

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, February 8th, 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, Chairman

Recording Secretary: Chelsee Nabritt, Community Outreach
Manager

Board Members

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

DBHDD Leadership: Monica Patel, Esq., *Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs and Chief Legal Officer*, Brandon Kenney, *Assistant Commissioner of Operations*, and Brenda Woodard, Esq., *General Counsel*

Agenda

Call to Order: Chairman David Glass; 1:01 p.m.

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

Recovery Presentation

Chairman David Glass opened the meeting by recognizing Toyia Mather, Outreach Coordinator for the Respect Institute of Georgia, to share her recovery story journey with the Board members. Mrs. Mather shared her journey of recovery and resilience and

spoke briefly about how grateful she is to work at the Respect Institute and how impactful it can be to share recovery stories with others.

Action Items

1. Board Meeting Minutes – December 7th, 2023. Chairman 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 inviting Chief Financial Officer, Chris Hamilton to the podium to share the Governor's Budget Update. Chris shared in detail the line items for the Governor's budget and emphasized on the agency's goals with the funds; he also thanked the Governor's office and the General Assembly for their generosity of working with the agency to enhance mental health and developmental disability efforts throughout the state.

Commissioner Tanner then introduced the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Ron Wakefield to present the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Workgroup's (IDD Workgroup) 1st Year Report. Ron shared that the IDD Workgroup was charged with assisting in the development of potential solutions pertaining to the IDD Planning List, Community Hospitals and Emergency Rooms, and IDD Workforce. The members of the IDD Workgroup and their affiliations were shared. The priority recommendations of the IDD Workgroup were shared. Lastly, Ron shared the next steps in the process.

Commissioner Tanner thanked both presenters for sharing their updates and presented a Regional Structure Update to the Board. Commissioner Tanner informed the Board of several organizational changes. Commissioner Tanner announced that Monica Patel, Esq. has been promoted to fill the Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs and Chief Legal Officer role, Allen Morgan has been promoted to fill the position of Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations North, and Jennifer Dunn has filled the role of Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations South. Under the new Regional Structure, the regional staff will report directly to Allen and Jennifer. Allen is responsible for DBHDD Regions 1, 2, and 3 and Jennifer is responsible for DBHDD Regions 4, 5, and 6. Commissioner Tanner shared his vision for the new roles that were filled and explained his vision and direction he would like for the agency to go, and how he is excited to see Monica, Jennifer and Allen succeed in these roles.

Commissioner Tanner closed his report by thanking staff for presenting today.

Chairman's Report

Chairman David Glass thanked the presenters for updating the DBHDD Board on the budget and the recommendations regarding the IDD Workgroup's Report. Chairman Glass expressed his confidence that the executive leadership team will continue to make a positive impact on the agency overall. Chairman Glass also thanked Vice Chair Ellice Martin, Ed.D. for chairing the last meeting while he was out of town. He also thanked Taylor Peyton for speaking at an event at his request to share her recovery story. Chair Glass mentioned that the entire room was moved by Taylor's powerful story and wished her well.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public at this meeting.

Adjournment

There was no further business for the day. Chairman Glass asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Ellice Martin Ed.D., and was seconded by Amanda Owens. The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

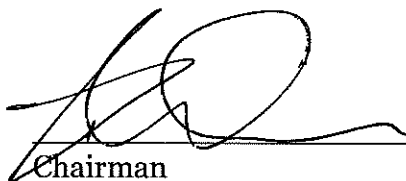
Special Notes


The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, April 18th, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Chelsee Nabritt, recording secretary

Signatures:


Chairman


Secretary

