



DBHDD

**Behavioral Health Coordinating
Council Meeting Minutes**

February 13, 2019

10:00 a.m.

**Georgia State Capitol
206 Washington St, SW, Room 132
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

Meeting Called By: Commissioner Frank Berry (DCH)

Facilitator: Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald

Members Present:

Senator Renee Unterman (District 45)
Representative Katie Dempsey (District 13)
Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald (DBHDD)
Commissioner Frank Berry (DCH)
Commissioner J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D. (DPH)
Commissioner Michael Nail (DCS)
Commissioner Avery Niles (DJJ)
Superintendent Richard Woods (DOE)
Stanley Jones, Esq. (Family Representative)
Interim Disability Services Ombudsman, Jacquice Stone
Chairman Terry Barnard (PAP)

Members Absent:

Commissioner Christopher Nunn (DCA)
Commissioner Robyn Crittenden (DHS)
Commissioner Gregory Dozier (DOC)
Commissioner Mark Butler (DOL)
Julie Spores Adult (Consumer Representative)
Diane Reeder, Parent Representative

DBHDD Leadership:

Amy Howell, Assistant Commissioner
Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner
David Sofferin, Director, Office of Public Affairs
Lavin Briggs, Director of Special Projects

Agenda

Call to Order: Commissioner Frank Berry called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the State Capitol. Berry introduced Suzanne Kilgore, guest speaker and a graduate of the RESPECT Institute.

Berry introduced Suzanne Kilgore, guest speaker and a graduate of the RESPECT Institute. Kilgore grew up in a middle-class family with high standards and values. In her twenties, she married and experienced physical abuse from her husband which led to her prescription drug use that spiraled out of control. In 1986, she was arrested and sent to a residential long-term treatment program. Kilgore completed the program but began using drugs again for more than 6 years. In 1992, she surrendered to getting help and married her second husband. Finally, at the age of 48, Kilgore was willing to get clean from drugs and start the healing process. At 54 years of age Kilgore graduated from college, earning a bachelor's degree in psychology. She obtained a counselor certification in substance abuse and landed her first job at ViewPoint Health. Kilgore received a full pardon from the Georgia Board of Pardons and Parole and was granted full restoration of her rights. Kilgore has been in recovery for 11 years and would like the department and council to help find effective ways to fight the stigma of substance abuse disorder and mental illness.

Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald thanked Kilgore for her candor and bravery in sharing her compelling story. She said that the job of the council is to make sure we are there when someone is seeking recovery, "How do we as public officials and citizens that care deeply put strategies and services in coordinated ways of responding to make recovery possible? The council has an opportunity to have a dialogue in asking questions so that we all have a fundamental understanding of what's in place..., what's possible as we work together."

Action Items

There was one action item: review and approval of the previous BHCC meeting minutes.

BHCC Previous Meeting Minutes

Approval of the November 15, 2018 meeting minutes

Commissioner Fitzgerald called for a motion to approve the November 15, 2018, meeting minutes. Commissioner Michael Nail made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Superintendent Richard Woods. The minutes were unanimously approved without additions or corrections.

BHCC Initiatives

Interagency Directors Team

Fitzgerald introduced Danté McKay, director of DBHDD's Office of Children Young Adults, and Families and chair of the Interagency Directors Team (IDT).

McKay began his presentation with an update on the Georgia System of Care Values and Principles and Infrastructure. The guiding principles were developed over the last 30 years by SAMSHA. In Georgia, it's been observed in our infrastructure through legislation.

The IDT receives monthly updates and informs the council on the following:

- System of Care Expansion Grant (DBHDD)
- Project LAUNCH (DPH)
- Project AWARE (DOE)

- Local Interagency Planning Teams (LIPTs)
- The Commission on Children's Mental Health (DBHDD)

The Georgia System of Care (SOC) State Plan is a three-year state plan. FY 2019 is the second plan year. SOC membership is comprised of 30 organizations that include all of the child care serving agencies, four managed care organizations, and advocacy groups in Georgia. They meet on a monthly basis. Development focused on five areas of influence:

- Access
- Coordination
- Funding and Finance
- Workforce Development
- Evaluation

McKay shared the Georgia SOC State Plan Year 1 (FY 2018) accomplishments, including the creation and dissemination of behavioral health services public education materials that will help people navigate and locate services in their community. Year 2 (FY 2019) highlights include building and maintaining feedback loops between local, regional, and state systems, as well as finalizing evaluation methods and tools.

Governor Brian Kemp recently proposed funding to expand school-based mental health. The Georgia Apex Expansion 2.0 program creates partnerships between community-based mental health providers and local schools to provide school-based mental health services. The Notice of Intent to Award went out February 1, 2019. Thirteen qualified DBHDD licensed providers will be chosen. Fitzgerald said she was honored when Governor Kemp visited two high school Apex sites in Gwinnett and Dawson counties to learn firsthand how the program works. Kemp showed great interest and asked about the barriers and sustainability of the program.

Transition Re-entry Committee

Commissioner Fitzgerald introduced Terri Timberlake, director of DBHDD's Office of Adult Mental Health and co-chair of the Transition Re-Entry Committee.

Timberlake discussed the committee's current areas of focus:

- Access to Respect Institute speakers for partnering agencies
- Forensic Peer Mentor program
- Employment of returning citizens
- Housing access
- Family Reunification Project

The committee's specific focus is to help returning citizens with behavioral health needs transition out of the correctional system back into the community with the supports they need. In FY 2019, the Forensic Peer Mentor Program operated in five state prisons and six day reporting centers. The program outcome highlights 74 returning citizens in corrections facilities and 124 returning citizens enrolled at day reporting facilities this fiscal year to date. Another accomplishment of the program is the making of the "From Prison to Purpose" video, which can be viewed on DBHDD and partnering agencies' websites (DCS, GDC, GMHCN, GVRA). The video consists of interviews from GDC wardens, forensic peer support staff,

leaders, and returning citizens sharing their personal experiences about how the program has helped them.

Timberlake gave an overview of the Forensic Peer Mentor Program recidivism/rearrests outcomes this year to date and the outcomes of community-based referral and linkages to services.

The Transition Re-entry Committee developed an Employer Council focused on the following areas:

- Employer education and awareness
- Identifying policies that may present as barriers to gainful employment
- Bonding
- Tax benefits
- Maximizing GVRA & DOL services
- Enhancing job readiness skills prior to re-entry

The council is working to identify employers who embrace the opportunity and highlight the benefits of employing returning citizens.

On May 1, 2019, the Family Reunification Initiative will start a pilot program in Metro State Prison. This is a 12-month family focused, peer facilitated, and multi-session program that helps support the needs of people who are transitioning from a correctional facility into the community.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fitzgerald called on Tony Sanchez, director of DBHDD's Office of Recovery Transformation, to speak peer services. In her introduction, Fitzgerald emphasized that the use of peers is spreading fast within the health care and human services system.

Sanchez is a person in long-term recovery. He spoke passionately about the support received from DBHDD leadership and others who value peer specialists in Georgia. A major role of the Office of Recovery and Transformation is to support the delivery of human health services that are holistic, person-centered, and recovery-oriented. Certified peer specialist are individuals who are trained to use their lived experiences with behavioral health conditions to empower adults, children, and families to sustain their recovery and wellness and to create fulfilling lives in their communities.

Data gathered by Mental Health of America showed the positive impact of peer support on employment, housing rates, provider relations, and quality of life. Data also showed it reduced substance use, inpatient days, re-hospitalizations and re-incarceration, and cost of services medical services.

Georgia is the national leader in incorporating Medicaid reimbursable services:

1. First state to offer Medicaid reimbursement for CPS-Mental Health

2. Medicaid coverage in 36 states now includes addiction recovery and whole health wellness coaches.
3. CPS-Y (youth, ages 18-26) and CPS-P (CPS parents that have lived experiences with raising a child with behavioral health challenges reimbursable services).

After 20 years of developing the CPS program in Georgia, there are 2,500 individuals serving in 3,200 roles across the state. CPS are working within our adult and child/adolescent community and hospital behavioral health services. CPSs do not use a cookie-cutter approach but meet the needs of individuals where they are in their lives at the moment.

DBHDD continues to enhance peer services by incorporating the following:

- Policy
- Training
- Youth Leadership Academy
- Addiction Recovery Support Centers
- Recovery-Focused Change
- Community Transition Plot Projects

DBHDD has partnered with the Georgia Appalachians Consulting Group and the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network to host community forums across the state. As a result, 6 urgent tasks have been enumerated:

1. Create a shared vision for peer services
2. Increase provider readiness and capacity to use peers effectively
3. Develop a career ladders for peers
4. Enhance peer supervision
5. Deploy peers strategically
6. Evaluate impact

Commissioner Fitzgerald asked Senator Unterman to provide a legislative update. Senator Unterman said it was refreshing to hear someone like Sanchez who shared the same compassion that she does concerning recovery. Unterman said there are a lot of changes within the new legislature, new ideas, and thinking outside of the box which is very invigorating. It is important to have both the policy and the funding, and to put the money where the need is, which she feels is in public health and prevention.

Commissioner Fitzgerald then called on Doug Reineke, DBHDD's legislative director, to give additional legislative updates.

Reineke reported that the amended fiscal year 2019 budget passed on Wednesday, March 12, 2019. Last year, Chairman Katie Dempsey advocated strongly for advancement on the Georgia Crisis and Access Line, which brought \$1.3 million to develop a texting app geared toward youth and adolescents. *(The "My GCAL" app was designed for Apple and Android smartphones. It enables users to connect directly with the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL), a 24/7 hotline that offers free and confidential access to services for mental illness, substance abuse and intellectual and developmental disabilities.)* Lastly, the Georgia General Assembly designated to adjourn sine die on April 2, 2019.

PowerPoint presentations are available at <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/2019-bhcc-meeting-calendar>

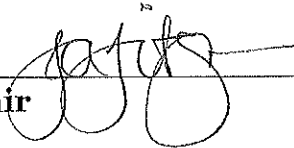
Adjournment

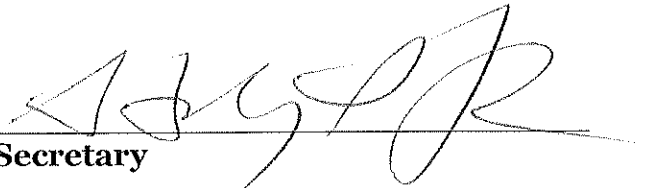
Commissioner Fitzgerald called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Terry Barnard made the motion to adjourn the February 13, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Frank Berry seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tracy Gamble, Council Committee Liaison

Signatures:


Chair


Secretary