



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health  
& Developmental Disabilities

Judy Fitzgerald, Commissioner

**D·B·H·D·D**

Office of the Commissioner

---

**Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities  
Meeting Minutes  
June 13, 2019  
1:00 p.m.  
2 Peachtree Street, 24th Floor Boardroom  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

---

**Meeting Called By:** Kim Ryan, Chair  
**Facilitator:** Kim Ryan  
**Recording Secretary:** Veniece Howell (DBHDD)

**Board Members**

- **Present:** Jan Ligon, David Glass, Kenneth Holton, Lasa Joiner
- **Conferencing:** Ellice Martin
- **Absent:** Jean Sumner, Justine W. Welsh

**DBHDD Leadership:** Judy Fitzgerald, Commissioner  
Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner  
Amy Howell, Assistant Commissioner/General Counsel  
David Sofferin, Director of Public Affairs

## **Agenda**

**Call to Order:** Chair Kim Ryan; 1:05 p.m.

Chair Kim Ryan welcomed everyone to the meeting. She also welcomed our new board member, Lasa Joiner.

### **Recovery Presentation**

Emily Ribblet of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse introduced Jill Hooper to the members of the board. Jill is a certified addiction recovery empowerment specialist (CARES) at the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse. She shared her story on her trials with overcoming addiction and substance abuse. She has been drug- and alcohol-free for the past four years.

## Action Items

One action item was approved:

1. Approval of the April 18, 2019, board meeting minutes: Chair Kim Ryan asked for a motion to approve. Jan Ligon made the motion, which was seconded by David Glass. There was one revision noted. Jan Ligon made the motion to accept the minutes as revised. The motion was passed unanimously.

## Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fitzgerald introduced members of her team to give updates:

*Kelly Sterling, MSSW, LCSW (director of the Office of Deaf Services)* provided an update on improvements to deaf services in Georgia. He illustrated how to improve access in Georgia by providing interpreters across the state, communication assessment, and ASL-fluent clinicians and case managers.

*Walker Tisdale, III, MPH, MA, LMSW (director of suicide prevention)* gave a report on suicide prevention programs. He also gave an overview of the history of suicide prevention and purpose of DBHDD and its focus on expansion in reaching adolescents/youths.

*J.R. Gravitt (director of the Office of Performance Analysis)* gave an overview of the Behavioral Health Suicide analysis. He provided data on suicide mortality rates and studies on risk assessment and treatment planning.

*Virginia B. Sizemore, MBA (director of the Office of Quality Improvement)* presented about suicidal ideation and provider practices. She talked about how to identify barriers and effective interventions and practices in the system.

She also discussed examples of areas to be reviewed: safety and crisis plans, crisis stabilization unit admissions, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) risk factors.

Commissioner Fitzgerald closed her report with brief updates and shared two videos from Georgia Recovers, one of the state's newest marketing campaigns.

## Chair's Report

Chair Kim Ryan gave brief remarks and commended the agency for its great work.

## Public Comment

There was one public comment offered

- Tanya Winn has a daughter who is twenty-five years old with Down Syndrome and was recently diagnosed on the autism spectrum. Ms. Winn wanted information about NOW/COMP wavier.

## Adjournment

There was no further business. Chair Kim Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made Kenneth Holton and was seconded by Lasa Joiner. The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

## Special Notes

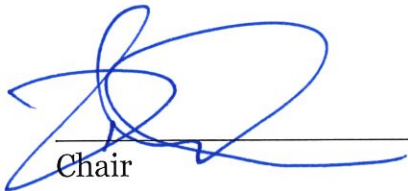
The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, August 15, 2019**.

The meeting will be held at 2 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, in the 24th floor Boardroom.

## Respectfully submitted by:

Veniece Howell, recording secretary

## Signatures:

  
Chair

  
Secretary