

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
HELD  
MARCH 31, 2010**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mary Burns, M.D.  
Donald E. Cole  
Justin D. Neal  
Deirdre OBrien  
Susan Radovich  
Frank E. Shelp, Commissioner

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Terry E. Langley  
Sandra A. Morris

Mary Burns, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

A motion was made by Justin Neal and seconded by Susan Radovich to approve the minutes of January 25, 2010. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **BOARD RESOLUTION**

A Motion was made by Donald Cole to approve the Resolution to *“authorize GSFIC to issue State of Georgia Obligation Bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$8,700,000 to fund various major repairs and renovation projects for state hospital campuses (This resolution supersedes DBHDD board resolution dated November 9, 2009).* The Resolution was seconded by Justin Neal and unanimously approved.

### **CHAIR’S REPORT**

Mary Burns, Chair, congratulated Donald Cole on his initiatives to organize a subcommittee on developmental disabilities waivers and his selection of some valuable folks from the community to work on the committee.

Dr. Burns also noted that Board member Justin Neal brought to her attention that the Board should have a “Financial Auditing” subcommittee. Dr. Burns agreed and Justin Neal will chair the committee.

### **2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Consuelo Campbell, Director of External Affairs for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities gave the following update on bills of interest to the Department.

SB 391 - This measure seeks to allow DBH to serve children and adolescents who are under Behavioral Health care for forensic services in a secured community based facility. The present state statute states that these individuals must be served only in our state mental health hospitals. This legislation has unanimously passed the Senate and moved to the House. Senator Renee Unterman, a member of the Coordinating Council is carrying the bill for the Department on the Senate side and Representative Mark Butler has agreed to carry it on the House side.

HB 228 - The Governor in his package has put together a cleanup bill to HB 228. HB 228 is the piece of legislation that dismantled the Department of Human Resources last year and created the Department of Human Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and moved the Division of Public Health to the Department of Community Health.

SB 375 and HB 1324 - These two companion bills are moving simultaneously. Senator Renee Unterman is the sponsor of SB 375 and Representative Mark Butler is the sponsor of HB 1324. Both bills have passed their respective Houses, have crossed over and are moving to the other side of the House. One is to expand our Behavioral Health Coordinating Council and will include five other member agencies: Department of Labor, Department of Education, the chair of the State Board of Pardons and Parole, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs and the State Disability Ombudsman.

Other bills of interest to the Department of Behavioral Health are:

HB1040 -the Georgia Registered Nurse Practice Act. This Bill seeks to allow qualified paraprofessional level staff to be able to provide services to developmentally disabled individuals. At the present time there are some functions family members, registered nurses and physicians can do that paraprofessionals cannot perform.

Psychiatrist Advanced Directive Bill has died. Representative Pat Gardner has been working on this Bill for the last couple of years with no success.

SB 308 sponsored by Senator Mitch Seabaugh has passed the Senate and moved to the House. We had a victory in this bill in that we were able to have our psychiatrist hospitals added to the list of prohibited places where concealed weapons cannot be carried.

HB 615 which is a companion bill to the Senate "*Concealed Weapons*" bill has died was sponsored by Representative Tim Bearden. Everything now is riding on SB 308.

SB 161 – creates a statewide task force on autism of which the Commissioner of Behavioral Health will serve as chair.

The FY2010 budget was voted out of both Houses but has not made it to the conference committee. FY2010 budget has been delayed.

The 2010 Legislative Guide prepared by the Office of External Affairs was distributed to the Council.

## **PHYSICIAN CREDENTIALING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Burns reported that the Physician Credentialing Committee, which consists of Frank E. Shelp, M.D., Donald Manning, M.D., William McDonald, M.D., and Dr. Burns, met and reviewed four (4) applications for new physicians to the state hospitals. All four of the applications were approved by the committee.

## **DD WAIVER COMMITTEE REPORT**

Donald Cole advised that the DD Advisory Committee had its first meeting on March 31. He introduced the following as members of the committee: *Annette Bowling, Laurie Bradford ( who was not present), Ira Cavallo, Debbie Conway, Estell Duncan, Karen Lynn, Beverly Parsley and Nancy Vara.* In the meeting, the Committee was concerned about the new waiver services. Mr. Cole noted that the members of the committee were chosen with two requirements: 1) being positive and 2) being a solution oriented person and have a relationship with the DD community. The committee will meet again on April 16 with a discussion of SIS scores. Board members Susan Radovich and Justin Neal also are members of the DD Waiver Committee.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Dr. Frank Shelp, Commissioner of the Department, noted that he wants to restate that the mission of the Department is to serve people with mental illnesses, addictive diseases and developmental disabilities. He asked that we not lose track of our purpose as it relates to our mission and goals. He stated that the legislative session has been very demanding with a lot of expectations, hope and questions about the new department. He noted that the core of our mission has been transparent and we are achieving that mission.

The Department of Justice and the Department are in active negotiations. There was a hearing scheduled before Judge Pannell on March 1 but a stay has been granted as both departments enter into negotiations. Negotiations are now in its 5<sup>th</sup> week. Since our last board meeting, we have stabilized our accounting process on the operation side of all the hospitals. All hospitals will be reporting on the same platform and in the same manner so that the information will be consistent. He also noted that on the community side we are moving forward

with the CSBs and private providers to establish accountability and expectations on how the community services groups with similarity report on the same areas, financially and clinically. Monthly reporting will begin on all contracts with community service board and core providers particularly on the mental health side so we can better manage the financial aspect.

Commissioner Shelp noted that we have regional coordinators with multiple hospitals within their region. We also have hospitals with multiple regional coordinators. Dr. Shelp advised that the department is in the process of reviewing the catchment areas of our CSBs, the catchment areas of the hospitals and other various populations. He anticipates that a final regional map recommendation plan will be shared with the Board at the next meeting.

Commissioner Shelp commended Donald Cole on the excellent work he is doing with the DD Waivers Committee and that the committee has his full support. He also noted that the Financial Auditing Committee is needed by the Board. It is a critical tool in management. He embraces this committee because it helps to protect us from criticism and helps us represent what we are doing and also helps us plan rationally and strategically.

Commissioner Shelp advised that he is continuing positive discussion with Grady Hospital, Emory University and Morehouse Medical Center. He has met with Dr. David Satchel at Morehouse and is working on an MOU partnership to look at opportunities to better provide physical medical care to our population at the state hospitals; and to make it more available to individuals with disabilities and mental illnesses and to provide a continuum of care in this area.

Commissioner Shelp will advise Board members when the meetings with regional offices takes place on the redrawing of regional maps.

### **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES REPORT**

Beverly Rollins, Executive Directors of Developmental Disabilities, reported that the Intake and Evaluation Teams in each regional office is an extension of the department working in the regions. IE teams consist of about 115 staffers around the state who are responsible for the single point of intake for all DD services. She noted also that they are responsible for managing and overseeing over 12,000 people on waivers. They are responsible for managing everything related from PA processes to overseeing how support coordination interacts with the individuals. They oversee the due process and the individuals we serve throughout the state funded contracts which are over 4,900 people.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

One citizen spoke on the issues she has encountered with the waiver for her daughter. Another citizen spoke on the use of the SIS evaluation tool currently used by the Department. She presented the Chair with a letter outlining her concerns and presenting four tools she would like the Department to consider in developing an alternative to the currently used SIS.

The Chair, Dr. Burns, asked that at the next meeting in May that the following subcommittees meet at 10:00am: MH/Addictive Disease, DD Waivers and Financial Auditing. She noted that we will wait until the additional two Board members are appointed to have report outs from the subcommittees.

Motion to adjourn made by Deirdre O'Brien and seconded by Donald Cole.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

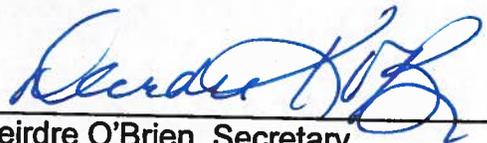
## THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is scheduled for May 17, 2010.



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Mary D. Burns, Chair



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Deirdre O'Brien, Secretary