendoza was the ranking member or the Board and ran the meeting.

Other individuals present were: MHSD, Rochelle Head-Dunham, MD Executive Director/Medical Director, Steven J. Farber, Deputy Director of Administration/General Counsel, Shana Marcelin Accounting Supervisor, Denise Oguinn Medical Certification Supervisor, Amanda Kay Henderson, Executive Staff Attorney, Sharon Barnett-Starks Mental Area Regional Director and Kimberly Bourque Executive Assistant to Dr. Dunham. Plaquemines Care: Julie Olsen.

Call to Order by Board Chair Gary Mendoza, Marsha Broussard, MPH, D.Ph. was sworn in by Steven J. Farber, JD; and introduced herself to the board members.

Motion to approve the December 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Michael Pechon; Motion 2nd by Charlotte Parent.

Chair Report

a. Budget Developments

MHSD received a letter from Representative Harris calling for additional cuts to budget. Governor is currently not asking for any additional revenue. MHSD is likely to receive additional cuts, on top of what we have already cut.

b. Meeting with State Legislators

Chair Gary Mendoza and members of the Executive Team at MHSD met with Senator Troy Carter and Representative Walter J. Leger, III. Both meetings went well. Senator Carter suggested we do a health fair with his team, MHSD was accepting of the idea. The Board suggested that we attempt to put together a list of Senators and Representatives who are not as in favor of our budgets. Dr. Broussard asked if Senator Cater talked about his strategy going into the special session; Dr. Dunham stated that he did not. During the meetings, there was a lot of discussion regarding Medicaid Expansion and how it has/will effect MHSD. Dr. Dunham has sent them additional information regarding the effects of Expansion. During both meetings there was discussion regarding Representative Harris' budget cut proposal. Gary requested that the board members begin to get themselves educated regarding the budget and possible cuts, as they could be asked questions.

Executive Director's Report

a. Introduction of New Staff

No new staff to introduce.

b. Update on MHSD Activities

MHSD will be pursuing CARF accreditation on our Child & Youth Division. This will take place during the next 6 months. We are currently looking into getting an accreditation in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Division. Our goal is to have three accreditations. Dr. Dunham also shared with the Board Members that MHSD will be putting our Mobile Unit into a few Parades this coming Carnival Season. Dr. Dunham invited our Board Members to join our employees in walking. Dr. Dunham also shared that MHSD will hold a team building exercise for the entire staff on April 6th. The board reviewed a few reports regarding quality at MHSD.

c. Budget

Dr. Dunham spoke about budget during Chair's Report

d. Legislative Mid-Year Budget Cuts/Special Session

Dr. Dunham spoke about the letter to the Governor all LGE's were asked to write. She also spoke to different budget cut scenarios. Dr. Dunham shared two possible problems with our budget. Currently the legislators is looking at our Escrow account and are talking about taking the account. MHSD is in need of a new HER (Electronic Health Record) System, and may use the money in the escrow account to fund the new system. Also, we are looking at ways to bill on the Child & Youth program in order to generate funding. Currently that is funding by OBH & LDH.

e. Board Education: Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Presentation

Denise Oguinn gave I/DD presentation.

f. Proposal: Communications Department: Use of Board Members' Names on MHSD Letterhead

No object from the board members to have names on letterhead.

Parish Updates

None.

Other Business

None

Public Comments

None

Date of next Meeting: Proposed Friday, February 24, 2017

Agreed.

Adjournment

Motion by Cathy Lazarus at 2:17pm