



**DBHDD**

**Behavioral Health Coordinating  
Council Meeting Minutes**

**May 16, 2018**

**10:00 a.m.**

**2 Peachtree St, NW**

**24<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

**Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

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**Meeting Called By:** Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald (DBHDD)

**Facilitator:** Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald

**Members Present:** Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald (DBHDD)  
Commissioner J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D. (DPH)  
Commissioner Greg Dozier (DOC)  
Superintendent Richard Woods (DOE)  
Stanley Jones, Esq. (Family Representative)  
Disability Services Ombudsman Lavinia Luca (ODSO)

**Tele-Conferencing:** Commissioner Frank Berry (DCH)  
Representative Katie Dempsey (District 13)  
Commissioner Robin Crittenden (DHS)  
Senator Renee Unterman (District 45)  
Commissioner Michael Nail (DCS)  
Chairman James Mills (PAP)  
Commissioner Avery Niles (DJJ)

**Members Absent:** Diane Reeder, Parent Representative  
Commissioner Mark Butler (DOL)  
Commissioner Christopher Nunn (DCA)  
Julie Spores Adult (Consumer Representative)

**DBHDD Leadership:** Amy Howell, Assistant Commissioner & General Counsel  
Jeffery A. Minor, Deputy Commissioner & COO  
David Sofferin, Director, Office of Public Affairs

## **Agenda**

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Fitzgerald welcomed everyone and took roll of the council members attending and participating via teleconference.

### **Recovery Presentation**

Larisa Barthen, outreach and communication manager for the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, introduced guest speaker Jodi Dotson, who is a peer recovery coach for the Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist (CARES) program warm line. Dotson is in long-term recovery and has been clean and sober for 3½ years. He no longer misses out on the gifts of life because of his past experiences of trauma as a child, his addiction, and his diagnosis. Dotson said he never knew that the dark and scary places that he experienced would be the most powerful tools that he has to relate to and encourage others as a CARES coach. He said that freedom from addiction is real and available! He expressed gratitude to DBHDD for helping to provide a safe place for people to find a connection and assistance. The CARES warm line is open 365 days from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 1-844-326-5400.

### **Action Items**

The following action items were reviewed and approved.

#### **BHCC Previous Meeting Minutes**

*Approval of the November 15, 2017 meeting minutes*

Commissioner Fitzgerald called for a motion to approve November 15, 2017, meeting minutes. Commissioner Greg Dozier made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner J. Patrick O'Neal. The minutes were unanimously approved without additions or corrections.

#### **Proposed 2017 BHCC Annual Report**

*Approval of the 2017 Annual Report*

Commissioner Fitzgerald called for a motion to approve the 2017 BHCC Annual Report. Michael Nail requested the inclusion of the Department of Community Supervision acronym on Appendix A of the 2017 BHCC Annual Report. Commissioner Frank Berry made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Greg Dozier. The 2017 BHCC Annual Report was approved with the requested addition.

#### **IDT MOU**

*Approval of the Interagency Directors Team Memorandum of Understanding.* Commissioner Fitzgerald called for a motion to approve the 2018 BHCC meeting dates. Commissioner Frank Berry made the motion, which was seconded by Disability Services Ombudsman Lavi Luca. The *Interagency Directors Team Memorandum of Understanding* was unanimously approved without additions or corrections.

### **BHCC Initiatives**

#### *Interagency Directors Team*

Commissioner Fitzgerald introduced Dante McKay, director of DBHDD's Office of Children Young Adults and Families and co-chair of the Interagency Directors Team (IDT).

McKay recognized Linda McCall, chair of the IDT, for her leadership for the past two years. He will become the chair of the IDT on July 1, 2018.

McKay began his presentation with an overview. In the last year, the IDT began to develop the System of Care (SOC) State Plan for the council to review. The SOC is a federal framework defined by SAMHSA over the last 30 years. Concepts include a spectrum of effective community-based services and supports coordinated in a network that builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth that taps into the family voice; and is sensitive to cultural and linguistic needs to improve function at home, in school, and in the community.

Georgia has been involved with the SOC for 30 years. IDT created a pyramid to represent how policy and practice complement and reflect one another. The structure of the pyramid is as follows:

- Governor's Office
- Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (BHCC)
  - *Discusses policy and make recommendations to the Governor's office*
- Interagency Directors Team (IDT) (*mandated by Georgia State Law*)
  - *Informs and makes recommendations to the BHCC*
- Regional Interaction Agency Teams (RIATs)
  - *Bring together the local interagency planning team (LIPT) chairs in each DBHDD region to discuss, define, and plan for regional trends that impact the communities*
- Local Interagency Planning Teams (LIPTs) (*mandated by Georgia State Law*)
  - *LIPTs are local systems of care that meet as needed. They consist of community mental health providers that include, DJJ, DCH, DFCS, and DOE. The goal of the LIPTs is to support children and families and help them to remain in their community by connecting them to services and supports that are needed, or to help and support those individuals safely transition back into their home and communities.*

*(See PowerPoint presentation)*

Last year, the 2017 Georgia System of Care State Plan was approved by the council with a focus on 5 areas: access, coordination, funding/finances, workforce development, and evaluation.

The SOC updates included:

- Advancing the SOC State Plan work
- Plan for Year 2 implementation
- Establish baseline measures of schools that have access to all 3 tiers of school-based mental health services
- Improve family/youth ability to navigate the current system
- Increase use of intensive customized care coordination services
- Georgia behavioral health telemedicine map

- Improve SOC coordination
- Establish a clearinghouse for evidence-based practices
- SOC guiding principles in contact development
- SOC financing report updates
- SOC evaluation

McKay will provide updates on the IDT accomplishments for year 1 and the teams year 2 objectives at the next BHCC meeting.

**Comment-***Commissioner Fitzgerald stated that the SOC is a robust plan that provides great details about the important work that's occurring across the state. The plan is available on DBHDD's website and on the Georgia Center of Excellence website.*

(<https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/2018-bhcc-meeting-calendar>)

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual System of Care Academy will be held June 20-22, 2018 at the Evergreen Marriott in Stone Mountain.

McKay also reported that Governor Deal, via executive order, convened the Commission on Children's Mental Health to make recommendations related to the needs of children's mental health in Georgia. The BHCC and IDT submitted a plan for consideration, and the commission returned eight recommendations that were funded. He provided a brief summary of the recommendations that can be found on DBHDD's website.

(<https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/commission-childrens-mental-health>)

#### *Transition and Re-entry Committee*

Commissioner Fitzgerald introduced Terri Timberlake, Ph.D., director of DBHDD's Office of Adult Mental Health and co-chair of the Transition Re-Entry Committee.

The Transition Re-entry Committee is comprised of representatives from majority of the partnering agencies represented on the council. Over the last few years, the committee addressed issues about stigma, access, and information about services for individuals who are in state correctional facilities and day reporting centers across the state, who have a mental health need. Recently, the committee focused on the following four areas:

Access to Respect Institute Speakers for partnering agencies. Individuals share their messages of their lived experience at team meetings, trainings, and staff orientations to raise awareness that recovery is real. The face of behavioral health is not the same across the state. The committee has received positive feedback about the impact of the stories shared.

The Forensic Peer Mentor Program is comprised of mentors who have a behavioral health and criminal history. They are trained and work to support individuals in their transition out of the prisons into communities. The forensic peer mentors are working with individuals in five state prisons, six day reporting centers, and Georgia Regional Hospital-Atlanta's forensic unit. Thus far in FY 2018, enrollment is 74 from correctional facilities and 124 from day reporting centers.

The committee has been working on the "Prison to Purpose" video that highlights the fullness of the program. The video consists of wardens across the state speaking about the impact that the program has had on reducing the recidivism rate. It also features interviews with leadership and forensic peers. The video is in its final stage of completion, and Timberlake hopes to share the video at the next council meeting. The video will be accessible on the DBHDD's website, YouTube,

and other social media outlets.

Employment for returning citizens was another focus of the committee. An employer council was developed to spearhead and educate potential employers about the benefits of employing individuals who are transitioning back into the community. Similar to the need for employment, there is also a need for supported housing. The committee is collaborating with the Department of Corrections to increase access to supported housing for returning citizens who are homeless.

Timberlake reported that the family reunification initiative is in the final stages of planning and budget. The committee is looking to implement the initiative in Metro State Prison. The plan targets families of the returning citizens to help strengthen their ability to support individuals transitioning to the community. The plan will be peer led at Phillips and Lee Arrendale state prisons as well.

PowerPoint presentations are available at <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/2017-bhcc-meeting-calendar>.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Time did not allow Commissioner Fitzgerald to present on DBHDD's Decade of Transformation, a review of how DBHDD is serving Georgia's most vulnerable citizens. Fitzgerald invited the council read the PowerPoint presentation enclosed in their folder.

### **Adjournment**


Commissioner Fitzgerald thanked the council members for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

### **Respectfully submitted by:**

Tracy Gamble, Council Committee Liaison

**Signatures:**

Chair



Secretary

