

**Florida Parishes Human Services Authority  
Minutes of the FPHSA Governing Board Meeting  
FPHSA Headquarters  
835 Pride Drive, Suite B, Hammond, LA 70401  
February 27, 2026**

Dr. Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, Board Chair, called the meeting of the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA) Governing Board to order at 9:33 a.m.

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

**Attendees**

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

Absent: Timothy Lentz

**FPHSA Staff/ Guest:** Richard Kramer, FPHSA Executive Director and Rebecca Soley, FPHSA Board Secretary

Prayer was offered by Ms. Pellichino.

**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 Ms. Pellichino.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Swearing-In Ceremony**

Attorney Patrick Coudrain performed the swearing-in ceremony for Mr. Duplantier and Ms. Kropog who were reappointed to the board to serve a consecutive term, as well as for Dr. Metcalf who was reappointed as Chair for Calendar Year 2026.

**Excused Absences**

Ms. Young made a motion excusing the absence of Mr. Lentz; seconded by Ms. Pellichino.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Pellichino made a motion adopting the December 5, 2025, minutes as written; seconded by Ms. Young.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **Public Input**

Dr. Metcalf welcomed all in attendance and extended an opportunity for public input. Dana Wilkosz, MPH with the CDC Foundation/Overdose Response Strategy introduced herself and shared her role and indicated she was there to observe the meeting.

## **Executive Director Report**

Mr. Kramer presented the following updates for February 2026:

1. **Primary Care Services Update:** The primary care clinic in partnership with De Paul has officially begun providing services as of this week. While they are still awaiting credentialing of their provider by some insurance plans for the location, they are using their mobile unit parked outside to do so. It is anticipated that the credentialing will be completed by March 9th, at which time services will begin out of the internal location here at the Hammond clinic. Arrangements are being made to have the mobile unit visit our clinics in Denham Springs and Bogalusa to serve our clients of those clinics and discussions around the Mandeville location are also underway. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Hammond location on March 20 at 10:00 AM. All board members are invited to attend to participate if your schedules allow.
2. **Residential Program Update:** The final closure of the residential program is on-schedule to occur on March 29th as planned. The last client was discharged earlier this month, and the remaining staff have been working on shut-down operations including handling of client records and final disposition of property. The layoff plan was officially submitted to Civil Service this week and will be mailed to all impacted employees today. In the end, only 5 employees were required to be laid off without having a different position available to them. Obviously, I regret that outcome for those 5 employees but am glad it was not more than that.
3. **Bridge Program:** We have begun work with St. Tammany Parish Hospital, the Office of Behavioral Health, and the Office of Public Health to partner on a project to implement a Bridge Program. Our three organizations are meeting biweekly with consultants from The National Bridge Program to stand up a program in St. Tammany's emergency department that aims to have buprenorphine readily available and prescribed in the emergency department when indicated along with introducing a peer navigator to help coordinate ongoing care for opioid use disorder once people are discharged from the ED. The data on this program in Louisiana, and across the country, has shown dramatic improvements in the number of opioid related deaths. We are positioned for success already because all of our clinics and prescribers have been treating with buprenorphine for years already. Although that project is funded through a grant with OBH and the participating hospital was selected by them, North Oaks reached out to us to see how they could participate as well. They cannot be part of the collaborative with the consultants, but we have offered them the opportunity for us to partner to implement the same program by using what we learn with St. Tammany Parish Hospital and implementing the same there.
4. **Capable Community Initiative Update:** The Capable Community project is ongoing and, although it isn't yet as successful as we hope it will get, it is making progress. It has been noticed outside of our organization and it was selected as a project to be featured at the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities national conference this summer in Chicago.

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5. **Digital Intake Forms:** A project that has been on my wish list almost since my first weeks here at FPHSA is set to be launched next month. In order to allow for better client access, shorter wait times, and more efficient workflows for our intake staff we are implementing digital forms on our website so that people who wish to receive services from us can complete some of the required paperwork online and have it submitted digitally before they even have an appointment or are physically in the clinic. This is planned to just be the first step of a digitization project that will allow for the time spent in clinics to be spent more on providing services than collecting demographics and other information. Of course, the option to simply walk into the clinic and complete that process in person will remain available for those who are unable to or prefer not to complete the forms online in advance.
6. **Mobile Unit Expansion:** We will be expanding our use of the mobile unit to include Amite once a month beginning in March. This is in addition to our already scheduled visits in Franklinton and Greensburg. We are still exploring a location in Livingston where we hope to add a location as well. These mobile clinic days increase access for individuals who live farther from our freestanding clinics and result in less missed appointments and better outcomes.
7. **Local Response Needs:** In an effort to be sure that FPHSA remains responsive to community needs, I have been working to schedule bi-annual meetings with the parish presidents or police jury from the respective parishes. The purpose of these meetings will be to ensure that we are aware of any local priorities related to behavioral help or developmental disabilities, to hear about any new issues that we might be positioned to help solve, and to update local officials on the things that we are doing in their communities that they may not otherwise have been aware of. As the Executive Director of a public service agency, it is my responsibility to ensure that all these things are happening. Although efforts to keep relationships and communication already existed, I believe having a formal plan to keep it on our calendars can help us accomplish the objective moving forward.
8. **Financial Report:** Our COO, who usually presents our financial report, is out of town this morning so we will not have the full report today, but I can report that as of January 31 we are projecting a deficit with the expectation of collecting over our budget leaving a net deficit. As always, we expect this deficit to decrease as we near the end of the fiscal year as some expenditure becomes clearer and grant funds get reallocated to cover allowable expenses. We are comfortable that the level of deficit is manageable and that any deficit that remains at the end of the fiscal year, if any, can be handled through our use of escrow funds.
9. **Developmental Disabilities Services Data Information:** Mr. Kramer provided some developmental disabilities services data for November 2025, December 2025, and January 2026 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.

10. 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 November 2025, December 2025, and January 2026.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Compliance Report**

Margaret Cruz, FPHSA QA Director, presented the FY2025 Compliance Report.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Board Business**

#### **Annual Strategic Plan Review**

Mr. Kramer presented the annual strategic plan to the Board and provided updates on several related initiatives.

#### **Official Journal Selection**

The Board received two proposals for the official journal, one submitted by *Tangi Times* and the other by the *Daily Star*.

Dr. Hurst made a motion approving *Tangi Times* as the official journal effective Fiscal Year 2027; seconded by Ms. Young.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Annual Policy review**

Mr. Kramer presented the following policies and procedures for the board's annual review:

- 001 Executive Limits- Global Executive Constraint
- 007 Executive Limits- Asset Protection
- 012 Executive Limits- Financial Planning and Budgeting
- Agency Policy 900 "Media Relations"
- Agency Procedure 900.1 "Engaging the News Media"
- Agency Procedure 900.2 "Official Use of Social Media"
- Agency Procedure 900.3 "Unofficial Use of Social Media"

Ms. Young made a motion adopting the policies/procedures as written; seconded by Dr. Hurst.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kramer presented the deferred 050 ED Performance Evaluation Policy, Procedure, and Forms as requested by the board. The board called for a vote to determine whether or not the policy, procedures, and forms should be adopted as currently written.

Voting Yes: Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Browning, Dr. Hurst, and Ms. Kropog

Voting No: Ms. Valentino and Ms. Young

050 ED Performance Evaluation Policy, Procedure, and Forms will remain as written.

**Confirmation of the Next Meeting**

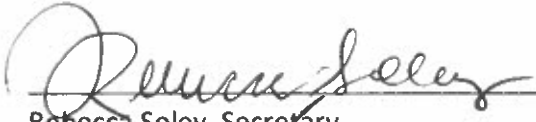
It was confirmed that the next meeting of the FPHSA Governing Board will be on March 27, 2026, at the FPHSA/Slidell Behavioral Health Clinic at 9:30 a.m.

**Adjournment**


Mr. Browning made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m.; seconded by Ms. Young.

The motion passed unanimously.

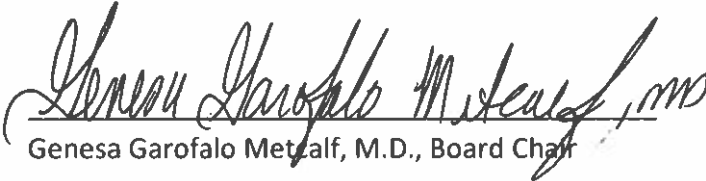
Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Rebecca Soley, Secretary

3/27/26  
Date

  
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Richard J. Kramer, Executive Director

3-27-26  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, M.D., Board Chair

3/27/26  
Date