



**Behavioral Health Coordinating Council  
Meeting Minutes  
August 14, 2019  
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
2 Peachtree Street, 24th Floor Boardroom  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

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<b>Meeting Called By:</b>	Judy Fitzgerald, Chair
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Judy Fitzgerald
<b>BHCC Liaison:</b>	Tracy Gamble
<b>Council Members:</b>	
• <b>Present:</b>	Representative Katie Dempsey (District 13) Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald (DBHDD) Commissioner Kathleen Toomey (DPH) Commissioner Robyn Crittenden (DHS) Commissioner Michael Nail (DCS) Family Representative, Stanley Jones, Esq. Disabilities Services Ombudsman Jacquice Stone (ODSO)
• <b>Conferencing:</b>	Commissioner Timothy Ward (GDC) Chairman Terry Barnard (PAP) Superintendent Richard Woods (DOE) Parent Representative Diane Reeder
• <b>Absent:</b>	Senator Renee Unterman (District 45) Commissioner Frank Berry (DCH) Commissioner Tyrone Oliver (DJJ) Commissioner Christopher Nunn (DCA) Commissioner Mark Butler (DOL) Adult Consumer Representative Julie Spores
<b>DBHDD Leadership:</b>	Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner David Sofferin, Director, Office of Public Affairs Lavin Briggs, Director of Special Projects

## Agenda

**Call to Order:** Chair Judy Fitzgerald; 10:00 a.m.

Chair Judy Fitzgerald welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the council members for their continued commitment and common interest concerning behavioral health.

### Recovery Presentation

Fitzgerald introduced Toyia Mather, outreach coordinator for the RESPECT Institute. Mather introduced Melissa “MLuv” Wallace, a recent graduate of the RESPECT Institute. Wallace shared her story of personal lived challenges with depression along with her positive outlook towards her road to recovery. Poetry has also become a useful tool that aids Wallace with recovery and expressing her purpose.

### Action Item

One action item was approved:

*Approval of the August 14, 2019, council meeting minutes:* Chair Judy Fitzgerald asked for a motion to approve. Representative Katie Dempsey made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Michael Nail. The motion was passed unanimously.

### BHCC Initiatives

Fitzgerald began the meeting with an overview about the purpose of the two subcommittees that report to the council on a regular basis. The subcommittee focus is to provide the council with updates on youth and behavioral health activities in the communities and adults in the criminal justice system.

#### *Interagency Directors Team*

Fitzgerald introduced Danté McKay, director of DBHDD’s Office of Children Young Adults and Families and chair of the Interagency Directors Team (IDT).

McKay gave an overview of IDT’s structure and memberships that focus on children and young adults that include: state agencies; nonprofit agencies, managed care/payer’s; professional associations; care management entities; family voice; university partners; Children Healthcare of Atlanta and the Center for Disease Control & Prevention.

The IDT areas of focus are:

- System of Care State Plan- submission to BHCC for consideration
- Family Youth Voice- representative at each IDT meeting to share experiences

- Feedback Loops -letters of commitment and increased communication between levels

The Georgia System of Care (SOC) State Plan is a 3-year plan and it's currently in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The SOC is comprised of 30 organizations that include all of the child care serving agencies, four managed care organizations, and advocacy groups in Georgia. The 5 current priorities of the SOC plan development is concentrated on 5 areas of influence/goals.:

- Access- *8 strategies and 24 action items*
- Coordination - *4 strategies, 11 action items*
- Workforce Development - *4 strategies, 11 action items*
- Funding and Finance - *5 strategies, 13 action actions*
- Evaluation - *3 strategies, 5 action items*

McKay shared a few of the accomplishments including high fidelity wraparound services added to the state Medicaid plan to make it sustainable; navigation guides- how to access services; and producing a new state plan for the council's consideration.

The Family/Youth Voice – comprised of family and youth who are represented at each scheduled IDT meeting. Similar to the BHCC council meetings, youth share their personal story of recovery and resilience. The following outline was developed by a certified parent peer who charged McKay to make their voice more meaningful. Over the past three months the following outline was developed.

- System of care values and principles
- Opportunities for improving and including family and youth voice in IDT
- Current youth and/or family engagement initiatives
- Agency readiness

#### *Transition-Reentry Committee*

Fitzgerald introduced Michelle Stanley, deputy director of DCS's Office of Reentry Services Field Operations Division and Co-Chair of the Transition–Reentry Committee Health and co-chair of the Transition-Reentry Committee. Stanley shared the following BHCC transition reentry committee current areas of areas of focus:

- Access to RESPECT Institute speakers for partnering agencies
- Forensic Peer Mentor Program
- Employment for citizens returning to their communities
- Family Reunification Project

The Forensic Peer Mentor Program is in its sixth year and is operating in 5 state prisons and 6 Day Reporting Centers. The program outcome highlights include for the fiscal year to date, 127 returning citizens enrolled at GDC facilities and 255 returning citizens enrolled at the day reporting center facilities.

The recidivism/re-arrest year to date rate is astounding with only 1 individual who was readmitted post release to a psychiatric hospital and 1 individual re-arrested, no re-convictions and 1 parole/probation revocation conviction post release. Stanley shared program outcome highlights about community-based referral and linkages. The Transition Reentry Committee subcommittee also focuses on employment for returning citizens by engaging, educating and connecting individuals with opportunities in the community and partnering with agencies that are doing similar work such as DCS, GVRA, DOL, DOJ, and the Georgia Justice Project.

In addition the subcommittee The Family Reunification Initiative (FREE) is a Family Reunification, Education & Empowerment Project. It is a psychoeducational, counseling and peer support initiative to facilitate successful re-entry for Georgia returning citizens. The proposed pilot site for this project is the Metro State Prison.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Fitzgerald opened her report with how to improve many elements of transformation and understanding data, quality improvements and deploying the data in more effective ways.

*J.R Gravitt*, director of DBHDD's Office of Performance Analysis, Division of Performance Management and Quality Improvement. His office produces quantitative analysis and evidence-based outputs. Gravitt shared information on suicides in Georgia and the United States. Suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Georgia and 10<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. Georgia's suicide mortality rate is ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> among states.

Gravitt shared findings on DBHDD's FY 2017 suicide mortality rate as well as the suicide Risk Assessments.

Virginia Sizemore, director of DBHDD's Office of Improvement Division of Performance Management and Quality Improvement gave an overview about the work of her office. In partnership with other offices primarily behavioral health, they develop, implement, and measure quality improvement initiatives that are:

- Aligned with the goals and priorities of DBHDD
- Focused on making improvements that benefit the people we serve
- Guided by established quality improvement techniques and principles
- Informed by best practices and peer-reviewed information

A special suicidal ADA study will be conducted by the Administrative Services Organization (ASO)/Georgia Collaborative which will include:

- A review of the literature
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) suicide risk factors

- DBHDD Policy
- DBHDD Behavioral Health Provider Manual

Based on the results of the special study, next steps may include:

- Additional quality improvement initiatives and focused studies
- Incorporation of additional items into standard review tools
- Targeted trainings

The goal of the study is to analyze services for individuals who have multiple admissions to Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs) due to Suicidal Ideation (S/I) within one year to identify gaps in the system of care, identify barriers in the system post-discharge and identify effective interventions and practices.

Sizemore also shared examples of the areas that will be reviewed. This fiscal year, 3 pilots were chosen, and the work is on-going. Debriefs are at the end of the month. She expects to have a report that outlines the findings and next steps that will be taken.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjournment**

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

### **Special Notes**

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Behavioral Health Coordinating Council will be held on **Wednesday, November 13, 2019**.

### **Respectfully submitted by:**

Tracy Gamble, BHCC Liaison

### **Signatures:**

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Chair

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Secretary