



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health &
Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Tanner, Commissioner

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Office of the Commissioner

Board of Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Thursday, April 18th, 2024 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

200 Piedmont Avenue, S.E.

West Tower, 5th Floor, Board Room 512

Atlanta, GA 30334

This meeting was conducted in person and via WebEx for the public and Board Members.

Meeting Called By: David Glass, Chairman

Recording Secretary: Chelsee Nabritt, Community Outreach
Manager

Board Members

- **In-person Conferencing:** David Glass, Bubber Epps, Jan Ligon, Ph.D.
- **Virtual Conferencing:** Amanda Owens, Deb Bailey, Lasa Joiner
Jean Sumner, M.D. Ellice Martin, Ed.D.
- **Absent:** Jimmy Thomas

DBHDD Leadership: Monica Patel, Esq., *Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs and Chief Legal Officer*,
Brandon Kenney, *Assistant Commissioner of Operations*, Allen Morgan, *Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations North* and
Brenda Woodard, Esq.,
General Counsel

Agenda

Call to Order: Chairman David Glass; 1:00 p.m.

Chairman David Glass welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Chelsee Nabritt to conduct the roll call.

Recovery Presentation

Chairman David Glass opened the meeting by recognizing Alexia Jones, Executive Director for R2ISE Recovery, to introduce Mr. Joe Jackson to the podium to share his recovery story. Mr. Jackson expressed that it is an honor to be in front of the Board to share his story and explained how he expresses himself through all forms of art. He explained how he expresses himself through different forms of art such as: drawing, poetry, music, acting, and more. Mr. Jackson also explained how much the R2ISE Recovery center has positively impacted his life and his journey in recovery and his gratefulness and appreciation towards Ms. Alexia Jones and those at the community center.

Action Items

1. Board Meeting Minutes – February 8th, 2023. Chairman David Glass asked for a motion to approve. Bubber Epps made a motion, which was seconded by Jan Ligon, Ph.D. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Eastman RYDC Acquisition Resolution – Brenda Woodard, Esq., presented the resolution to the board members and Chair Glass asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Jan Ligon, Ph.D. made a motion, which was seconded by Bubber Epps. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Tanner opened his report by inviting Chief Financial Officer, Chris Hamilton to the podium to share the Governor's Budget Update. Chris shared in detail the amount of dollars that was passed during this legislative session through the General Assembly and explained in detail how the agency will appropriately allocate those dollars. Chris thanked the Governor's office and the General Assembly for their generosity of working with the agency to enhance mental health and developmental disability efforts throughout the state.

Commissioner Tanner then introduced the Legislative Affairs Director, Michael Polacek to the podium to share the 2024 Legislative Session Update. Michael, explained in detail several bills that passed this session that affected the agency directly. Michael also stated that if these bills receive the Governor's signature there will be changes to the Behavioral Health and Coordinating Council, there may be an opportunity for the agency to expand the jail-based restoration programs, and registered nurses from out of state would be able to practice without barriers in the state and there could be an opportunity for loan repayment to help fill the workforce shortage in this field.

Commissioner Tanner then introduced the Deputy Director of the Office of Medicaid Coordination & Health System Innovation, Ashleigh Caseman to present the IDD

Waiver Update. Ashleigh Caseman discussed the several changes in lieu of the public comment period from December 12- January 20, and how it impacted the agency and the status of the rate table. Ashleigh then introduced the Director of Crisis and Transition Services, Beth Shaw to the podium to present the Specialized Transitional Community Residential Alternative Homes to the board. Beth explained the intent of a transitional community residential alternative home, a behavior focused community residential home and an intensive community residential alternative home. Commissioner Tanner also chimed in at the end of her presentation to inform the board that these transitional homes are helping us keep people out of hospitals and they are integrated in the community for the better good of the patient.

Commissioner Tanner gave an update on the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust by informing the board about the grant application and explaining to the board that we held our first information session regarding the settlement last week. Commissioner Tanner also shared that many have visited the website and have been taking interest to the grant application; Commissioner Tanner also stated that he looks forward to reviewing all submissions once the application closes. Commissioner Tanner then thanked the presenters for sharing their updates with the Board.

Commissioner Tanner closed his report.

Chairman's Report

Chairman David Glass thanked the presenters for updating the DBHDD Board on the agenda items. Board member Jan Ligon Ph.D. mentioned that it is extremely encouraging to see the amount of work that has been completed under Commissioner Tanner's leadership. He mentioned that he can tell that we are really trying as an agency to remove all barriers and help those who are truly in need of our services, and he thanked Commissioner Tanner and the staff for their efforts and hard work. Ellice Martin, Ed.D., mentioned that Commissioner Tanner is the perfect person to oversee the Opioid Settlement funds and that she will be visiting the website and encouraging those within her community to learn more about the grant opportunity.

Commissioner Tanner thanked the board members for their kind words and Chairman Glass closed the Chair's report.

Public Comment

There was 1 comment from the public at this meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Glass asked if there were any further business for the day, after hearing none, Chairman Glass asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Jan Ligon Ph.D., which was seconded by Bubber Epps. The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Special Notes

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, June 13, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Chelsee Nabritt, recording secretary

Signatures:



Chairman



Secretary