

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health &  
Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Tanner, Commissioner

**DBHDD**

Office of the Commissioner

## **Board of Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Thursday, October 24, 2024 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

200 Piedmont Avenue, S.E.

West Tower, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Board Room 512

Atlanta, GA 30334

***This meeting was conducted in person and via WebEx for the public and Board Members.***

**Meeting Called By:** David Glass, Chair

**Recording Secretary:** Ashley Dickson, Board and Special Project Analyst

### **Board Members**

- **In-person:** David Glass, Jan Ligon, Ph.D.,  
Lasa Joiner, Bubber Epps, and Bill Slaughter
- **Virtual Conferencing:** Jean Sumner, M.D. and Deb Bailey
- **Absent:** Jimmy Thomas and Amanda Owens

**DBHDD Leadership:** Monica Patel, Esq., *Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs and Chief Legal Officer*,  
Brandon Kenney, *Assistant Commissioner of Operations*, and Brenda Woodard, Esq.,  
*General Counsel*

## **Agenda**

**Call to Order:** Chair David Glass called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Chair David Glass welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Ashley Dickson to conduct the roll call.

### **Recovery Presentation**

Chair David Glass then asked Robin McCown, Executive Director of for Georgia Professionals Health Program, to introduce the Recovery Speaker for the day. Mr. Colin Murphy introduced himself to the Board and began telling his story about how his

recovery led him into the professional career today. He explained how he is thankful for his journey now more than ever, especially when it was something he once wanted to hide. The Board members thanked him for sharing his story and moved onto the action items for the day.

### **Action Items**

1. Board Meeting Minutes – August 29, 2024. Chair David Glass asked for a motion to approve. Bubber Epps made a motion, which was seconded by Bill Slaughter. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Election of Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Chair Glass indicated that Board Members Epps, Thomas, and Owens served on the Nominating Committee and put forth the following slate: Lasa Joiner for Board Chair, David Glass for Vice Chair, and Jan Ligon, Ph.D. for Secretary at the last board meeting. Bill Slaughter made a motion to close the elections which was seconded by Jan Ligon, Ph.D. Chair Glass then asked for a motion to approve the slate presented to the Board. Bill Slaughter made a motion, which was seconded by Bubber Epps. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Commissioner's Report:**

Tanner congratulated new officers and mentioned he looked forward to continuing to work with them.

Commissioner Tanner opened his report by introducing the Department's Executive Director of the Division of Behavioral Health, Brenda Cibulas to the podium to present the Deaf Services & the Belton Case: An Ongoing Success Story to the Board. Ms. Cibulas introduced Director Office of Deaf Services Kelly Sterling and Deputy General Counsel for Programs Tracy Altman. The group shared the history of the settlement, the settlement requirements and the status of the case. They were pleased to report to the Board that the Department has been released from a portion of the settlement and how they are working to be cleared from other portions of the settlement as well.

Commissioner Tanner introduced Assistant Commissioner of Agency Affairs and Chief Legal Officer, Monica Patel to the podium to present DOJ versus Georgia Updates. Ms. Patel explained the history of why the State of Georgia is in a DOJ settlement and the status of the settlement. Ms. Patel also reported that we have been working with DOJ for over a year for the removal of active monitoring. Ms. Patel reported that we were able to finalize that agreeable language in September of this year. Ms. Patel then took a deep dive into the provisions that we were released from and why they matter so much for the vulnerable citizens of our state, and how they were impacted. Ms. Patel also shared information on what's ahead and how the Department is committed to continuing their progress to improve the services in the state regarding the settlement. Lastly, Ms. Patel

acknowledged the work of DBHDD staff who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to furthering the mission of the Department to provide increased access to high quality services in the community.

Commissioner Tanner then introduced the Department's Senior Director of Learning and Talent Acquisition, Theodore Carter, Jr. to give an overview about the Behavioral Health and Law Conference. Mr. Carter shared that although the conference was cut short due to Hurricane Helene, the conference's mission was to bring law enforcement leaders and behavioral health practitioners together to intersect and learn how to better coexist in each other's worlds. He mentioned that the pre-conference portion of the conference was the most beneficial this year because members were able to receive L.E.A.P. training and learn more about other programs and initiatives to enhance the mental health and behavioral health space. Mr. Carter then introduced Carol McVey, Director of the Office of Adult Mental Health and Certified L.E.A.P. trainer who provided a detailed overview of L.E.A.P. and conducted an abbreviated L.E.A.P. demonstration.

Commissioner Tanner then thanked the presenters for sharing overviews with the Board and he also shared with everyone he was very impressed by the L.E.A.P. training and how effective it was. Commissioner Tanner also mentioned that there will be an upcoming GOSAC Meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> in the Board Room. He also mentioned that Georgia Regional Hospital Savannah recently held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Operation New Hope with the intentions of getting more available beds and 30 additional beds at the DBHDD Jail Restoration Center in Dodge County. Lastly, Commissioner Tanner congratulated Lasa Joiner on being appointed as Chair and stated that he and the Department look forward to working with her in her new role.

Commissioner Tanner closed his report.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chair David Glass thanked the presenters for presenting to the Board and for sharing the initiatives that DBHDD is implementing to get in a better place with DOJ. He explained that he is very pleased with the detailed background information regarding the different portions of the settlement. Chair Glass reflected on where the Department was with respect to DOJ when he first joined the Board and stated that he is thankful for learning more about the Department's progress today. Chair Glass indicated that he believes the Department is on the right path. Chair Glass also congratulated Lasa Joiner on being appointed as Chair and he looks forward to working alongside her as Vice-Chair.

Chair David Glass closed his report.

### **Public Comment**

There were 2 public comments at this meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Chair David Glass asked if there were any further business for the day, after hearing none, Chair David Glass asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Bill Slaughter, which was seconded by Bubber Epps. The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

### **Special Notes**

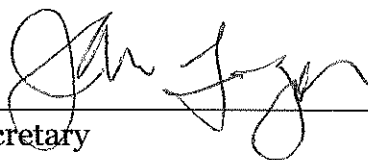
The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, December 12, 2024**.

### **Respectfully submitted by:**

Chelsee Nabritt, Board and Special Project Manager

### **Signatures:**

  
Chairman

  
Secretary