

MINUTES OF MEETING
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
COORDINATING COUNCIL
HELD
MAY 12, 2010

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Frank E. Shelp, Chair
Commissioner Albert Murray, Vice Chair
Commissioner Brian Owens
Dave Statton for Commissioner B. J. Walker
Commissioner Clyde Reese
Senator Renee Unterman
Stanley Jones
Diane Reeder
Julie Spores, via teleconference
Representative Katie Dempsey, via teleconference
William McDonald, Ex-officio, Governor's Office

Coordinating Council Minutes
May 12, 2010

Commissioner Frank E. Shelp, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Dr. Shelp thanked Commissioner Murray for hosting the Council meeting at the Department of Juvenile Justice's office.

Commissioner Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that Friday, May 14, 2010 is his last day with the Department of Juvenile Justice and he would be joining the State Board of Pardons and Paroles on May 17, 2010. He also announced that he will replace Mr. Garland R. Hunt at Pardons and Parole and Mr. Hunt will assume his position at DJJ.

Commissioner Shelp introduced Clyde Reese, Commissioner for the Department of Community Health and welcomed him to the Department of Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. Commissioner Shelp noted that the Council was created as part of HB 228. The Council was created to coordinate policies and services across agencies as they pertain to disability areas of mental health, addictive diseases and developmental disabilities. Commissioner Shelp also noted that some expansion to the Council will be effective this year because the disability areas are really served by many different agencies and other parts of government and requires some coordination; both to bring the best services to individuals and to keep the different agencies working more effectively to eliminate redundancy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion was made by Senator Renee Unterman and seconded by Stanley Jones to approve the Minutes of March 29, 2010. The Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

EXECUTIVE WORKGROUP REPORT

The Executive Workgroup Report was given by Kathy Herren, Deputy Director of the Division of Family and Children Services. The following three areas were noted in her report:

- *Comparative Table* – The table is in draft form and will be presented to the workgroup at their next meeting.

Coordinating Council Minutes
May 12, 2010

- *Georgia RX Exchange Project* – There was a discussion of the financial barriers and why this project did not roll out. The project was completed by the Department of Community Health in January 2009 and it proposed that the Department of Corrections, DJJ and PeachCare, establish transition between systems to be able to share and provide medically necessary information around pharmacology on behalf of mutual clients. There was lots of discussion on the electronic medical records and a commitment by Commissioner Reese to make it a priority with DCH.
- *Pharmacy Management* – Cassandra Price, on behalf of Behavioral Health, will be talking with the Department of Community Health and the Medical Care Advisory Committee on how to better collaborate among the committee and DCH.

Commissioner Reese noted that the Department of Community Health is working on the information technology and transparency project. The website is active and they have received federal money for the health information exchange and the Medicaid incentive plan.

Miquel Fernandez, Assistant Director for Behavioral Health for the Department of Juvenile Justice, noted that they presently have criteria for admissions of mentally ill youth. It is done on assessment and the determination is based on its assessment of anyone with moderate to severe mental illness. They do not include conduct disorder because 95-98% of the children have conduct disorders. They currently have 600-700 youth on the active mental health caseload. He believes there are about 55,000 youth being served in the communities by providers and JPPS. His office can pull the statistics by diagnosis, the behavioral health treatment plans, and the electronic psychiatric diagnosis evaluation, which is the one used by their psychiatrists.

Commissioner Shelp noted that each agency needs to identify what constitutes mental health, nature of the condition, measurement of service, and treatment rendered. This is ongoing work that will evolve over time. ACT Team is still located on hospital property and unable to secure Medicaid funding. The move seems to be stuck in the State Properties Commission. Agencies are invited to a June 3 technology meeting at the Capitol to discuss how to support the Open Doors to Recovery Program.

Coordinating Council Minutes
May 12, 2010

Mr. Jones described for the Council the discussions the Mental Health Commission had about seeking a uniform benefit for children. The Commission had discussed the dilemma that the multiple funding streams and programs for child and adolescent behavioral health issues do not have the same services or systems. In DCH, foster kids are paid under the fee for service program. Kids in DJJ facilities are not eligible for Medicaid until they are released. Kids who are Medicaid eligible coming out of that system or who are not in foster care may be served by any of the three Care Management Programs or under the Aged, Blind and Disabled Medicaid program. The benefits designed by the CMOs for kids may not be same in each case nor the same as ABD Medicaid. Kids served by DBHDD receive services financed by Medicaid as well as with state funds under the several child and adolescent program categories. Commissioner Walker pointed out that DHS had revised and coordinated its child and adolescent programs and financing several years ago. The Council acknowledged a possible issue with uniformity of benefits and agreed to review the issue.

2010 FINAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Consuelo Campbell, Director of the Office of External Affairs, thanked Senator Renee Unterman on her assistance in getting the Department of Behavioral Health's bills passed during the final days of the legislative session.

- **SB 391** – Child and Adolescent Forensic Bill – DBHDD is now able to serve children and adolescents who have been found incompetent to stand trial and sent to DBH to restore competency in a secured residential community facility. These individuals were previously served in our state mental health hospitals.
- **SB 244** - Expands the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council as of July 1, 2010. This Bill will expand the Council by five members to include the Commissioners of Community Affairs and Department of Labor, Chair of Pardons and Paroles, the State Disability Services Ombusman and the State Superintendent of Schools.
- **HB 1713** – Assistance for Georgians with Disabilities. This Bill requires the Departments of Behavioral Health, Community Health and Human Services to submit to the Assembly a multi-year comprehensive plan creating a system of support for home and community based services that support independent living of Georgians with disabilities.

Coordinating Council Minutes
May 12, 2010

- **SB 571** – Sexual Offenders Registry Board is administratively attached to the Department of Behavioral Health and will remain with DBH. This Bill also increases the number of cases that are leveled, so we anticipate a greater caseload. Level 2 offenders and sexual predators cannot be released from the registry. Level 1 offenders can be released from the registry after ten (10) years and only after they seek petition from the court.
- **HB 1040** – Advanced Practice Nursing Act allows qualified professional level paraprofessional staff and direct service staff to provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities such as feeding tube administration. We anticipate reduced costs associated with providing this service within our waiver programs. Prior to the passage of the legislation only licensed nurses were allowed to provide this level of care under the supervision of licensed professionals.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Shelp noted that he attended a meeting at SAMSHA a few months ago concerning electronic medical records. It was discussed that SAMSHA would take the initiative and establish a consortium that would establish standards. Commissioner Shelp also discussed the *E. F. Torrey Report*. This report notes that for mental health issues, people with severe mental illnesses are 3 times more likely to end up in prison or jail than a psychiatric hospital. He also stated that we should make policy decisions as to the viability of a system of care that would provide a continuum so people could be served at the least restrictive, most effective level but have a full continuum of care for any episodic need. Almost all agencies are affected because of the significant number of individuals entering prisons and jails that have mental issues.

Commissioner Shelp reported that Vicky McClention of Lutheran Services of Georgia will make a presentation at the July meeting on children aging out of DFCS into the adult world.

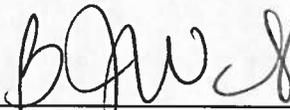
Commissioner Reese announced that his department will give an update on electronic health records at the next meeting.

Coordinating Council Minutes
May 12, 2010

Motion to adjourn made by Stanley Jones and seconded by Diane Reeder.
Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

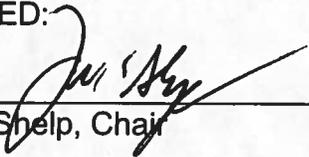
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2010 at 10:00am.



B. J. Walker, Secretary

APPROVED:



Frank E. Shelp, Chair