Message from the Executive Director

Northeast Delta is transforming lives more than ever. We are leading our region’s people to a better place. Our work is strengthening individuals, families and communities.

As we close another quarter, it is an opportune time to look back on many of the wonderful things our agency accomplished. One of the more significant was hosting Reducing the Pain, our second opioid summit. Reducing the Pain
educated our region's people about the pain of opioid addiction. Our efforts helped more than 250 people better understand opioid addiction and our role in fighting this national and state crisis. I look forward to seeing the impact our opioid summit catalyzes in the region.

In August, we gathered for the historic signing of our memorandum of understanding with the University of Louisiana at Monroe’s College of Business and Social Sciences. This MOU will bolster our Operation Golden Years initiative, increasing services, access and opportunity for one of our region's most vulnerable populations.

At the start of our third quarter, we launched our new Transformations Blog. Transformations delivers impactful content that inspires, motivates and engages readers to think and act differently. Look for a brand-new blog post on our website the first Monday of every month. View it online or via our app.

As we enter our 4th quarter, I invite everyone to be more involved. Be the change you want to see. The doors of Northeast Delta are always open. We understand the problems the people of our region face every day. We are here to help.
Northeast Delta's Reducing the Pain opioid summit at Bayou Pointe attracted nearly 250 people from across the region, including a diverse group of agencies, individuals and organizations committed to reducing the pain of opioid addiction and substance abuse.

The September 24 event featured Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director of Northeast Delta Human Services Authority; Leigh M. Tyndall Snow, senior opioid surveillance epidemiologist for the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health and Dr. Janice Petersen, deputy assistant secretary for the Louisiana Department of Health's Office of Behavioral Health, as they provided insights into the opioid epidemic regionally and nationally.

The day included four breakout sessions focused on two tracks, clinical and community. Presenters included Dr. Avius Carroll, prevention and wellness services director, Northeast Delta HSA; Dr. Burt Ashworth, assistant professor of psychology and endowed professorship of gerontology, University of Louisiana Monroe, Dr. Sarah Hamauei, board-certified addictionologist; and Drew Brooks, executive director of Faith Partners, Inc.

The audience also heard powerful testimonies from those who have witnessed the impacts of opioid addiction and the toll it takes on individuals,
families and communities during the "NED Talks" portion of the day. Speakers included Bishop Danny Hunt of Walk in the Word Church, Drew Brooks of Faith Partners and Jennifer Purvis, developmental disabilities director of Northeast Delta.

Vance A. Price, pastor of New St. James Baptist Church, facilitated the event.

Empowerment and Policy

Pictured left to right: Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director, Northeast Delta HSA; Dr. Denese Shervington, president, Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies; Shawn Kelly, program manager, Public Allies New Orleans; Passion Taylor Payne, corporate program director, Dimensional Behavioral Health Services; Pastor Eileen Johnson, Grace & Glory Family Worship Church
Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director of Northeast Delta HSA, attended the inaugural Empowerment and Policy Conference hosted by the Urban League of Louisiana and the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC) September 27-28 in New Orleans, LA.

The two-day conference featured notable regional and national speakers, including Governor John Bel Edwards, political commentators Angela Rye and Bakari Sellers and Monroe Mayor Jamie Mayo.

Dr. Sizer participated in session two of the conference, "Mental Health: The Stigma that Stops Us," where he discussed the cultural, social and political influences that reinforce stigmas associated with mental health.

"I believe Louisiana's best days are ahead," said Dr. Monteic A. Sizer. "When we spend more time on solutions, rather than problems, and do so according to what unites us as a state, we will become stronger, more prosperous and unified."

Transformations Walk

Northeast Delta's Prevention and Wellness office ended our 3rd quarter by hosting the first-ever Transformations 5K/1K Walk and Run.
The October 5 walk was held at Madison Parish High School in Tallulah, LA and featured runners, as well as walkers, from all across northeast Louisiana.

Northeast Delta's Transformations Walk was created to spread awareness to Northeast Delta's new health initiative. Wellness plays an important role in behavioral health in maintaining recovery and stabilization. We are excited to work across the region to increase access to wellness and inform communities about preventive and primary care.

Trophies and certificates were awarded to first, second and third-place finishers, but all those who supported were winners to us.

Sponsors included Anytime Fitness Tallulah, City of Tallulah, Empire Fitness, Madison Parish High School, Madison Parish School Board and the Tallulah Police Department.

Stay up-to-date with our wellness events by visiting the events section of our Facebook page.

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**Addiction and Faith**

*Dr. Sizer engages listeners during his panel discussion at the 2nd annual Addiction and Faith Conference. The conference explores the devastation of addiction and the remarkable healing process that faith can have on recovery.*
Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director of Northeast Delta HSA, was a breakout speaker and panelist at this year’s Addiction and Faith Conference September 20-22 in Minneapolis, MN.

Dr. Sizer co-hosted the breakout session, “Developing Leaders for Addiction Ministries,” with Drew Brooks, executive director of Faith Partners, Inc.

During the group session, Sizer married faith, public policy, addiction treatment and community change strategies relevant to addressing addiction.

Dr. Sizer also served on the panel, “Trauma Across Generations: Addiction and Race,” where he discussed trauma-informed research and best practices to addiction treatment.
Dr. Monteic A. Sizer speaks to a gathering of behavioral health professionals during a panel discussion at the Louisiana Action Opioid Summit in Slidell, LA.

Health professionals, social service providers and community leaders throughout the State of Louisiana gathered in Slidell, Louisiana September 4-6, for the Louisiana Opioid Action Summit.

Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director of Northeast Delta HSA; Drew Brooks of Faith Partners and Tonja Myles, community pastor of Look Alive Church, presented at one of the summit's learning community sessions.

The topic of the panel was Faith-Based Approaches to Addiction Treatment and Recovery. Dr. Sizer discussed the innovative ways Northeast Delta's Faith Partnership Initiative is engaging the faith-based community around approaches to addiction treatment and recovery that integrate faith and
evidence-based practices. He called the audience to action, to stand shoulder to shoulder and work together to address the opioid epidemic in our state.

David Timoll of the Louisiana Department of Health facilitated the panel.

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**Franklin Parish Golden Years**

Dr. Monteic A. Sizer fellowships with seniors at the Franklin Parish Council on Aging's monthly bingo event.

When Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director of Northeast Delta HSA, promised to visit the Franklin Parish Council on Aging, he did.

Dr. Sizer spoke to the packed room of seniors, sharing that he appreciated those in attendance. Sizer also emphasized to the group that their contributions to society will never be forgotten. Sizer and team later engaged in several rounds of bingo.

Winnsboro Clinic Manager Loria Pierce and Strategic Initiatives Coordinator Andrew Koetsier accompanied him.

This outreach event was a part of Northeast Delta HSA’s Operation Golden Years Initiative.
Dr. Monteic A. Sizer and Andrew Koetsier provide helpful advice and potential solutions to Faith Partnership participants during the very first Faith Partnership Initiative quarterly meeting.

Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director of Northeast Delta HSA and Strategic Initiatives Coordinator Andrew Koetsier, fielded questions from faith leaders September 12 during our Faith Partnership Initiative Quarterly Meeting.

This small focus group meeting was designed to engage, problem solve, inform, equip and encourage faith leaders during the development of their congregation's efforts to address alcohol, drug and addiction issues.

At Northeast Delta, we are determined to help our region's citizens become more healthy and strong. Our Faith Partnership Quarterly Meeting was a
crucial step in our mission to deliver northeast Louisiana communities from addiction and mental health challenges.

Pastor John Dobbs of Forsythe Church of Christ hosted the meeting.

Want to join the movement? Register now for our upcoming Faith Partnership Clergy Training on October 10-11. Find more information here.

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MoCo Strengths Training:
5 Clues to Talent

Dr. Monteic A. Sizer significantly invested in the agency’s leadership team with another MoCo: Leadership, Strengths, & Culture Coaching session at MoCo Studios in August.
This session was the second MoCo training of the quarter and focused on Five Clues to Talent from CliftonStrengths, based on individual and team assessments.

The Five Clues to Talent include Yearning, Satisfaction, Rapid Learning, Glimpses of Excellence and Total Performance Excellence.

Northeast Delta Tailgate Show

Northeast Delta HSA Public Information Director Will Sutton discussed just some of the many programs and services offered by the agency during a LIVE radio broadcast of The Northeast Delta HSA Tailgate Show.

Northeast Delta joined the airwaves in November with the Northeast Delta HSA Tailgate show.

Hosted by Gene Ponti and Clay Parker, the Northeast Delta HSA Tailgate Show features interviews from Northeast Delta staff as they discuss programs and services our agency offers throughout the region.
With this sponsorship, Northeast Delta is reaching out even further in support of high school athletes and their families; providing them with tools, resources and information to improve their lives.

Catch the Northeast Delta HSA Tailgate Show every Friday at 5 p.m. broadcasting LIVE only on K-104 FM.

Hope, Health and Healing

Human Resources Supervisor Tina Conley and Corporate Compliance Director Melinda Robinson represented the agency October 5 at the Hope, Health and Healing Health Fair at Walk in the Word Kingdom Church.

Bishop Danny Hunt and Dr. Carolyn Hunt of Walk in the Word Kingdom Church hosted the event. Vendors from Oschner Health System, ULM School of Nursing Grambling School of Nursing and LSU Shreveport also participated in the fair.

Visitors who attended the health fair had a chance to receive free diabetes and cholesterol check-ups. Great Information was provided about Northeast Delta's programs and services. All enjoyed the food, fun and fellowship.

Transformations Blog

August
Transformations is a new blog by Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, which aims to challenge, encourage and inspire Louisiana citizens, and the nation, to think and act differently – to pursue the world we seek, rather than the world we have.

Transformations delivers a new post every first Monday of the month that explores Northeast Delta's role in addressing substance abuse, addiction and developmental disabilities locally and nationally.

Dr. Sizer believes citizens and government can work together as creative catalysts to help transform broken people, families, communities and social systems.

Make sure to follow and share the blog each month. Join this ongoing conversation. Check out the Transformations Blog now!
The MOU between Northeast Delta HSA and ULM will aid in the delivery of information, opportunities and services for northeastern Louisiana's senior population.

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority and the University of Louisiana at Monroe officials gathered August 21 for the historic signing of a memorandum of understanding.

The MOU is the first of its kind between a Local Governing Entity and ULM. The agreement facilitates collaboration with Northeast Delta HSA and ULM to aid in the delivery of information, opportunities and services for northeastern Louisiana's senior population.

The move partners Northeast Delta's special initiative, Operation Golden Years, with ULM's College of Business and Social Sciences, to bring increased awareness, support and services for those 60 and above in our region.

"I believe where there are significant challenges; there are also significant opportunities. So, I am excited about the future here in northeast Louisiana," said Northeast Delta HSA Executive Director Dr. Monteic A. Sizer. "We have already committed to doing things with this university. We have some outstanding things going on. No one institution can solve these entrenched social problems alone. It will require all of us putting our souls
Secretary Gee Visit

Officials from Northeast Delta Human Services Authority, the Louisiana Department of Health and the University of Louisiana at Monroe pose for a photo after a very successful sit down at the college. Northeast Delta and ULM recently entered into an agreement that will foster information sharing and collaboration between the two northeast Louisiana powerhouses.

Dr. Rebekah Gee, secretary for the Louisiana Department of Health, joined Northeast Delta HSA and the University of Louisiana Monroe officials August 29 to discuss the recent partnership and MOU between the agency and university’s College of Business and Social Sciences.

Secretary Gee spoke about the importance of Northeast Delta and other Human Services Authorities during the discussion adding that they are an essential safety net for behavioral health, addiction and developmental disability services in Louisiana.

Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director of Northeast Delta HSA, called the meeting a significant component of the agency utilizing innovation, integration and collaboration to solve societal problems.

See more photos here.
Health and Wellness Coordinator Dee Dee Toney and Strategic Initiatives Coordinator Andrew Koetsier presented at the Louisiana Department of Health's Aging and Adult Services 3rd Quarter meeting August 13.

The topic of their presentation was "Generation Rx: Safe Medication Practices for Older Adults."

According to a report issued by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, hundreds of thousands of older Americans are regularly hospitalized due to opioid-related complications.

This outreach was a part of Northeast Delta’s Operation Golden Years.
Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director of Northeast Delta HSA, discussed our groundbreaking Faith Partnership Initiative at the 2019 National Prevention Network Conference (NPNC) August 27-29 in Chicago, IL.

NPNC is one of the nation's premier conferences for scholars, behavioral scientists, public health and prevention experts who are interested in evidence-based solutions to major societal challenges.

Dr. Sizer and Drew Brooks, executive director of Faith Partners, shared perspectives on how faith leaders can build congregational capacity to help mitigate various forms of addiction and trauma.
Dr. Sizer discusses the vision, mission and tenets of Northeast Delta at July's 'Vision 2020' all staff meeting held at West Monroe Convention Center.

Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director of Northeast Delta HSA, and members of his executive team laid out their goals and ambitions for the new fiscal year at July's Vision 2020 staff meeting.

Presenting were Clinical Services Regional Manager Johnathon Robert, Director of Behavioral and Primary Health Analytics Dr. Jeanie McGee, Director of Developmental Disabilities Jennifer Purvis and Director of Wellness and Prevention Services Dr. Avius Carroll.

Each discussed the work of the agency and why the vision, mission and tenets are essential to Northeast Delta's vision for a more unified northeast Louisiana.

Staff also took part in MOCO strengths training, a professional growth workshop that focuses on leadership, strengths and culture coaching in businesses and organizations.

Check out the Vision 2020 photo album here.
Citizens all across Northeast Louisiana now have better access to behavioral and primary healthcare, developmental disability, gambling and tobacco cessation services thanks to Northeast Delta's brand-new app.

The Northeast Delta HSA app is downloadable in Apple and Google app stores, among others. New features include an overhauled design and social media platform integration.

The app also provides information about Northeast Delta's programs and services, clinic locations and more, all at the touch of a button.

Download the app now by searching Northeast Delta HSA in the app store.

The new Northeast Delta HSA app is putting the power of our agency in your hands.
Our country continues to be profoundly affected by the opioid epidemic, and Louisiana is no exception.

That is why Northeast Delta has partnered with the Louisiana Department of Health to roll out the Opioid Help LA campaign.

Opioid Help LA provides opioid resources, treatment center information and recovery resources to friends and family of individuals affected by opioid misuse and abuse.

There is hope. Visit OpioidHelpLA.org for more information.

3rd Quarter News Releases

ULM, Northeast Delta HSA Commit To Improving Lives

See You Next Quarter!

Be Sure To