

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
HELD
AUGUST 28, 2009**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Burns, M.D.
Donald E. Cole
Deirdre O'Brien
Susan Radovich
Terry E. Langley
Justin D. Neal

BOARD MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED (3)

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Dr. Mary Burns called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and introduced the Board members of the new Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).

Each Board member gave a short description of where they are from and other pertinent information about themselves. Mr. Donald Cole was on the DHR Board since September 2003 and lives in Cordele, Georgia; Ms. Susan Radovich is from Statesboro and served as Board Chair of a Community Service Board; Terry Langley is in his third term as Sheriff of Carroll County; Deidre O'Brien is the Executive Director of ARC of Georgia and lives in Waycross and Atlanta; Justin Neal was a former Board member of DHR for eighteen months.

Dr. Burns stated that there will be three additional Board members appointed to the Board. At this time, she turned the meeting over to Dr. Frank Shelp, Commissioner.

Dr. Shelp discussed his background which includes a Masters in Public Health. Half of his career has been in Administrative Health as a corporate medical director of Behavioral Health and spent several years as the CMO of Ist Health Services. At this point, he introduced his Leadership Team: Lee Wright, Financial Officer; Dr. Olivia Garland, Deputy Commissioner of Developmental Disabilities; Tom Wilson, Communications Director and Press Secretary; Rhian Sharp, Director of Human Resources, Onaje Salim, Director of Addictive Diseases; David Sofferin, Director of Mental Health; Carolyn Frazier, General Counsel; and Pat Miller, who is overseeing the operations of the new department in the transition period (appointed by the Governor).

Dr. Shelp discussed the reasons this is an exciting opportunity to look in a very open way how to establish the new department with the service focus on behavioral health, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases, all of which overlap each other.

The process of creating a new Department logo was handled by Tom Wilson, Director of Communications. He explained that he formed a committee of twelve employees who looked at 57 entries from employees around the state. Out of the 57 entries, the final design was a combination of two entries. Mr. Wilson explained the symbolism of the winning logo: the great light represents the human spirit of hope; the three vertical bands represent MH/DD/AD; the white band brings together and unites the three bands. It is representative of a lighthouse, which shows the way and warns of pitfalls and helps to guide the crew and captain, who steers the ship. The two employees who won the contest were Cassandra Price and Ronnie Ellington. Each receives a framed print of the logo and \$100.00. Mugs with the new logo were presented to each Board member and Commissioner Shelp also received a framed print of the logo.

The next order of business was to present the FY2010 Amended and FY2011 Budget proposal as a PowerPoint. Dr. Shelp explained that we are going forward conservatively but there may be a need to look at some cuts in the future. He discussed the furlough plan currently in effect and indicated that the hospitals are exempted from furloughing employees because they are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He explained the total base budget for 2010 and how the Department of Justice settlement agreement has impacted the Department financially and DBHDD is requesting additional funding to the budget to be in compliance with the agreement and, more particularly, four specific areas. He also explained the Olmstead agreement and the Crisis Stabilization programs.

There was some discussion about the Board members being included in a meeting with the DOJ reviewers and Dr. Shelp agreed to follow-up with Dr. Burns and find out if this can be coordinated.

Following the discussion and explanation of the budget request, Mr. Neal made a motion to approve the FY2010 Amended and FY2011 budget. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Cole made a motion to approve Dr. Mary Burns as Chair of the Board of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be decided at a later date.



Mary D. Burns, Chair