



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health  
& Developmental Disabilities

Judy Fitzgerald, Commissioner

**D·B·H·D·D**

Office of the Commissioner

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**Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities  
Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2021  
1:00 p.m.  
2 Peachtree Street, 24th Floor Boardroom  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

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**Meeting Called By:** David Glass, Vice Chair

**Recording Secretary:** Courtney Gay (DBHDD)

**Board Members**

- **Conferencing:** David Glass, Ellice Martin, Justine Welsh, Jan Ligon, Jimmy Thomas, Laura Whitaker, and Lasa Joiner
- **Absent:** Jean Sumner

**DBHDD Leadership:** Judy Fitzgerald, Commissioner  
Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner/COO  
Ashley Fielding, Assistant Commissioner  
Brenda King Woodard, General Counsel

**Agenda**

**Call to Order:** Vice Chair David Glass; 1:00 p.m.

Vice Chair David Glass welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Recovery Presentation**

Jeff Breedlove of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse introduced Renee Smith to the members of the board. Renee is a NICU Peer Recovery Coach at the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse. She shared her personal story of recovery.

## **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Fitzgerald introduced members of her team to provide an update:

Madhu Gundlapalli, M.D., *deputy medical director of the Division of Hospital Services*, provided a thorough hospital update on COVID-19 coexistence in the DBHDD hospitals.

Maxwell Ruppensburg, *director of the Office of Supportive Housing*, provided a broad overview of a supporting housing 2.0 update with detailed statistical information.

Debbie Atkins, *director of Crisis Coordination*, gave an overview of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis line: 9-8-8.

Commissioner Fitzgerald closed her report by informing the board of the continuous efforts, positive strides, and pivots being made from the DBHDD staff.

## **Action Items**

Two action items were approved:

1. Approval of the February 11, 2021, board meeting minutes: Vice Chair David Glass asked for a motion to approve. Laura Whitaker made the motion, which was seconded by Jimmy Thomas. The motion was passed unanimously.
2. Election of Board Chairperson: General Counsel, Brenda King Woodard, called for the nomination for Board Chairperson. Jimmy Thomas nominated David Glass as Chairperson. Mr. Glass was unanimously elected as the chairperson. Mr. Glass being elected Chairperson created a Vice Chair vacancy. This being the case, Jimmy Thomas nominated Ellice Martin as Vice Chair. Dr. Martin was unanimously elected as the Vice Chair. Dr. Martin being elected Vice Chair created a Secretary vacancy. Dr. Martin nominated Jan Ligon, Ph.D., as Secretary. Dr. Ligon was unanimously elected as the Secretary. Upon accepting their election, each candidate gave kind words to serve on the DBHDD Board in their new position.

## **Chair's Report**

Chair David Glass gave brief remarks and commended the agency for its great work.

## **Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Adjournment**

There was no further business. Chair David Glass asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Jan Ligon and was seconded by Laura Whitaker. The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

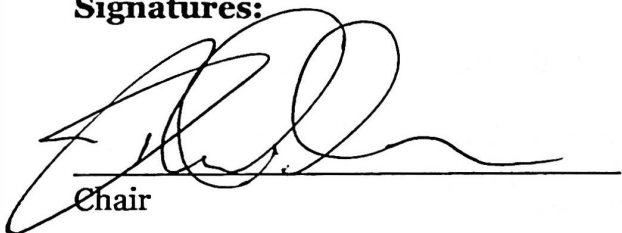
**Special Notes**

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, June 10, 2021**.

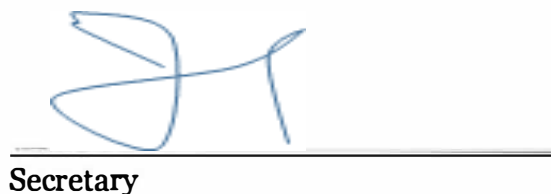
*\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Board meetings will be held virtually until further notice. Otherwise, Board meetings are held at 2 Peachtree Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Board Room, Atlanta, GA from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

**Respectfully submitted by:**  
Courtney Gay, recording secretary

**Signatures:**



Chair



Secretary