



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health &
Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Tanner, Commissioner

D·B·H·D·D

Office of the Commissioner

Board of Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Thursday, August 29th, 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, Chair

Recording Secretary: Chelsee Nabritt, Community Outreach
Manager

Board Members

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

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: Chair David Glass called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

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

Chair David Glass welcomed new Board Member Bill Slaughter and asked him to introduce himself to the Board. Mr. Slaughter mentioned that he resided in Lowndes County and is the Chairman of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners. He

mentioned that he has worked with Legacy Behavioral Health for several years, and he looks forward to furthering his expertise as a board member.

Recovery Presentation

Chair David Glass then asked Alexia Jones, Executive Director of for R2ISE Recovery, to introduce the Recovery Speaker for the day. Chelsee Nabritt informed the Board members that the recovery speaker was unable to attend the meeting for the day and to move forward with the agenda. Chair David Glass agreed and moved on to the action items for the day.

Action Items

1. Board Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2024. Chair David Glass asked for a motion to approve. Lasa Joiner made a motion, which was seconded by Jimmy Thomas. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Board Officer Nominations for Election in October. Chair Glass indicated that Board Members Epps, Thomas, and Owens served on the Nominating Committee and put forth the following slate: Lasa Joiner for Board Chair, David Glass for Vice Chair, and Jan Ligon for Secretary. Chair Glass announced the elections will be held at the October meeting.
3. Posthumous Resolution Honoring Ellice Martin, Ed.D. Chair Glass asked Chelsee Nabritt to go to the podium and read the resolution to the Board members. Chair Glass asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Lasa Joiner made a motion, which was seconded by Jimmy Thomas. The motion passed unanimously.
4. FY25 Amended FY26 Budget – Commissioner Kevin Tanner presented the budget to the Board members. Chair David Glass asked for a motion to approve. Bubber Epps made a motion, which was seconded by Lasa Joiner. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Tanner opened his report by speaking great remarks about board member Ellice Martin, Ed.D. and asking her family members to come to podium to receive the Commissioner's Champion Award on behalf of Ellice Martin, Ed.D. Commissioner Tanner greeted the family and took photos. Ellice Martin's daughter expressed how important the work of DBHDD was to her mother and how she valued being a Board Member; she thanked the Board members and Commissioner Tanner for their kind words and their generosity.

Commissioner Tanner then presented the fiscal year 2025 amended budget and the fiscal year 2026 budget to the Board. After presenting, the Chair called for a vote. Bubber Epps made a motion to approve both budgets and the motion was seconded by

Lasa Joiner. Chelsee Nabritt completed the roll call vote; each member voted yes, and the motion was passed approving both budgets.

Commissioner Tanner then introduced Dawn Peele, LPC, CPCS, Director of the Office of Crisis Coordination Division of Behavioral Health, and Anna Bourque, MSCM, LSSBB, Director of the Provider Relations and ASO Coordination, presented a 988 2nd year anniversary update. Ms. Peele and Ms. Bourque went over the data that shows the awareness 988 has been getting across the state of Georgia and spoke about how the call volume and increased demand has affected our agency. They mentioned that they are very excited to see the continued growth of 988 in the state and touched on how 988 geofencing should take effect soon to help with the call routing when a person calls while in crisis.

Commissioner Tanner then presented an update on recruitment and workforce, he explained to the Board that we have been struggling as an agency in our hospitals with staffing due to the COVID impact and due to employees not being paid market value. He explained that we have given raises to hospital staff. He also spoke of Theo Carter, Director of Talent Acquisition and his team, and how they are thinking outside of the box to get people more interested in this line of work. He expressed how we have partnered with technical colleges and universities to recruit students and recent graduates too. Commissioner Tanner then showed DBHDD's new recruitment video and stated that the video will be shown at job fairs to show prospective employees that DBHDD is a great place to work.

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

Commissioner Tanner closed his report.

Chairman's Report

Chair David Glass thanked the presenters for presenting to the Board and for sharing the initiatives that are taking place to improve workforce, 988, and thanked Commissioner Tanner for giving the board members a detailed overview of the Budget. Chair David Glass also thanked Ellice Martin's family for attending the Board meeting and thanked Commissioner Tanner and DBHDD staff again for awarding her with the Commissioner's Champion Award.

Chair David Glass closed his report.

Public Comment

There were 3 public comments at this meeting.

Adjournment

Chair David Glass asked if there were any further business for the day, after hearing none, Chair David Glass asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Jimmy Thomas, which was seconded by Bubber Epps. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

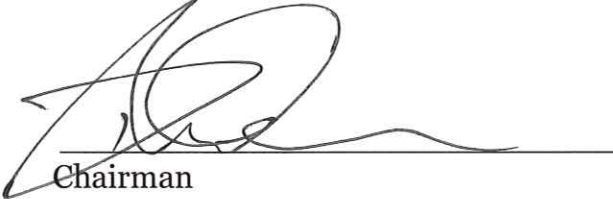
Special Notes

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, October 24, 2024**.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chelsee Nabritt, Board and Special Project Manager

Signatures:



Chairman



Secretary