

**Florida Parishes Human Services Authority**  
**Minutes of the FPHSA Governing Board Meeting**  
**FPHSA Headquarters**  
**835 Pride Drive, Suite B, Hammond, LA 70401**  
**September 26, 2025**

Dr. Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, Board Chair, called the meeting of the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA) Governing Board to order at 9:30 a.m.

Rebecca Soley conducted a roll call. A quorum was established.

**Attendees**

Governing Board: Brandon Browning; David Duplantier, Byron Hurst, Timothy Lentz, Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, M.D; Mona Pellichino; JoBeth Valentino; and Noble-Bates Young

**FPHSA Staff/ Guest:** Richard Kramer, FPHSA Executive Director; Rachelle Sibley, FPHSA Chief Operating Officer; and Rebecca Soley, FPHSA Board Secretary

Prayer was offered by Mr. Lentz.

**Agenda/Consent Agenda**

Dr. Metcalf extended an offer for additional agenda items or revisions to the agenda.

Ms. Young made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Lentz.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Swearing-In Ceremony**

Attorney Patrick Coudrain performed the swearing-in ceremony for Dr. Byron Hurst who was appointed to the board to represent St. Helena Parish and for Deborah Kropog who was appointed to the board to represent Livingston Parish. The board congratulated and welcomed each new member.

**Excused Absences**

All members were present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Young made a motion adopting the August 22, 2025, minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Lentz.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Input**

Dr. Metcalf welcomed all in attendance and extended an opportunity for public input.

## **Executive Director Report**

Mr. Kramer presented the following updates for September 2025:

1. CCBHC Grant Update: We received notice from SAMHSA that our 3'd year of the CCHC grant was approved for the federal fiscal year starting October 1. As a reminder, this grant is \$1m a year for four years with some potential to renew it. The long-term goal is that CCHCs will be funded through regular Medicaid payment mechanisms in Louisiana. LDH is currently working on their own plans to receive federal approval to put the required structures in place to support the continuation and development of CCBHCs.
2. CARF Accreditation Survey: We were notified by CARF earlier this month that our triennial survey, which had been planned for November or December of this year, will now be held in May or June of 2026. Our accreditation will not end in January and is officially extended until that time as a part of the delay.
3. Primary Care Partnership Update: Our primary care clinic partnership with De Paul is set to open on October 22 at the Hammond clinic. We are meeting weekly to work out final details but everything is in place to get started. The pharmacy opening will be some time later as it will require a new pharmacy license from the board which will take some time. In the meantime, Genoa will continue serving our Hammond clients through our other clinics with a medical assistant on site to ensure that clients can continue to have their needs met during the transition.
4. Medicaid Reductions: As a part of what was called Trump's Big Beautiful Bill \$50 billion was made available with the intent of mitigating impacts of Medicaid reductions to rural healthcare. These funds will be made available over five years with states competing for the dollars by submitting their proposals next month. Louisiana is well placed to receive significant funding and a statewide task force has been created to draft the plan. I was invited to represent FPHSA on this task force and will be advocating, along with other CCHC and LGE counterparts, for money to be dedicated towards CCHC and behavioral health expansion in our regions.
5. DOGE: Governor Landry created a Louisiana DOGE commission several months ago tasked with finding efficiencies and savings in state government similar to the federal effort charged with doing the same. LA DOGE, through LDH, requested that all LDH departments and LEs come up with efficiency plans to reduce their state general fund dollars by 10% without cutting services. Because we are a services organization and almost the entirety of our budget goes to providing services, it is impossible for us to come up with that type of savings without reducing services. I see it as my job, along with the rest of leadership, to ensure that we are operating efficiently every day without a mandate from the Governor's Office so we should never be in situation where we could cut up to \$1.6 million of spending that isn't supporting services. We did, however, faithfully complete the exercise and are finalizing a plan to restructure some of our substance use services that will result in a significant savings while also updating the type of services provided to something more needed for our community.
6. Airshow: The Hammond Airport across the street from our Hammond clinic hosts an air show every other year in October and we have used this as an opportunity for an employee bonding event. We will be here in the parking lot on October 11 while the planes fly overhead. I will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers for staff and their families while we

enjoy the festivities and employees get to enjoy some non-work time together and watch the air show for free. All employees, board members, and their families are welcome to join us.

7. Developmental Disabilities Services Data Information: Mr. Kramer provided some developmental disabilities services data for June, July, and August 2025 on the following information: Systems Entry; Referrals for Crisis Placement; PASRR; Residential Placement Searches; IFS Information including referrals, new requests, individuals/families receiving IFS, the number on the waiting List, and denials; FFF information including those receiving FFF; the number on the waiting list; and Waiver Information including those receiving Waiver Services, pending waiver services, waiver recipients admitted to institutions; the number of SUN referrals submitted to State Office; and ACT421 CMO information including number of referrals, eligible determinations, denials, and appeals.
8. Behavioral Health Services Information: Mr. Kramer provided the number of persons served and services provided for the following: Bogalusa Behavioral Health Clinic; Denham Springs Behavioral Health Clinic; Mandeville Behavioral Health Clinic; Rosenblum Behavioral Health Clinic; Slidell Behavioral Health Clinic; Outreach Services in Franklinton, Greensburg, and Kentwood; and Home and Community Based Services, as well as the number serviced through Residential Treatment Services in June, July, and August 2025.

Mr. Lentz made a motion to accept the Executive Director's report as presented; seconded by Ms. Young.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Financial Report**

#### **Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025)**

Ms. Sibley disseminated the FY25 budget closeout report for FPHSA's operating budget and escrow.

#### **Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026)**

Ms. Sibley indicated that the initial financial report for FY26 will be available after September 30, once three months of expenditure data have been collected to support the development of official projections.

### **Board Business**

#### **Annual Policy review**

Mr. Kramer presented 050 ED Performance Evaluation Policy, Procedure, and Forms.

Ms. Pellichino made a motion that the policy, procedure, and forms remain "under review" and be included on the next board meeting agenda; seconded by Ms. Young.

Mr. Kramer presented Policy 160 Executive Limits- Use of Escrow Funds.

Ms. Young made a motion adopting Policy 160 as written; seconded by Ms. Pellichino.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Confirmation of the Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the FPHSA Governing Board will be on December 5 at 11:00 a.m., at a location in Mandeville to be determined and announced.

The board was reminded of the Annual Report meeting scheduled on October 24, 2025 and was provided a proposed meeting rotation schedule for 2026.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Lentz made a motion to enter into executive session at 10:50 a.m. to discuss the Executive Director's performance evaluation; seconded by Mr. Young.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Duplantier made a motion to end the executive session at 11:03 a.m.; seconded by Mr. Lentz.

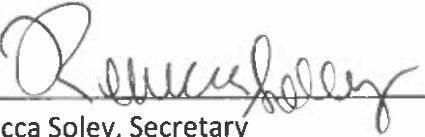
The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Duplantier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m.; seconded by Mr. Lentz.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

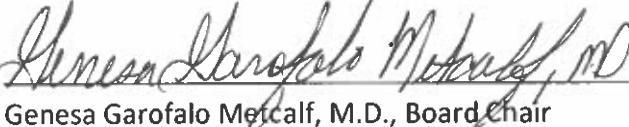
  
Rebecca Soley, Secretary

12/05/25

Date

Richard J. Kramer, Executive Director

Date

  
Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, M.D., Board Chair

12/05/25

Date