



**Behavioral Health Coordinating
Council Meeting Minutes**

**November 14, 2018
10:00 a.m.
2 Peachtree St, NW
24th Floor Board Room
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

Meeting Called By: Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald (DBHDD)

Facilitator: Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald

Members Present:

Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald (DBHDD)
Commissioner Frank Berry (DCH)
Commissioner J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D. (DPH)
Interim Disability Services Ombudsman, Jacquice Stone
Stanley Jones, Esq. (Family Representative)

Members Tele-Conferencing:

Commissioner Michael Nail (DCS)
Superintendent Richard Woods (DOE)
Commissioner Avery Niles (DJJ)
Chairman Terry Barnard (PAP)
Julie Spores Adult (Consumer Representative)

Members Absent:

Commissioner Christopher Nunn (DCA)
Commissioner Gerlda Hines (DHS)
Commissioner Gregory Dozier (DOC)
Commissioner Mark Butler (DOL)
Representative Katie Dempsey (District 13)
Diane Reeder, Parent Representative

DBHDD Leadership:

Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner
Amy Howell, Assistant Commissioner
David Sofferin, Director, Office of Public Affairs

Agenda

Call to Order: Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Fitzgerald welcomed everyone and asked council members teleconferencing and those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Action Items

Fitzgerald began the meeting with presenting two action items for the councils review and approval.

BHCC Previous Meeting Minutes

Approval of the August 15, 2018 meeting minutes

Commissioner Fitzgerald called for a motion to approve August 15, 2018, meeting minutes. Commissioner Frank Berry made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 15, 2018, which was seconded by Commissioner J. Patrick O'Neal. The minutes were unanimously approved without additions or corrections.

BHCC 2019 meeting schedule

Approval of the BHCC 2019 meeting schedule

Commissioner Fitzgerald called for a motion to approve the BHCC 2019 meeting schedule. Stanley Jones made the motion to approve the BHCC 2019 meeting schedule, which was seconded by Commissioner Frank Berry. The 2019 BHCC meeting schedule was unanimously approved without additions or corrections.

BHCC Initiatives Interagency Directors Team

Commissioner Fitzgerald stated that the BHCC has two subcommittees that report to the council. As a regular part of the meeting, the Interagency Directors Team (IDT) and Transition and Re-entry Committee provide updates to the council.

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

McKay updated the council on the Interagency Directors Team following projects.

Georgia System of Care Values and Principles is something that SAMSHA has focused on for 30 years, and Georgia has been at the forefront of this work. The System of Care (SOC) is rooted in a spectrum of effective community-based services and supports that are organized into a coordinated network that builds meaningful partnerships with families and youth and addresses cultural competency in the community. In Georgia, it's been memorialized in our infrastructure formally through legislation.

In addition to serving as a workgroup to the BHCC, the IDT receives monthly updates from various projects that are provided below:

- System of Care Expansion Grant (DBHDD). The PowerPoint slide references the old system of care grant. Currently, there is a new System of Care Grant in place, and updates about the grant will be given at the next meeting.

- Project LAUNCH (DPH) is a four-year grant to the Georgia Department of Public Health that allowed integration of physical and behavioral health services in Muscogee County. DBHDD is the mental health authority partner on the grant.
- Project AWARE (DOE) grant blends education and mental health services supporting local interagency planning teams. It focused on Georgia school districts in Griffin-Spalding, and Muscogee, and Newton counties.
- Local Interagency Planning Teams (LIPTs) are multiagency teams that support youth and families through collaborative planning and coordination of services and support.
- Regional Interagency Action Team (RIATs) consist of the chairs of the LIPTs and are organized according to DBHDD's regions.
- The Commission on Children's Mental Health (DBHDD)

McKay reported that new organizations have been added to the IDT: United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta and Georgia Appleseed. In addition, a new CHINS state coordinator joins the team to better link and connect with the work of juvenile courts across the state of Georgia.

Additional updates were given on the following:

- Commission on Children's Mental Health
- Georgia APEX program
- High-Fidelity Wraparound
- Family First Prevention Services Act
- Supported Education/Supported Employment

Transition and Re-entry Committee

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

Timberlake said that the Transition and Re-entry Committee has been working for four years with the specific focus of helping returning citizens who have behavioral health needs transition out of the correctional system back into the community. The committee is a collaboration of a number of state agencies.

Timberlake shared the numbers of returning citizen's released by Georgia Department of Corrections with mental health classifications for level 2 outpatient treatment, level 3 inpatient moderate, and level 4 inpatient intensive for the months of July, August, and September of 2018. Every month, approximately 180 individuals are transiting back into the community.

The target areas identified guided the work of the committee are:

- Address barriers to access services
- Improve awareness about a broad range of services
- Address stigma associated with having a behavioral health diagnosis

So far in FY 2019, FPMs provided 2,671 transition planning sessions, and the program has a functional recidivism rate of 0% (0.02%) since its inception.

Timberlake also debuted the committee's first "Prison to Purpose" video, which consists of

interviews from GDC wardens, returning citizens, forensic peer support staff, and leaders from our partnering agencies, who share stories of how effective the program has been in their lives.

The committee continues to work toward the implementation of the Family Reunification Project, a family-focused re-entry curriculum that provides six months of family counseling that will help support the need of persons who are incarcerated transition out the correctional facility.

Supported housing continues to be a large focus for the workgroup, addressing barriers that impede access to housing for people with a serious mental illness who are transitioning from prison back into the community.

The Employment Work Group for returning citizens is looking closely at the issues of employment for returning citizens. The focus is to improve employment opportunities.

The 3rd Annual Respect and Recovery 5K Race/Walk took place on October 12 in Grant Park. More than 200 people participated in the multi-agency collaboration, celebrating recovery and re-entry.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner welcomed and acknowledged the Henry County Superior Court Judge Brian Demario. Demario and other superior court judges express an emerging interest in citizens with behavioral health issues in the local jails. Demario recognized the need to partner with DBHDD, the BHCC and other stakeholders to explore ways to reduce the number people with severe mental illness who are in the local jails.

Critical Area Updates

Fitzgerald introduced Joseph Hood, III, deputy commissioner (DCH). Hood gave an overview about why Medicaid benefits for those who are incarcerated were terminated. Beginning in 2017, DCH has suspended benefits, rather than terminating them.

DCH completed a programming change on January 2, 2018, with its vendor for the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (GAMMIS) to postpone termination of Medicaid of impacted individuals until reenrollment occurs through the Social Security Administration enrollment process. The change will replace the termination date with a date of 18 months forward, thus suspending or postponing termination for 18 months. Initiatives are on-going as it relates to eligibility termination.

Following Hood's presentation, Fitzgerald stated that as part of a behavioral health authority, DBHDD plays a special role in addressing the opioid crisis. She introduced Cassandra Price, director of DBHDD's Office of Addictive Diseases, who gave a detailed overview about new funds received for the opioid crisis. Price shared the outcomes that were implemented along with the successes achieved while recognizing some challenges.

PowerPoint presentations are available at <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/2018-bhcc-meeting-calendar>

Adjournment

Commissioner Fitzgerald called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stanley Jones made the motion to adjourn the November 14, 2018, meeting and Commissioner Frank Berry seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

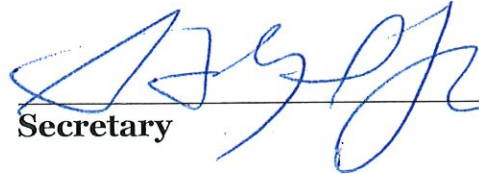
Respectfully submitted by:

Tracy Gamble, Council Committee Liaison

Signatures:



Chair



Secretary