



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  
October 13, 2022  
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.*

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

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

**Board Members**

- **In-person Conferencing:** David Glass, Ellice Martin, Ed.D., Lasa Joiner, and Jan Ligon, Ph.D.
- **Virtual Conferencing:** Justine Welsh, M.D., Scott Hilton, and Jean Sumner, M.D.
- **Absent:** Jimmy Thomas and Amanda Owens

**DBHDD Leadership:** Judy Fitzgerald, Commissioner  
Ashley Fielding, Assistant Commissioner  
Monica Patel, Director, Legal Services

**Agenda**

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

Chair David Glass welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked David Sofferin to conduct the roll call.

## **Recovery Presentation**

Chair David Glass opened the meeting by recognizing Jeff Breedlove of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse to introduce the guest speaker Greg Gardner. Mr. Gardner shared his journey of recovery.

## **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Fitzgerald opened her report by announcing her retirement from the DBHDD agency. She gave well wishes to the Board and her team as she prepares for the transition.

Dr. Emile Risby, M.D., *director of Division of Hospital and Forensic Services*, provided a presentation for the status of the hospitals.

Rachael Holloman, *director of Suicide Prevention*, gave presentation on recap of the 2022 Teen summit and the role of two new positions in her office.

Commissioner Fitzgerald closed her report with additional agency updates regarding IDD provider rate increase and the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic.

## **Action Items**

Two action items were approved:

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – August 30, 2022: Chair David Glass asked for a motion to approve. Lasa Joiner made the motion, which was seconded by Jan Ligon. The motion was passed unanimously.
2. Special Item – Recognition of Retiring Board Member Justine Welsh, M.D. who is leaving the board effective October 13, 2022.

## **Chair's Report**

Chair David Glass gave brief remarks, commended the agency for its great work, and gave admiration to Commissioner Fitzgerald on her future endeavors.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

**Adjournment**

There was no further business. Chair David Glass asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Ellice Martin, Ed.D. and was seconded by Lasa Joiner. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

**Special Notes**

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, December 8, 2022.**

*\*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