


**Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**  
**Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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|---|-----------------------|---|
|  | <b>Meeting</b>        | <b>IDD Advisory Council (DDAC) Meeting</b>        |
|   | <b>Date</b>           | <b>Wednesday, July 24, 2024</b>                   |
|   | <b>Time</b>           | <b>10:00 am – 11:33 am</b>                        |
|   | <b>Location</b>       | <b>WebEx</b>                                      |
|   | <b>Call-in Number</b> | <b>+1-415-655-0002, access code 2330 934 4024</b> |

Secretary Caroline S. Chandler called the meeting to order. Council members Riad Akhras, Nanditha Isaac, Heidi Moore, Caroline Chandler, Shanekia Graham, Gina DiPolito, June DiPolito, Twana King, Ryan Whitmire, Pauline Shaw, and Andrea Ford were present. A quorum was established.

Council members Heather Daily, Mira Stallings, Julie Kable, and Bruce Linderman were absent.

Staff members Ron Wakefield, Allen Morgan, Jennifer Dunn, Jeff Thompson, Ron Singleton, Tawanda Scales, Christine Gudgin, Dante McKay, Valona Baldwin, Ashleigh Caseman, Robert Bell and Olivia Nickens were in attendance.

Others present were Conner McMahon and Ruth Isaac.

Registered Observers and Public Comment: Tina Boyd and Clementine Rivers

Council approved the minutes of the April 24, 2024, meeting and the agenda for the current meeting.

**DBHDD IDD Programmatic Updates**

***Ron Wakefield*** discussed the recent reorganization of DBHDD moving back to a regional structure. He introduced Allen Morgan and Jennifer Dunn as Deputy Commissioners to Commissioner Tanner. He introduced Dantae McKay (Region 1), Jeff Thompson (Region 3), Rachel Palmer (Region 4), Frank Straw (Region 5) and Valona Baldwin (Region 6). The appointment of staff for Region 2 has not been announced. It was shared that Waiver Amendments were not part of the approval and that CMS requested to hold off until ARPA funding is expended. It is also expected that a new rate will be forthcoming for ASL. The DCH Board is still in the process of reviewing the coverage of Adult Dental Services. Ron stated that contract issues should be resolved well before the next fiscal year as there have been some challenges in moving forward with a new electronic system. The fingerprinting changes are outside of DBHDD control; however, the frustration is understood. Ron agreed that a better job of increasing public service announcements could be done and encouraged the board to share option for moving forward.

***Allen Morgan*** informed the group that he and Jennifer Dunn are working together as he learns more about Behavioral Health and she learns more about Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities. Allen provides oversight to Regions 1, 2 and 3 with Jennifer providing oversight to Regions 4, 5, and 6.

***Robert Bell*** informed the group that he would ensure the Support Coordination agencies are aware of the delayed implementation of the fingerprinting for background checks. He is also the contact for questions related to deaf services.

***Tawanda Scales*** provided updated NOW/COMP Waiver updates. At the time of this meeting there were 772 new waivers for FY'24.

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**Council Member Updates (Self-advocates, Family & Participant Directed, Providers)**

*Gina DiPolito* shared advocacy efforts with COMMUNITY STRONG.

*Nandi Isaac* excitedly shared she has new hearing aids and had recently went out of the country to visit family.

*Riad Akhras* shared that he is looking for roommates.

*Heidi Moore* shared that the billing/coding for therapy services seems to have been resolved. Expressed concern that the fingerprinting process is slowing down new hire.

*Shanekia Graham* shared that she is grateful to be included on the board and representing Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) through the newly formed DSP Council.

*Caroline Chandler* shared that Aspire had 26 DSPs enrolled in the UGA TAP for Workforce Development and was thankful for the opportunity to include the direct support professionals.

**New Business**

None.

**Public Comment**

Trina Boyd expressed concern for barriers for new providers.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

**Next Council Meetings**

October 23, 2024

January 22, 2025

April 23, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline S. Chandler