



**Behavioral Health Coordinating Council
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2019
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
2 Peachtree Street, 24th Floor Boardroom
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

Meeting Called By: Judy Fitzgerald, Chair

Facilitator: Judy Fitzgerald

BHCC Liaison: Tracy Gamble (DBHDD)

Board Members:

- **Present:** Representative Katie Dempsey (District 13)
Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald (DBHDD)
Commissioner Frank Berry (DCH)
Family Representative, Stanley Jones, Esq.
Disabilities Services Ombudsman Jacquice Stone (ODSO)

- **Conferencing:** Commissioner Michael Nail (DCS)
Commissioner Robyn Crittenden (DHS)
Commissioner Timothy Ward (GDC)
Chairman Terry Barnard (PAP)
Superintendent Richard Woods (DOE)
Parent Representative Diane Reeder
Adult Consumer Representative Julie Spores

- **Absent:** Senator Renee Unterman (District 45)
Commissioner Kathleen Toomey (DPH)
Commissioner Avery Niles (DJJ)
Commissioner Christopher Nunn (DCA)
Commissioner Mark Butler (DOL)

DBHDD Leadership: Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner
David Sofferin, Director, Office of Public Affairs
Lavin Briggs, Director of Special Projects

Agenda

Call to Order: Chair Judy Fitzgerald; 10:00 a.m.

Chair Judy Fitzgerald welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Recovery Presentation

Fitzgerald introduced Toyia Mather, outreach coordinator for the RESPECT Institute. Mather introduced Michael Shoptaw, a recent graduate of the RESPECT Institute. Mr. Shoptaw shared his recovery story with the council members.

Action Items

Two action items were approved:

Approval of the February 13, 2019, council meeting minutes: Chair Judy Fitzgerald asked for a motion to approve. Stanley Jones made the motion, which was seconded by Frank Berry. There was one revision noted. Frank Berry made the motion to accept the minutes as revised. The motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of the 2018 Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Annual Report: Chair Judy Fitzgerald asked for a motion to approve. Frank Berry made the motion, which was seconded by Richard Woods. The motion was passed unanimously.

BHCC Initiatives

Fitzgerald explained, the BHCC Initiatives provide critical information about the work being done involving several state agencies. The following presentations are from two subcommittees that meet on a regular basis and provide the council with updates about their work coordinating among several agencies.

Interagency Directors Team

Fitzgerald introduced Ann DiGirolamo, research associate professor at Georgia State University's Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health. DiGirolamo shared updates on the System of Care State Plan focus areas:

- Access
- Coordination
- Workforce development
- Funding and financing
- Evaluation

Transition-Reentry Committee

Fitzgerald introduced Terri Timberlake, director of DBHDD's Office of Adult Mental Health and co-chair of the Transition-Reentry Committee. Timberlake shared the current areas of focus of the BHCC Transition Reentry Committee:

- Access
- Forensic Peer Mentor Program
- Employment for returning citizens
- Family Reunification Project

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Fitzgerald introduced members of her team to give updates:

Kelly Sterling, director of the Office of Deaf Services, provided an update on improvements to deaf services in Georgia. The Office of Deaf Services facilitates reasonable accommodations for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind to communicate and access services. The office provides qualified mental health interpreters for behavioral health counseling or therapy services requested by DBHDD providers or individuals seeking DBHDD services. The staff conducts outreach to providers and the deaf community. Sterling illustrated how to improve access in Georgia by providing qualified interpreters across the state, communication assessment, and ASL-fluent clinicians and case managers.

Walker Tisdale, III, 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. The primary focus areas for the DBHDD Suicide Prevention Program is to manage evidence-based suicide prevention community projects by:

- Delivering targeted training for clinicians, community members, and first responders
- Coordinating and collaborating across DBHDD and other state agencies to execute media/community events and initiatives
- Convening state and local suicide prevention conferences, meetings, and special events
- Providing suicide postvention resources and contagion prevention to gatekeepers and institutions
- Providing suicide policy recommendations, education and adherence
- Providing guidance and technical assistance to build capacity of suicide coalitions

Commissioner Fitzgerald closed her report and asked J.R. Gravitt and Virginia Sizemore to provide an overview of the Quality Improvement Study: Suicidal Ideation & Provider Practices for 2018 at the next BHCC meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There was no further business. Chair Fitzgerald asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made Frank Berry and was seconded by Stanley Jones. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Special Notes

The next scheduled meeting of the Georgia Behavioral Health Coordinating Council will be held on **Wednesday, August 14, 2019.**

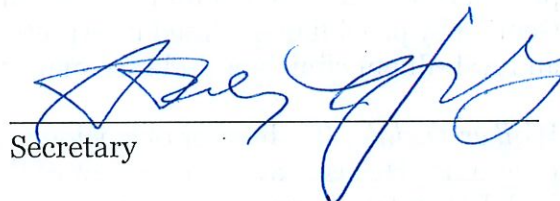
The meeting will be held at **2 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303**, in the 24th floor Boardroom.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tracy Gamble, BHCC Liaison

Signatures:


Chair


Secretary