



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health &  
Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Tanner, Commissioner

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Office of the Commissioner

## Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
(Hybrid Meeting)

**200 Piedmont Avenue, S.E. West Tower, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Board Room 512  
Atlanta, GA 30334**

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**Meeting Called By:** Kevin Tanner, Chairman

**Facilitator:** Kevin Tanner, Chairman

**BHCC Liaison:** Chelsee Nabritt, Board and Special Project Manager

**Council Members:**

*In-Person:* Commissioner Kevin Tanner (*DBHDD*), Alexia Jones (*Adult Consumer*), Brian Pettersson, Esq. On behalf of Commissioner Candice Broce (*DHS*), Sherri Bloodworth on behalf of Commissioner Michael Nail (*DCS*), Shelly-Ann Simpson on behalf of Commissioner Patricia Ross, Ed.D. (*GDVS*), Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (*District 32*)

*Video Conference:* Commissioner Kathleen Toomey (*DPH*), Laura Holland On Behalf Of Commissioner Christopher Nunn (*DCA*), Ombudsman Jacquice Stone (*Odos*), Shaun Owen On Behalf Of State School Superintendent Richard Woods (*DOE*), Nathan Call, Ph.D. (*Expert On Child & Adolescent Health*), Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb (*DJJ*), Stanley Jones, Esq., (*Family Representative*), Assistant Commissioner Latera Davis On Behalf Of Commissioner Tyrone Oliver (*GDC*)

*Absent:* Commissioner Amy Jacobs (*DECAL*), Commissioner Dean Burke (*DCH*), Director Jerry Bruce (*OCA*), Commissioner Greg Dozier (*TCSG*), Representative Katie Dempsey (*District 13*), Commissioner Barbara Rivera Holmes (*DOL*), Joyette Holmes on behalf of Chairman Terry Barnard (*PAP*), Veda Johnson (*Pediatrician*)

**DBHDD Leadership:** Brandon Kenney, *Assistant Commissioner of Operations*, Monica Patel, Esq., *Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs and Chief Legal Officer*, Allen Morgan, *Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations North*, Jennifer Dunn, *Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations, South*, Brenda Cibulas, *Director of the Division of Behavioral Health*, Brenda Woodard, Esq., *General Counsel*

## **Agenda**

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Kevin Tanner called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Chairman Kevin Tanner invited Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (Council) Member Alexia Jones to the podium to introduce the guest speaker for the day. Mrs. Jones mentioned that the guest speaker will be sharing her story through a song written about her journey in recovery which also talks about how she overcame some of the toughest situations in her life through the power of peer support. After the guest speaker's performance, Mrs. Jones thanked Chairman Tanner for the opportunity to have someone from R2ISE, Inc. express their recovery journey, and she left the podium.

Commissioner Tanner thanked the guest speaker and Alexia Jones for the powerful performance and proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

### **Action Items:**

There were 4 action items on the agenda that required approval.

*Approval of the August 5, 2025, meeting minutes:* Chairman Kevin Tanner asked for a motion of approval. Senator Kay Kirkpatrick made a motion which was seconded by Brian Pettersson. The motion passed unanimously.

*Approval of the 2026 Proposed Meeting Schedule:* Chairman Kevin Tanner asked for a motion of approval. Shelly-Ann Simpson made a motion which was seconded by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick. The motion passed unanimously.

*Approval of the BHCC 2024 Annual Report:* Chairman Kevin Tanner asked for a motion of approval. Brian Pettersson made a motion, which was seconded by Alexia Jones. The motion passed unanimously.

*Approval of the BHCC Bylaws:* Chairman Kevin Tanner asked for a motion of approval. Senator Kay Kirkpatrick made a motion which was seconded by Brian Pettersson. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tanner shared that a nominating committee is needed to present candidates to serve as officers for the Council. Commissioner Tanner then appointed Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb, Commissioner Patricia Ross and Alexia Jones to serve on the nominating committee to present officers to the Council at the next scheduled meeting.

### **BHCC Initiative Updates:**

Chairman Tanner invited Twanna Nelson, Deputy Director of Mindworks Georgia at the Health Policy Center at Georgia State University, to the podium to provide an update on Mindworks Georgia. Ms. Nelson presented the third-quarter strategic progress and priorities, including the appointment of Glenene Lanier, Senior Director of Safety & Permanency at Division of Family and Children Services/Department of Human Services, as a new Executive Committee member. She also provided an update on the legislative alignment efforts, noting that the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission (BHRIC) and legislative study committees plan to release recommendations by the end of the year, and that Mindworks will implement recommendations as well. Ms. Nelson further mentioned the System of Care State Plan is nearing its completion, and they will have updates for the Council at its first meeting of 2026, as the recommendations are expected to be finalized by December 2025. Ms. Nelson also provided an overview of the Local Interagency Planning Team's (LIPT) structure and purpose. LIPT focuses on improving local coordination of services for youth with or at risk of mental and behavioral health challenges. The collaborating agencies are the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Education, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Georgia Association of Community Service Boards, Inc., Department of Public Health, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Department of Human Services/Division of Family and Children Services. Lastly, Ms. Nelson highlighted the DECAL Community Transformation Pilot which aligns with LIPT's efforts but serves youth ages 0-5 years old and their families who need mental and behavioral health support. The collaborating agencies for the DECAL Community Transformation Pilot are the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Georgia State University Health Policy Center, Department of Public Health Babies Can't Wait, Project Family LLC, and Georgia Association for Infant Mental Health. Ms. Nelson concluded by emphasizing the shared goal of supporting children and families through collaborative leadership, strengthened infrastructure, and aligned priorities with youth remaining their top priority.

Chairman Tanner thanked Ms. Twanna Nelson and her team for their hard work and mentioned that he looks forward to reviewing the finalized State Plan next year.

Chairman Tanner then invited Danielle Fish, MATCH Clinical Specialist with the Office of Children, Young Adults and Families at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, to the podium to provide an update on the MATCH Committee. Mrs. Fish shared a quick annual overview of the data the committee found

and the current status of their initiatives, highlighting several milestones from the past quarter. Some of the highlights included the embedding of a self-referral link on the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities MATCH webpage, the development and refinement of the frequently asked questions page for parents, and the appointing of the MATCH Committee Chair, Arianne Weldon. She also congratulated Chair Weldon for completing her first MATCH annual report and for her willingness to think outside of the box as she transitioned into her new role. Ms. Fish reviewed the updates to the MATCH frequently asked questions on the one-pager, explaining how it clearly reflects agency points of contact, and streamlines access to services for families. Mrs. Fish reported that 17 youth with complex needs were presented to the MATCH clinical team during the past quarter, bringing the total 84 youth to date, and that 77 youth have been approved for admission into one of six MATCH pilot programs, totaling more than 400 youth served overall.

Chairman Tanner thanked Mrs. Danielle Fish for presenting on behalf of Heather Stanley, MATCH Director for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and for providing hard data on what has happened in the past quarter. Chairman Tanner also congratulated MATCH Committee Chair Arianne Weldon for accepting the Chair position stating that she has big shoes to fill as Bobbi Cleveland was an amazing, dedicated Chair.

Chairman Tanner then invited Dana Carroll, Deputy General Counsel for the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services, and Allen Morgan, Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations North with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, to the podium to present an overview on Interagency Collaboration: Planning for Young Adults with Complex Needs. Ms. Carroll began by stating that the Department of Human Services and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities collaborated to address service gaps for youth over 18 years of age with complex needs and who require intensive treatment and residential care. This collaboration facilitates the transition of youth from receiving services from the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). This work focuses on individuals who will likely transition to the NOW/COMP waivers. Both state agencies entered into an agreement to support this work. Deputy General Counsel Carroll described the creation of the Complex Needs Adult Transition Unit (CNAT) at the Division of Family and Children Services to track youth who will be transitioning to NOW/COMP waivers, remove barriers to placement, and improve interagency communication. Mr. Morgan shared that DBHDD needed to also track young adults entering its waiver services from DFCS care, needed to better support DFCS with its assessments and forms, and needed to ensure that these youth had residential placements available when they exit DFCS care. Mr. Morgan shared that an important solution involves allowing foster homes to convert to host homes. Mr. Morgan further reported that the Complex Needs Adult Transition Units are currently tracking over 250 youth and

that 37 youth were successfully transitioned into appropriate placements in 2025, and that no youth over the age of 21 is in the Division of Family and Children Services' care.

Chairman Tanner thanked all the presenters for sharing detailed data with the Council and mentioned that collaborative work across state agencies continues to be beneficial and critical in supporting youth with complex needs and encouraged continued efforts. Alexia Jones shared that when she was first appointed to this Council, children were living in hotels and expressed pride in the state's progress that has helped remove systematic barriers. Chairman Tanner added that these successes would not be possible without state collaboration and the support of the Georgia General Assembly, including funding for additional NOW/COMP Waivers. Chairman Tanner then asked if there were any additional questions or concerns regarding today's presentations. There were no additional questions or comments.

**Adjournment:**

After confirming that there was no further business for the day, Chairman Tanner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick, which was seconded by Brian Pettersson. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

**Special Notes:**

The next scheduled meeting will be February 5, 2026.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

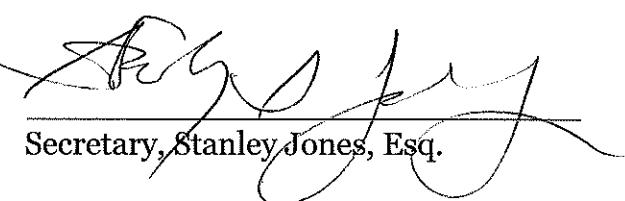
Chelsee Nabritt, Board and Special Project Manager

**Signatures:**



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Chairman, Kevin Tanner



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Secretary, Stanley Jones, Esq.

