

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

Dr. Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, Board Chair, called the meeting of the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA) Governing Board to order at 9:32 a.m.

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

Attendees

Governing Board: David Duplantier, Deborah Kropog, Timothy Lentz; Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, M.D; JoBeth Valentino; and Noble-Bates Young

Absent: Brandon Browning; Byron Hurst; Mona Pellichino

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.

Mr. Lentz made a motion to amending the agenda to add "Board Member Updates" under Section X. Board Business as added item "C"; seconded by Ms. Young.

The motion passed unanimously.

Excused Absences

Mr. Lentz made a motion excusing the absences of Mr. Browning, Dr. Hurst, and Ms. Pellichino; seconded by Ms. Young.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Young made a motion to adopt the February 27, 2026, minutes as written; the motion was seconded by Ms. Kropog.

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 March 2026:

1. Residential Updates: With Sunday being the official date of the layoff related to the residential program, today will be the last day that any staff are working in that building. We have terminated our lease with St. Tammany Parish, canceled contracts for services to that program, notified state licensing, and issued all of the public notices as required. While we wait for state property to pick up unneeded furniture there, parish officials have said it will not be a problem to store the property there a bit longer.
2. Substance Use Continuum: One part of the plan that included closing the residential program included offering new services that would fill different gaps in our community's substance use treatment continuum. I met last month with St. Tammany Parish officials to discuss the opening of the Medically Assisted Treatment Bridge Clinic we discussed partnering on with the use of Opioid Settlement funds. We agreed to aim for a late summer or early fall opening and I have a draft contract from them for review.
3. CCBHC Update: SAMHSA, last month, released grant that the Department of Health will be applying for to become a demonstration state for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers. Applications are due in early April and awards will be made in the fall. It is expected that Louisiana II have a high likelihood of being selected which will allow for Medicaid changes to reimbursement for Louisiana CCHCs under the prospective payment system model. This could mean substantially more funding will be available to provide and expand mandated services. Because FPHSA still has over one year remaining on our initial CCHC grant we will not be submitting with the initial group but can be allowed to join the project at the beginning of any subsequent quarter. We have engaged with a cost reporting consultant who has worked with some of our colleagues to complete the cost report so we will be ready to submit once that time comes.
4. Primary Care Clinic Update: Last week we had our official ribbon cutting with De Paul for our integrated primary care clinic in Hammond. They will be open with a full time provider daily starting on Monday and we look forward to growing that partnership to serve clients in Hammond and across our region better.
5. Office Space: We have been struggling with a lack of office space for quite some time across the region. We already have some offices that as many as four people share on alternating days and every chance we have to implement new programs or add new positions is complicated by this problem. We have been trying to identify a space to relocate our executive and administrative functions to which would allow for more space at Pride Drive for clinical and developmental disabilities functions. We have identified on possible location and will be doing due diligence but will continue to work on a new location whether there or somewhere else until a solution can be identified as the need for more space is only likely to increase with expansion of our primary care partnership and potential new programs related to CCBHC expansion.
6. CARF Accreditation Survey Extension: We were notified by CARF earlier this year that our reaccreditation survey, initially planned for January, would be pushed back to May or June due to a lack of surveyor availability and that our accreditation would automatically be extended to the end of June. We were notified this week that our survey window is being pushed back again until July or August and that our accreditation will be extended until

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August 31. We will be notifying all of the insurance plans and licensing in keeping with their accreditation requirements.

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. FPHSA Oversight: As you probably are aware, the legislature has convened for this year's session. If you recall last year's session there was a bill seeking to change the oversight of the local governing entities that was proposed based on a thought that there wasn't enough oversight from anyone outside of our boards. That bill wound up evolving from something that some saw as problematic to something that is helpful in allaying those concerns. The last month, however, demonstrates how much oversight there actually is over our organizations and just how well our staff are performing. In the past month we completed four different external audits successfully. Our annual Accountability Review from the state Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities took place and OCDD staff looked records from all areas of developmental disabilities departments and found no findings requiring corrective actions and their reviewers were, as usual, effusive in their praise for our team. Two weeks ago the state's Office of Risk Management's annual review took place and we, again, had zero findings requiring corrective action. Our legislative audit, which also included a component of the statewide single audit for the federal substance use block grant, concluded earlier this week with no findings on either and our accountability audit from the Office of Behavioral Health which reviews the use block grant dollars and compliance with the requirements of those grants at each one of our locations wrapped up yesterday with only one finding that is related to reporting of information from our electronic health record to OBH which has been complicated by our transition to the new record but is now substantially in compliance. These are just some of the various levels of oversight that FPHSA must satisfy to ensure that we are adhering to requirements and using our resources properly and should give the board, and the public, confidence that this organization is managed responsibly.
9. Developmental Disabilities Services Data Information: Mr. Kramer provided some developmental disabilities services data for December 2025, January 2026, and February 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 December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026.

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 2026 (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026)

Ms. Sibley presented the budget analysis, as of February 28, 2026, that reflected a projected deficit, along with anticipated collections from the agency's self-generated budget. The FY26 Escrow Budget was also shared with the board. She indicated that the Fiscal Department would continue to monitor revenues and expenditures closely, as well as work with the Leadership Team to minimize or eliminate the deficit by fiscal year end.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Board Business

Board Policy Review

Mr. Kramer presented Board Policy 003 "Executive Limits- Treatment of Staff" for the board's annual review.

Ms. Young made a motion adopting the policy as written; seconded by Mr. Lentz.

The motion passed unanimously.

Agency Policy Approval

Mr. Kramer presented Agency Policy 420 "AI" for the board's consideration and approval.

Ms. Young made a motion approving the policy as written; seconded by Mr. Lentz.

The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Updates

The Board noted that Ms. Pellichino's board appointment expires this month and that she has served the maximum number of years permitted. FPHSA will coordinate with the appropriate parish authority to identify a replacement.

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. Lentz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m.; seconded by Ms. Young.

The motion passed unanimously.

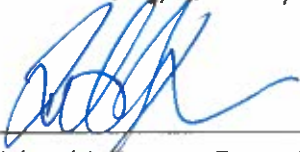
Respectfully Submitted,



Rebecca Soley, Secretary

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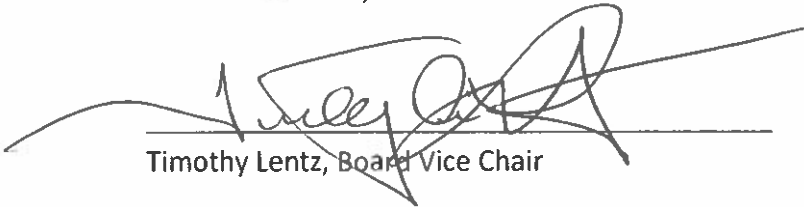
Date



Richard J. Kramer, Executive Director

5-22-26

Date



Timothy Lentz, Board Vice Chair

5/22/26

Date