



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health
& Developmental Disabilities

Judy Fitzgerald, Commissioner

D·B·H·D·D

Office of the Commissioner

**Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2020
1:00 p.m.**

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

Meeting Called By: Kim Ryan, Chair

Recording Secretary: Courtney Gay (DBHDD)

Board Members:

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

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

Agenda

Call to Order: Chair Kim Ryan; 1:04 p.m.

Chair Kim Ryan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Recovery Presentation

Jeff Breedlove of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse introduced Berlinda Jackson to the members of the board. Ms. Jackson is a CARES Warm Line Peer Coach with the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse. She shared her personal story of recovery.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fitzgerald introduced our new Appointed Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs, Ashley Fielding. Commissioner Fitzgerald provided positive accolades and is confident Ashley will be an excellent addition to our team.

Commissioner Fitzgerald gave an update on COVID-19 and detailed updates regarding the DBHDD agency.

Emile Risby, M.D., *director of the Division of Hospital Services and Chief Medical Officer*, provided an update on the DBHDD hospitals COVID-19 co-existence, CARES Initiative, point of care testing in DBHDD Hospitals, and COVID-19 vaccine preparation.

Ron Wakefield, *director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities* and Ashleigh Caseman, *director of Waiver Services*, provided information regarding the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program renewal and the New Options Waiver Program amendment.

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

Action Items

There were two action items approved:

1. Approval of the October 8, 2020 board meeting minutes: Chair Kim Ryan asked for a motion to approve. David Glass made the motion, which was seconded by Jimmy Thomas. The motion was passed unanimously.
2. Approval of the Proposed 2021 DBHDD Board Meeting Dates: Chair Kim Ryan asked for a motion to approve. Lasa Joiner made the motion, which was seconded by Ellice Martin. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chair's Report

Chair Kim Ryan gave brief remarks and commended the agency for its great work.

Public Comment

Pamela Walley made a public comment.

Adjournment

There was no further business. Chair Kim Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Jimmy Thomas and was seconded by Laura Whitaker. The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Special Notes

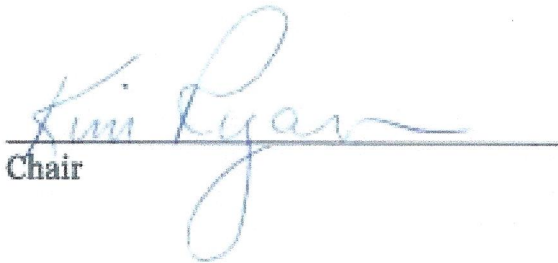
The next scheduled meeting of the Board of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, February 11, 2021**.

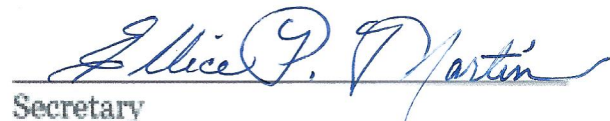
The meeting will be held at 2 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, in the 24th floor Boardroom.

Respectfully submitted by:

Courtney Gay, recording secretary

Signatures:


Chair


Secretary