



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Region 4 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Colquitt County Courthouse Annex, 2nd Floor ♦ 101 East Central Avenue | Moultrie, GA 31768

Attendance:

- Members Present:** Carla Heard (Baker), Reg McCutcheon (Brooks), Landra Lane (Calhoun), Bryan Arwood (Colquitt), Debra Richardson (Dougherty), Gail Davenport (Dougherty), Bobby Walker (Echols), Amy Griffin (Lanier), Kelley Saxon (Lowndes), Deanie Campbell (Mitchell), Virginia Herring (Seminole), Robin Schofill (Terrell), James Parrott (Thomas), Valeria Creel (Tift) and Sandra Cosby (Worth).
- Members Absent:** Bonnie Owen (Berrien), Debra Robinson (Cook), Angela McVey (Early), Billy Zorn (Irwin) and Dr. Wilhelmenia Howell (Lowndes).
- DBHDD:** Jackie Davis (R4 BH), Kristy Douglas (R4 DD), Jennifer Dunn (R4 BH) and Tim Hester (R4 DD).
- Guests:** Brad Wynn (RESPECT Institute) and Lynn Wilson (NAMI Moultrie).

Call to Order and Welcome. Ms. Sandra Cosby called the meeting to order and welcomed all meeting attendees. New members present were Carla Heard (Baker County), Debra Richardson (Dougherty County), and Gail Davenport (Dougherty County and Bobby Walker (Echols County). Two resignations; Bonnie Owens (Berrien County) and Dr. Wilhemenia Howell (Lowndes County). Glad to have new members join the R4 RAC.

RESPECT Institute (Brad Wynn). “The Good, the Bad, the Ugly and the New.” Brad’s road to recovery started when he asked for Drug (Accountability) Court after realizing the effect that his drug abuse and mental health issues had on his child and his family. He believes that Drug Court saved his life, it saved his freedom, it saved his family, it saved a lot of things and he is appreciative of it every day. Brad would recommend Drug Court from an outpatient standpoint to anyone who has a problem with mental health or substance abuse issues. To his peers; Brad advises them to *“understand that you have people around you who want to help you. The past is the past and it will only get in the way of your future. You are not alone. Use what is available to you because you can’t do it alone”*. Some of Brad’s life goals are to get involved in Rehab and Social Work; owning, working and/or counseling of some sort. Things do get better. Being able to talk about his recovery is helpful and healing. Brad advises people not to judge and to be supportive of people who have drug addiction and mental health issues.

Agenda Approval. Deanie Campbell made a motion to accept the Agenda as printed. Bryan Arwood seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minutes Approval. Deanie Campbell made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 11, 2018 Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meeting as printed. Virginia Herring seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Discussion. Georgia Apex Program (Jennifer Dunn): Every school district has an Apex program. Some school districts may not have the program in all of their schools. Thomas County has both City and County schools. The program is in both schools. There are areas of Region 4 where the program is not in every school. In Lanier, BHS of S. Georgia are not at the school every day, but they are in it more than once a week. Ms. Dunn sent out via email to everyone this morning an article titled *“Did You Know? Kemp budget proposal targets mental health problems in Georgia schools”*. The article references the GAP “Georgia Apex Project” program. The GAP program is a school based mental health program



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where counselors are physically in the schools. Some of the funding will go to the Department of Education to have counselors that they pay for; not DBHDD. Last week DBHDD received expansion funding for Apex. Ms. Dunn will send this update to everyone.

County Reports & RAC Questionnaire ("Identifying Independence and Recovery Needs in Georgia") Updates:	
Lanier	Amy Griffin. Amy will share the questionnaire link at the next Lanier County Family Connection meeting.
Worth	Sandra Cosby. On February 5 Ms. Cosby spoke to the Worth Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) again. Commissioners were given an update on the progress of the questionnaire. Ms. Cosby gave a recap of her previous presentation so that two new County Commissioners would know what was going on. She talked about GCAL, Apex, Crisis Response Systems and the questions that are on the questionnaire. She stressed the importance of Worth County citizens responding to the questionnaire. Ms. Cosby asked them to send the questionnaire out and communicate with people in Worth County. Commissioners were told what the number of questionnaires completed for Worth County was currently. Ms. Cosby explained that money is linked to the services. The Chairman volunteered to complete the questionnaire. RAC members were encouraged to help their commissioners to understand that money is linked to the services and that Region 4 does not have all of the services that it needs.
Grady	Sandra Cosby. Currently there is no representative for Grady County. Ms. Cosby attended a "Transition Fair" at Cairo High School on February 7. She gave out the questionnaire and shared information about the Region 4 RAC. The Region 4 Advisory Information document was a very helpful and educational tool. The document provides information about the Advisory Council appointments, roles, objective, service terms, etc. Ms. Cosby shared with people at the Fair that only three people in Grady had completed the questionnaire. A few people asked for the paper questionnaire and then decided it was easier to complete it online. There is a QR code in the questionnaire "Promotional Tools" documents included in the meeting materials folders. This code can be scanned onto iPhones. The camera can be used to capture the image of the code on Android phones. Phoebe Worth is having a Community Needs Assessment meeting tonight. Ms. Cosby plans to attend. Last week Ms. Cosby left palm cards at the Worth County Library and asked them to give them out. Ms. Cosby is also working with Bryan Arwood to coordinate an event in Colquitt County.
Irwin	Ms. Cosby. Billy Zorn was not present at the meeting due to recently undergoing surgery. Mr. Zorn has kept busy sharing the questionnaire during his recovery. He is promoting the questionnaire everywhere he goes.
Colquitt	Bryan Arwood & Lynn Wilson. In Colquitt County through NAMI, through Turning Point, through the hospital and several other organizations; there will be a Community Forum on March 21, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Southern Regional Technical College. NAMI Moultrie is hosting (funding) the event. Discussions are going on with other agencies regarding support of the event (provision of lunch, etc.). This is a work in progress and a collaborative effort. Mr. Arwood hopes that through the Forum, the new County Commission and new County Manager will attend and can strive to get more money for Georgia Pines to be able to offer something to return through Hospice, etc. Ms. Wilson explained that three things came to NAMI's attention at the onset of planning the Forum. There was an article in the newspaper about a new Support Group at a church in Moultrie. The pastor of the church had scheduled the group meeting on the same night and time that NAMI has been having the NAMI Support Group. This was an indicator that people did not know about all of the resources that were available. Ms. Cosby approached Ms. Wilson with the DBHDD RAC survey which is very critical. NAMI wanted to do what it could to help get the word out. At the same time; Pat Strode, Program Administrator for CIT GPSTC (Georgia Public Safety Training Center) said they needed to get some graduates into available resources and look at what's working. Ms. Wilson, Mr. Arwood, Ms. Cosby and the NAMI Leadership Committee met. The result of the meeting was the creation of a Forum which will include a panel of



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speakers. Ms. Wilson has a verbal commitment from the police chief, the sheriff, Boys & Girls Clubs, Ms. Cosby (DBHDD RAC), GPSTC, Turning Point, NAMI Moultrie, Colquitt Regional Medical Center, Southern Regional Technical College, etc. Everybody said yes, there is a need to make people aware of the resources that are available. Panelists will explain to attendees who their entities are and what they do. Attendees will not leave the room until they have filled out a RAC survey. Paper copies of the survey will be available along with internet access. People will be encouraged to bring their laptops and/or smart phones so they can complete the survey at the Forum. Ms. Wilson did not have a flyer with her at meeting, but there is an article regarding the event in the Moultrie Observer <https://www.moultrieobserver.com>. The announcement for the Forum will be sent out in different formats. The goal is to have everyone present at the Forum so that people know what their resources are. This has been a collective effort. People from other counties are invited and welcome to attend. Paper invitations to panelists were drafted yesterday (Monday) and will go out in today's US Mail. NAMI Moultrie is but one of several collaborative partners for this event. Ms. Wilson advised that NAMI has a current mailing list of approximately 1000 – 1500. Please let her know about future CIT and/or other trainings and NAMI Moultrie will help get the word out to get people signed up.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). NAMI is currently mentoring a group in Thomasville. There is also a renewed interest in Valdosta to start a NAMI chapter. NAMI is not a mental health provider; they provide education support and advocacy. They fill a part of the puzzle that is an important part, but they are not mental health professionals. NAMI members have the lived experience. NAMI is starting Family to Family class for family members who have a loved one with a diagnosis. If you have a family member within driving distance, the class starts Thursday, February 28. A flyer regarding the class was included in meeting materials folder. NAMI also has a Peer to Peer course which is for those who live with a diagnosis. NAMI Georgia and the Department of Education now have a contract and are working carefully together to enhance the mental health offerings to school children. Colquitt County has a Treatment Court for drugs and mental health. There is a Treatment Court in Colquitt and Dougherty County.

Mr. Arwood has distributed the questionnaire far and wide in Colquitt County. He initially gave out paper copies and was not getting them back. He posted it on Facebook and people have been completing it online. He encourages people to take the palm card and to pass it on to others. Mr. Arwood emphasized to people that it is not county specific, but statewide. Moultrie is getting a medical school (Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine) in August 2019. Turning Point has a lot of different steps for people in recovery in mental health. Colquitt is very progressive in certain things in the area. Just reach out if you are in need because there are plenty of places between Moultrie and Thomasville where people can get you pointed in the right direction.

Dougherty	<p>Gail Davenport. Has given the survey to family and friends in Dougherty County. Ms. Davenport used her thirty years of experience in Lee County to get the Sheriff's Office, Police Department, Probate Court and several other agencies to complete and promote the survey. She plans to meet with members of the Hispanic community weekend after next to get their input. Ms. Davenport is also working with Albany State University to get them the surveys so that they can share it. When talking about the survey to people, Ms. Davenport directs their attention question number six regarding access. Rural areas have problems accessing internet, etc. Ms. Davenport also gives an example of the need for services by referencing a map distributed at a meeting that she attended that shows Autism Treatment Centers highlighted in red around the state of Georgia. Atlanta and north of Macon is primarily red. South of Macon is not.</p>
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Lowndes	<p>Kelley Saxon. Lowndes county has been pushing the survey. Ms. Saxon found that there are a number of people in neighboring counties who also filled out the survey while in Lowndes. The university has been actively involved and so has Family Connections. Recently attended the Benchmark Collaborative in Valdosta where she placed the palm cards and surveys on the table. Many people chose to do them online. It was mentioned and plugged at the collaborative. Ms. Saxon has a contact with the CSB in Baker and Decatur Counties who mailed the information to forward to her counterparts in those areas. Ms. Saxon turned in completed paper copies at the close of the meeting. She is also pushing the on-line links.</p>
Seminole	<p>Virginia Herring. The next Seminole Family Connections meeting is this week. Some people have not turned the paper copies back in to Ms. Herring. She let them know that they can go online to complete it rather than distributing the paper copies. Ms. Herring has also given out palm cards. Some people have already gone online to complete the survey. She plans to meet with the County Commissioners next week. Seminole County Commissioner Chair, Sheila Williams (former R4 RAC member) has been helping with getting the survey distributed in Seminole also. Ms. Herring plans to reach out to the Director of the Donalsonville Hospital. Surveys were given out at the hospital and she has received some of those back.</p>
Mitchell	<p>Deanie Campbell. Ms. Campbell touched base with the County Commissioners and got two paper copies of the survey back. Notes that today's summary report reflects seven completed surveys for Mitchell County. Speculates that some of the other commissioners completed the survey online. She has seen it on Facebook. She is going to ask them to go online and complete the survey as a Valentine's Day gift to the county. Ms. Campbell also plans to send it to people who are in her email contacts. Ms. Cosby plans to attend the next Southwest Georgia Regional Commission meeting on February 28, 2019 in Camilla to share the survey. The Regional Commission is made up of representatives of 14 counties and 43 cities in Georgia. Their purpose is to assist and complement local jurisdictions by responding to their needs and assist in accomplishing goals in and for the communities.</p>
Thomas	<p>James Parrott. Has met with some of the people with the school's GAP Program (Counselors, Managers, etc.). Mr. Parrott missed the last Family Connections meeting due to a conflict with his work schedule. He has contacted DFCS. He also posted the link to the survey on the Thomas County Facebook page. He will probably post it two or three more times.</p>
Echols	<p>Commissioner Bobby Walker. Commissioner Wallace plans to place copies of the survey in the Courthouse and give employees a few minutes to complete it.</p>
Brooks	<p>Reg McCrutchon. The schools in Brooks county are the largest targets to share the questionnaire with.</p>
<p>Strategies for Sharing Questionnaire: RAC members were encouraged to consider sharing the questionnaires with community Law Enforcement, Police Departments, Sheriff's Offices, Inmates in jails, Probation & Parole Officers, Libraries, School Superintendents, Salvation Army, Goodwill, Thrift Stores, Rescue Missions, Food Banks, etc. Sharing the number of surveys that have been completed by your county makes a difference so that people know how many have been completed by their county.</p>	

Statewide Leadership Council (SWLC) Report. Ms. Cosby.

- **Delphi Team.** At the last SWLC meeting, members of the Delphi Team were recognized. This team has been working together for two years. Others were encouraged to join the team. If you are interested, you are welcome to join. Ms. Cosby can provide information about the team. Irene Cheyne, Director of SWLC Delphi Team sent requests to newspapers asking them to publish the article about the survey.



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- **Statewide Leadership Council.** The Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary (Executive Committee) of each Regional Advisory Council (RAC) attends SWLC meetings bi-monthly in Macon. These are voting members of the body. Anyone can attend the meeting. The entire state is represented. Agenda items include updates from DBHDD. Regional Advisory Council has Bylaws and are in the process of revising some of them. DBHDD has representatives who attend the meeting. Region Chairs share what each region is doing.
- **ACCG.** SWLC members Ms. Cosby, Irene Cheyne, Zenawit Nerae (Community Involvement Intern) and Gail Davenport recently met with Dave Wills, Executive Director of ACCG; Debra Nesbit, Associate Legislative Director; Beth Brown, Director of Strategy, Innovation and Board Relations; Bill Tomey, Government Relations Manager; Skylar Harding, Communications Manager and Baldwin County Commissioner Henry Craig. Henry Craig is spearheading the ACCG Mental Health sub-committee. SWLC members left the meeting feeling like it was very productive. The meeting provided an opportunity to share with ACCG information about the DBHDD Regional Advisory Council, the Council's role, objective and information about the survey. SWLC asked for ACCGs' support as commissioners to encourage people to take the survey and asked for their support with appointing people to Regional Advisory Councils across Georgia. Commissioner Craig and Dave Wills offered some suggestions about how and what to present to Boards of Commissioners. Commissioner Craig agreed that if SWLC needed help that he would be glad to do that in talking to the Board about appointing representatives. Ms. Cosby sent a "Thank You" note to ACCG with a copy to Commissioner Fitzgerald and David Sofferin, Adrian Johnson and Allen Morgan.
- **Association of Georgia County Sheriffs.** A Major with the Houston County Sheriff's Office will be speaking about the survey to 135 sheriffs at the Association of Georgia County Sheriff's meeting in February. Houston County Sheriff's department had their inmates complete the survey and they plan to encourage other sheriffs to do this as well.
- **Mental Health Day at the Capitol.** SW Community Relations Intern, Zenawit Nerae sent surveys to all of the State Representatives and Senators asking them to complete and promote the survey. Ms. Nerae also attended Mental Health Day at The Capitol on February 8. Ms. Nerae was able to get 119 surveys completed on this day. She also distributed palm cards to people attending the event.
- **Unspoken Wounds Conference.** Survey Director, Irene Cheyne will promote the survey at the upcoming Unspoken Wounds Conference March 17–19 in Columbus. The Georgia Association of Public Housing is promoting the survey in their newsletter. Ms. Cheyne recently requested a residential services directory for Region 4 from Ms. Dunn, so that information could be sent to them about the survey. The survey has garnered support from many organizations throughout the state (i.e., Parent Mentor, Family Connections, etc.).

DBHDD Updates

Behavioral Health (Jennifer Dunn).

- **Regional Community Collaboratives.** Everyone is welcome to attend the Region 4 Community Collaboratives. A schedule of the Collaboratives which is set for the year was included in the meeting folder. Five Collaborative meetings are held per quarter in Albany, Thomasville, Valdosta, Bainbridge and Tifton. They are a good place to meet with partners like the Sheriff's Department, Police Department, the local school system and others. CEUs and Post Credits are offered at the Valdosta (Benchmark Mobile Crisis) collaborative. The



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meetings are topic specific (i.e., the January meeting was about the new GCAL system and the blended Mobile Crisis). The meeting scheduled for April in Valdosta will be about Deaf Services. The remainder of the meetings on the schedule are smaller. The next meeting in Tifton is scheduled for Thursday, February 14.

- **Georgia Rural Health Summit.** Ms. Dunn missed the R4 RAC meeting in December because the Commissioner asked her to speak for her at the Georgia Rural Health Summit December 10-11, 2018 in Atlanta, at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta-Airport. Ms. Dunn was the representative for Georgia for rural mental health. There were twenty two states represented at the informative conference about rural mental health. Since the December conference Ms. Dunn has been presenting at many events at the Commissioner's request.
- **Georgia Ag Forecast Meeting.** Ms. Dunn attended the Georgia Ag Forecast Meeting at the request of the Department of Agriculture and their Commissioner, Gary Black. The University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences sponsors the seminar series. The seminars are attended by farmers, lenders and Ag leaders from around the state of Georgia. They discuss the latest trends and economic conditions in agriculture. The seminars took place in several locations throughout the state January 22 – February 1. The largest seminar in the state of Georgia was held in Tifton where over 325 Farmers were in attendance.
- **2019 Georgia Organics Conference & Expo February 8-9.** Ms. Dunn was a presenter at the Farmer Education Session of the conference on Saturday, February 9. Ms. Dunn gave attendees with whom she interacted the link to the RAC survey. Attendees are farmers from all over the state of Georgia.
- **Interviews.** Ms. Dunn has given four interviews recently; two of which aired on the Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB.org). Ms. Dunn has also written two articles for publication in the Disaster Readiness Newsletter. One of the articles from the Georgia Farm Bureau will be published next week. This publication goes to the mailboxes of approximately 40,000 farmers.
- **Post Hurricane Michael.** The current post hurricane discussion is about recovery and hope. There are still areas in Region 4 (Bainbridge, Donalsonville, Early County, Mitchell, etc.) that will take longer for repairs and restoration. Recovery efforts are ongoing.
- **Mental Health First Aide (MHFA).** Ms. Dunn is teaching MHFA classes in Region 4. MHFA is an 8 hour class. Upcoming classes are scheduled for February 15 in Tifton, February 26 in Bainbridge. Two classes will be hosted by the Thomasville police department on May 7 and May 9 in Thomasville. Ms. Dunn will send the link so that anyone who wants to register for these can do so. The two trainings in May will be specific for law enforcement. Ms. Dunn will co-facilitate these with a law enforcement officer. The rest of the courses are typical general MHFA for adults. This would be a great class for RAC members to take. A MHFA class for Youth will be held in Tifton in March. The University of Georgia is allowing use of their conference center free of charge to hold the courses. Ms. Dunn worked with Mental Health of Georgia to get a \$500 grant. Attendees must purchase their own lunch. Snacks are provided.



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- **APEX Funding.** Region 4 received additional funding for Apex services. Funding is for an expansion grant and a new Apex provider. Georgia Pine's GAP (school based services) program received expansion funding. Vashti is a new provider of Apex services. They are located in Thomasville.
- **DBHDD Leadership Meeting.** The DBHDD Leadership meeting with the Commissioner is scheduled for next week. Ms. Dunn will give updates from this meeting at the March RAC meeting.
- **Opioid Funding (R4 Services).** DBHDD received Federal funds for Opioid crisis. In Region 4 new services will be offered by two providers in Region 4 for people with opioid addiction and/or any other addiction they might have.
 - **ASPIRE - Change Center, Albany.** Today is the ribbon cutting for ASPIRE's Recovery Community Support "Change" Center in Albany. R4 BH staff will attend the event. The center is located at 501 Pine Avenue. The Change Center is an addiction recovery support center for people with opioid addiction and any other addiction. They can go to the center and talk to peers. ASPIRE had a soft opening in December 18. The complementary service to this is the MAT (medication assisted treatment) program to get people off opioid. Both of those providers received funding for these.
 - **Georgia Pines – Location TBA, Thomasville.** Georgia Pines received Opioid funding also. They identified a location last week where services will be provided. Additional details will be provided when they become available.
- **Partnering for a Healthy Community Forum.** Ms. Dunn hopes that DBHDD will have a role in facilitating at the upcoming collaborative. She already has something scheduled on her calendar that day, but will send Region 4 BH staff if invited.
- **Georgia Pines CSB Leadership.** Robert Hurn is the new CEO for Georgia Pines. Mr. Hurn is the contact for Georgia Pines.

Discussion: Navigating the System (Mr. Arwood & Ms. Dunn). Navigating the system is difficult and is one of the big issues that people have. Communication is key and something that everyone needs to work on. Crisis Service Centers are not medical facilities and cannot handle some of the same things (i.e., oxygen, etc.) that a medical hospital can handle. They are not credentialed and licensed this way. Ms. Dunn sees the need to educate and articulate what DBHDD can and cannot do, what DBHDD is responsible for and what is outside the scope. Please feel free to contact Ms. Dunn with any questions or concerns that you might have regarding navigating the system. DBHDD funds two Housing Outreach Coordinators (Navigators) for ASPIRE and BHS. The Housing Outreach Coordinator position with ASPIRE is now vacant. People in this position go into all of the jails, prisons and emergency rooms to provide assistance. The department just funded a new position in Region 4 Behavior Health Services to assist in navigating high utilizers (people going to ERs, etc.) of DBHDD services. Every week a list of high utilizers of DBHDD services is reviewed; the person in the navigator role assists these people. Turning Point serves people who are insured. DBHDD has a contract with Turning Point to serve people who have a dual diagnosis and are uninsured. There are eight uninsured dual diagnosis contract beds for people who meet this criteria. Most of what Turning Point does is private.

Developmental Disabilities (Tim Hester)

- **Office of Autism.** DBHDD has formed an Office of Autism Services. Breanna Kelly is the Autism Project Coordinator of this Office. Ms. Kelly is currently doing a lot of fact finding to determine where the need is for autism services. There are limited autism services in South



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Georgia. There is a huge network in Atlanta. There are some practitioners in South Georgia. They are primarily involved in assessment and not in the sphere of the ongoing care. One of missions that the Office is on is to look at crisis services. There is already information which shows that most families, most individuals who experience issues within the autism spectrum disorder range; this is one area that really needs services. Ms. Kelly is looking at people who are high utilizers of services and have diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder range.

- **In-home Behavior Support.** There is a need to develop in-home behavior supports for people. Training the family on how to provide behavior support. There is actually staff who come into the home and are there for extended periods of time providing behavior support.
- **Respite.** There is a tremendous need for respite, particularly among the school aged group and individuals who continue to live at home with family who do not receive any type of waiver funded services or residential services. Mr. Hester will be talking more about autism services as time goes on. DBHDD has an office now that is focusing strictly on these services.
- **Transportation Services.** Transportation is a big challenge. In large rural areas, many DBHDD providers typically are Day Services providers who provide an essential range of services which include pre vocational, community access type of groups, supportive employment. Providing these services to people depends on the state funded transportation system. Several providers in the region provide this service. In September 2018 the Regional Transportation Board realized that it would come up approximately \$500,000 short in Medicaid transportation funding. The hope at that time was that some of the funding received (primarily federal funding) could be moved around to supplement some of the more rural areas. While going through some of the recovery efforts during the hurricane and after, the department found that a lot of this funding was earmarked to urban transportation projects. That money was designated in such a way that it couldn't be shifted around. A number of providers were told that they would have to cut back on the trips being provided to their centers. Mr. Hester has been in discussions with a number of these providers. There are Legislators who have come into this conversation. If any RAC members know any legislators and feel comfortable speaking about the subject; please make them aware that of the need to look at how rural transportation is funded, particularly for people who receive IDD services in Region 4. There has been discussion with the Regional Transportation Board and they are looking at how certain money from other parts of the state are shifted. There are other rural areas north of Macon and they are also in need. The department hopes to continue to have the transportation services that many rural providers need to help provide much needed services.
- **IDD Information Management System.** Work continues on developing the IDD information management system (case management system for waiver funded services). Division Director, Ron Wakefield has made it a priority that this has to be a functional system. The department has to manage a large amount of information that goes into the determination for eligibility for on-going service needs, fund and manage and educate waiver funded services. It is essential that those systems work properly, not to mention all of the other information of the people who receive waiver funded services. Tim is very appreciative of Mr. Wakefield with his assuring that the system is going to work well before implementation. The system is still under development.

Discussion: Access to DBHDD Client Database (Mr. Arwood & Ms. Dunn). Per DBHDD Legal Department; access to records housed in the DBHDD client database is considered Personal Health Information (PHI) and access by 911 System Operators is not permitted. 911 System



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Operators should be contacted regarding whether access of their records (i.e. calls to 911) is permitted to families of individuals with autism who have a signed consent.

Next Meeting. A called meeting is scheduled for March 12. The focus of the meeting will be to assess where R4 RAC is with its surveys. The only purpose for that meeting will look at the number of surveys completed, strategies needed and to touch base regarding additional assistance needed per member in completing surveys for your county. Please let Ms. Cosby or Jackie know if you would like to host the meeting. Lunch is welcomed, but not required. Members will be notified via email when a meeting location has been identified.

Adjournment. Deanie Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. James Parrott seconded the motion. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned.