



**Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities  
Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2019  
1:00 p.m.  
2 Peachtree Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

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**Meeting Called By:** Kim Ryan, Chair

**Facilitator:** Kim Ryan

**Note Taker:** Rayna Gibson (DBHDD)

**Members Present:** Ellice Martin, Jan Ligon, Jimmy Thomas, David Glass

**Members  
Teleconferencing:** Kenneth Holton, Jean Sumner

**Members Absent:**

**DBHDD Leadership:** Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner  
Amy Howell, Assistant Commissioner/General Counsel  
David Sofferin, Director of Public Affairs

## Agenda

**Call to Order:** Chair Ryan; 1:00 p.m.

Chair Kim Ryan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Recovery Presentation

Neil Campbell of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse gave a few updates on the organization's initiatives. She briefly discussed the Peer Support Warm Line funded on by DBHDD and then introduced the recovery speaker Unique Dixon. Ms. Dixon is in long-term recovery and serves as a coach on the Warm Line. She shared her story on her trials and dealing with overcoming addiction and substance abuse.

### Action Items

One action item was approved:

1. Approval of the December 13, 2018, Board Meeting minutes: Chair Ryan asked for a motion to approve. Jimmy Thomas made the motion, which was seconded by Jean Sumner. The minutes were approved without additions or corrections.

### Commissioner's Report

Assistant Commissioner Amy Howell gave the report on behalf of Commissioner Fitzgerald who was attending the legislature's joint appropriations meeting. Ms. Howell gave a brief update on Governors Deal's press conference where he introduced the GCAL app that is geared to creating accessibility to children and anyone in Georgia. She then recognized the following DBHDD team members to present to the board:

**Steven Barron** and **Ivy Hofstadter** (forensic director and clinical director of Georgia Regional Hospital-Savannah) gave an update on Trauma-Informed Care at the hospital. Dr. Hofstadter gave an overview, and the impact of trauma and the long-term effects of trauma. The initiative provides individuals with a voice and choice in their recovery and supports the development of self-advocacy and self-empowerment in an environment that promotes resiliency.

**Ron Wakefield** (director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities) gave an update on the Senate Study Committee on the excessive and duplicate regulatory oversight of community-based intellectual and developmental disability services.

**Amy Howell** (assistant commissioner/general counsel) gave a brief update on the status of the settlement agreement. Ms. Howell gave an overview of the details of the settlement agreement from the date the agreement was entered to now. She also gave an overview of the terms, provisions, focus areas, and as well as goals achieved and partnerships and initiatives with other agencies.

*Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities  
Judy Fitzgerald, Commissioner*

**Dante Mckay** (director of the Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families) and **Marnie Braswell** (child, adolescent, and emerging adults program coordinator at CSB of Middle Georgia) gave an overview of the Apex Program. Apex is a statewide school-based mental health program. Its goals are early detection, increased access, and increased coordination. Apex serves families in three tiers; Tier 1: Universal Prevention, Tier 2: Early Intervention, and Tier 3: Intensive Intervention. Currently, 396 schools in Georgia offer the program.

### **Chair's Report**

Chair Ryan complimented the department on its achievements regarding the settlement agreement.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment offered.

### **Adjournment**

There was no further business. Chair Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made Jimmy Thomas and was seconded by David Glass. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

### **Special Notes**

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, April 18, 2019.**

The meeting will be held at 2 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, in the 24<sup>th</sup> floor Boardroom.

### **Respectfully submitted by:**

Rayna Gibson, recording secretary

### **Signatures:**

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Vice Chair

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Secretary