

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
September 20, 2024

The called meeting of the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) was held September 20, 2024 via Zoom. The meeting convened at 9:35 a.m. pursuant to the call of the Board Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Suzann McCommon, David Rosegrant, Michelle Loe, Linda Patterson, and Randy Laverty.

STAFF PRESENT: Medicaid Specialty Populations Director Melissa Weatherton, DDS Director Jennifer Brezée, DDS Deputy Director Thomas Tarpley, Lena Bethell, Jeff Gonyea, Sarah Murphy, Kerry Gambill, Diane Keith, Dana Harvey, Avis Lane, Tammy Benbrook, and Kathleen Hoskins.

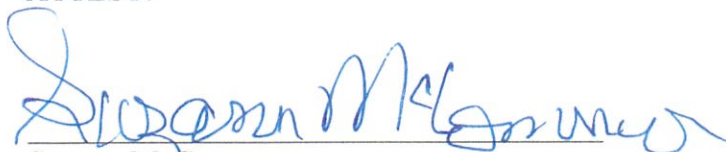
OTHERS PRESENT: Deborah Rainwater, Terry Johnson, Julie Frost, Kimberly Dodd, Reagan Stafford of Disability Rights Arkansas, and Attorney General Representative Michael Lewis.

Ms. McCommon called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. She provided an overview of how the We Heart program has aided in recruitment and retention at the human development centers. DDS requests a one-time donation from the investment fund be made to assist with the continuation of this initiative. Julie Frost, Treasurer of Families and Friends of Care Facility Residents (FFCFR) advised the funds would be deposited into a separate We Heart account and disbursed to the centers as needed. She also advised all donations are tax deductible.


Ms. McCommon called for a motion to approve the donation. Mr. Rosegrant made the motion to donate \$25,000 from the DDS investment fund to the We Heart program. It was seconded by Ms. Patterson and the motion passed unanimously.

With no further business, Mr. Rosegrant made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Ms. McCommon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

ATTEST:



Suzann McCommon
Chair, Board of DDS


Executive Secretary