



**Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Meeting Summary
October 8, 2020
1:00 p.m.**

*This meeting will be conducted via WebEx with video connection for Board Members.
There will be no in-person attendance at the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities.*

Chair Kim Ryan called the meeting to order. Board members Kim Ryan, Ellice Martin, Jimmy Thomas, Laura Whitaker, Jean Sumner, Lasa Joiner, Justine Welsh and Jan Ligon joined by WebEx. David Glass did not attend the meeting.

Chair Kim Ryan opened the meeting by recognizing Jeff Breedlove of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse to introduce the guest speaker Deb Esposito. Ms. Esposito shared her story of recovery.

There was one action item on the agenda that was approved:

1. August 25, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fitzgerald gave an update of the DBHDD hospital co-existence with COVID-19, future plans for the co-existence with COVID-19 and behavioral health COVID-19 co-existence. Commissioner Fitzgerald also provided information about Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) co-existence with COVID-19, an update about support coordination agencies, and internal DBHDD procedures.

Jill Mays, *director of the Office of Behavioral Health Prevention & Federal Grants*, provided a 2020 Prevention update with detailed information concerning the suicide prevention strategic plan, COVID-19 crisis, opioid epidemic, and media initiatives.

Commissioner Fitzgerald closed her report by thanking DBHDD staff and providers. She is optimistic about the pathway ahead and the agency's continued efforts.

Kim Ryan provided brief remarks.

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 pm.