



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, June 13th, 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: Ellice Martin, Ed.D., Vice-Chair

Recording Secretary: Chelsee Nabritt, Community Outreach
Manager

Board Members

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

DBHDD Leadership: Brenda Woodard, Esq.,
General Counsel

Agenda

Call to Order: Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed.D. called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed.D. welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Chelsee Nabritt to conduct the roll call.

Recovery Presentation

Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed.D. asked Chelsee Nabritt, Community Outreach Manager with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to introduce Mrs. Ruth Naomi Escamilla from the Respect Institute, to come to the podium and share her recovery story with the Board. Mrs. Eschamilla expressed how proud to she is to have this opportunity to share her story with the Board; she expressed how hard her

childhood was and how she had to overcome obstacles regarding an abusive parent, drug addiction, and the lose of her siblings. She expressed how through Christ she was able to turn her life around, get married, have children, and be a better daughter, wife, mother, and friend to those around her and how working at the Respect Institute is her daily reminder that anything is possible. She is in the process of obtaining her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Georgia and how she is so happy to give back to this community.

Action Items

1. Board Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2024. Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed.D. asked for a motion to approve. Jimmy Thomas made a motion, which was seconded by Jean Sumner, M.D. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Tanner opened his report by inviting Chad Jones, VP of Business Operations at Viewpoint Health to the podium to present the CSB Co-Responder Update. Chad shared in detail what the Co-Responder Program is, why it is important, who it affects, and how it has been successful throughout the state. Chad also explained the types of trainings the clinicians and officers within the program go through to ensure safety, procedures, policies, and guidelines are followed correctly and how effective they are for both parties. Chad then answered a few questions from the board regarding counties that are currently involved and how to get other counties involved.

Commissioner Tanner then introduced the Director of the Division of Behavioral Health, Brenda Cibulas to the podium to present the Co-Responder Update from the Department's perspective; she explained that SB 403 clearly defines what the Co-Responder program is and how the legislation creates a partnership between the CSB's, behavioral health professionals and law enforcement, on how to work together to de-escalate behavioral health emergency crisis. Brenda expressed the number of CSB's involved in the program, Brenda also went through the budget for each region explaining in detail the dollar amount spent to ensure the success of the program.

Commissioner Tanner then introduced the Senior Director of Talent Acquisition and Learning, Theodore Carter, Jr. to the podium to present updates regarding Recruitment and Workforce Development on behalf of the Department. Theodore mentioned that the Department has been tackling workforce and recruitment from a different angle, he has been partnering with Technical Colleges, Universities, career developmental organizations and has even branched out to use different software's and platforms to inform the public about job opportunities. Theodore also mentioned that they have used different talent acquisitions metrics to process of recruiting and selecting applicants.

Commissioner Tanner then introduced to the Opioid Abatement Liaison, Taylor Peyton to the podium to present an update on the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust. Taylor informed the Board that Commissioner Tanner and colleagues hosted 5 sessions throughout the state and online to inform the public about the Opioid Crisis Abatement applications, express who can apply for this opportunity, and answer any questions the public may have regarding the process. Taylor explained the dollar amount each region is proposed to receive, and how many total applicants there were for that region as well. Taylor then showed the timeline of where we are currently at in the process of the grant application, and what the next steps are for the department and for regional appointees. Taylor answered a few questions from the Board members and informed them on why this work is so important to her, and how she is excited about the next steps.

Commissioner Tanner then introduced the Director of Communications, Kaleb McMichen to the podium to present an update on 988 campaigns. Kaleb spent a few moments informing the Board on what 988 is and then explained how the department has worked closely with First Lady Marty Kemp to ensure the success and awareness of 988. There have been several innovative 988 campaign events with the intent to spread awareness and share resources. Kaleb also spoke about how the “Strike Out the Stigma” partnership with the Atlanta Braves helped us reach even more people by Braves players getting creative about sharing content and extending outreach.

Commissioner Tanner then thanked the presenters for sharing their updates with the Board.

Commissioner Tanner closed his report.

Vice-Chairman’s Report

Vice-Chairman Ellice Martin, Ed.D. thanked the presenters for presenting to the Board and for sharing the initiatives that are taking place to improve workforce, 988, the Georgia Opioid Trust and the Co-Responder Budget. Board member Amanda Owens mentioned that she wanted to connect with some internal staff in the Savannah region to help her with sharing resources within the community. Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed.D. also mentioned that she is very excited to see if Board members can attend the Co-Responder Conference, since it will be held in Atlanta, GA next year.

Commissioner Tanner thanked the board members for their time and Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed.D. closed the Chair’s report.

Public Comment

There were not any comments from the public at this meeting.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed. D. asked if there were any further business for the day, after hearing none, Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed. D. asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Jimmy Thomas, which was seconded by Amanda Owens. The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Special Notes

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, August 29, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Chelsee Nabritt, recording secretary

Signatures:



Chair



Secretary