



**Autism Services Initiative for Adults
Autism Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**June 26, 2015
9:00 a.m.
24th floor Board Room**

Facilitators:	Frank Kirkland and DBHDD/Emory Autism Project Staff
Minutes Secretary:	Katherine Roeder
Advisory Committee Attendees:	Scott Bales, Jennifer Briggs, Tim Cartledge, Rena Harris, Ray Johnson, Stacey Lane, Kim Lucker-Greene, Eren Kyle Niederhoffer, Laura Owen, Julie Prescott, Stacey Ramirez, Michelle Schwartz, April Umstead
Absent:	Deborah Conway, Greta O'Dell, Rita Young
DBHDD Staff:	Frank Kirkland, Darlene Meador
Emory Staff:	Joseph Cubells, Silke Von Esenwein, Katherine Roeder
Visitors:	Dan Crimmins (Georgia State University consultant), Bob Babcock (independent consultant), Michelle Robison (Georgia Association of CSBs, attending for Greta O'Dell)

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Kirkland opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking each attendee to introduce him/herself to the group. He thanked the advisory committee members for being part of this initiative and reiterated its importance for adults living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families in Georgia.

Comments and Perspective

Darlene Meador provided comments and perspective on the initiative as follows:

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- The initiative is a partnership between DBHDD and Emory intended to identify gaps in Georgia’s developmental disability service delivery system and to use this information to consider training and technical assistance that could support delivery of evidence-based developmental disability services to adults with ASD.
- The advisory committee is made up of diverse partners who will help staff ensure that the initiative is relevant and informs the state’s understanding of the comprehensive needs of the target population.

Joseph Cubells provided comments and perspective on the initiative as follows:

- The partnership of DBHDD and Emory University is a good opportunity to address the issues of families of adults with ASD needing services and supports.
- The advisory committee is our eyes and ears in the community, and we welcome their help with suggestions, perspective, and the dissemination of information.

Silke Von Esenwein, whose background is in data analysis, will gather data on existing programs and policies by:

- Looking at existing research to inform her work with “best practices.” She will perform a thorough survey on what is available for adults in other states, and possibly other countries.
- Looking at existing DBHDD data and current services being delivered.
- Conducting focus groups in the target communities.
- Preparing and presenting a comprehensive report on her findings and recommendations.

Silke circulated copies of a chart of deliverables and corresponding due dates.

Question and Answer Period

The presenters answered questions from committee members. Highlights are as follows:

- The initiative is for the entire state, not just for Atlanta.
- The data being examined is related to individuals who are receiving services and those who are not. All income levels are included.
- The Autism Plan for Georgia contains 30 aspirational ideas in its conclusion. Some of these relate to adults and might be used as a model for the current project. The new project will use a GAP analysis, as used in the plan.

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- A general survey on quality was conducted in writing the Autism Plan, as were focus groups. The general survey had an impressive return rate, which included about 500 responses. We might use this method.

Election of Leadership and Subcommittee Choices

The duties of the co-chairs of the committee were outlined with a request for volunteers for the positions. Scott Bales and April Umstead were named co-chairs of the committee.

Volunteers were also requested for the three subcommittees:

- Access: How do people get to programs that already exist?
- Quality: How effective are the services?
- Services: What is available?

Subcommittee members were identified as follows:

- Access: Ray Johnson, Stacey Ramirez, Laura Owen, Tim Cartledge, April Umstead, Scott Bales.
- Quality: Michelle Schwartz, Tim Cartledge, Daniel Crimmins, Jennifer Briggs/Emily Myers, Bob Babcock, Michelle Robison, Kim Lucker-Greene, Laura Owen, Rena Harris, Eren Niederhoffer, Stacey Lane, April Umstead, Scott Bales.
- Services: Michelle Schwartz, Tim Cartledge, Jennifer Briggs, Michelle Robison, Julie Prescott, Rena Harris, Eren Niederhoffer, Stacey Lane, Scott Bales.

Discussion: Communication Strategies for Stakeholders

The committee discussed strategies for communication with stakeholders about the initiative. These strategies are to be shared with DBHDD's Office of Communications for their input.

Next Steps

August meeting preparation is on the topic of focus groups.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.