



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health &  
Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Tanner, Commissioner

Office of the Commissioner

**Behavioral Health Coordinating Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, 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, Community Outreach Manager

**Council Members:**

*In-Person:* Commissioner Kevin Tanner (*DBHDD*), Commissioner Amy Jacobs (*DECAL*), Alexia Jones (*Adult Consumer*), Commissioner Christopher Nunn (*DCA*), Brian Dowd (*DCH*), Nathan Call (*Expert on Child & Adolescent Health*), Veda Johnson (*Director*), Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (*District 32*), Commissioner Patricia Ross (*GDVS*), Stanley Jones, Esq., (*Family Representative*)

*Video Conference:* Commissioner Michael Nail (*DCS*), Chairman Terry Barnard (*PAP*), Ombudsman Jacquice Stone (*ODOS*)

*Absent:* Commissioner Candice Broce (*DHS*), Commissioner Greg Dozier (*TCSG*), Representative Katie Dempsey (*District 13*), Commissioner Bruce Thompson (*DOL*), Director Jerry Bruce (*OCA*), Commissioner Kathleen Toomey (*DPH*), Superintendent Richard Woods (*DOE*), Commissioner Tyrone Oliver (*GDC*), Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb (*DJJ*)

**DBHDD Leadership:** Brandon Kenney, *Assistant Commissioner of Operations*

## **Agenda**

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Kevin Tanner called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Kevin Tanner asked Ms. Alexia Jones, Executive Director for R2ISE Recovery to the podium to introduce the recovery speaker for the day. Alexia Jones introduced herself and asked Mr. Joe Jackson to share his story with the council members. Mr. Jackson expressed how he has used different forms of art to help him get through his recovery journey. Mr. Jackson further explained how R2ISE Recovery has been an inspiration to him and how he is very thankful to work with Ms. Alexia Jones and others at the facility.

### **Action Items:**

There was an action item on the agenda that required approval.

*Approval of the February 6, 2024, meeting minutes:* Chairman Kevin Tanner asked for a motion of approval. Commissioner Christopher Nunn made a motion, which was seconded by Stanley Jones, Esq. The motion passed unanimously.

### **BHCC Initiative Updates:**

Chairman Tanner introduced Twanna Nelson, Assistant Project Director of Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health to present an update on the Mindworks Georgia Strategic Plan. Ms. Nelson explained that this strategic plan provides a roadmap for Mindworks and its partners to align collective efforts with shared visions and to aspire to become a nationally recognized children's behavioral health system. The goal is to advance children's behavioral health programs within the state, advance the development of policies, resources and innovation solutions to recruit and strengthen the workforce, and embed hard core evidence to enhance Georgia's System of Care services.

Chairman Tanner thanked Mrs. Twanna Nelson and her team for providing the council with a thorough dive into the strategic plan. Commissioner Tanner then asked for the council members to vote on the strategic plan if they had no further questions. Commissioner Amy Jacobs made a motion, which was seconded by Nathan Call. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Tanner then introduced Heather Stanley, MATCH Program Director of the Office of Children, Young Adults and Families, to the podium to present an update on the MATCH Committee to the council. Ms. Stanley updated the council members on where the MATCH committee stands since presenting them with the May 2023

recommendations. As of right now, their main focus is the continuum of Care and making sure we continue to work with other state departments to fill in the gaps for the many different levels of care within the state. Ms. Stanley also spoke about the MATCH pilot programs and the stages each pilot program is in and shared some success stories with the council members.

Chairman Tanner then introduced Brian Dowd, Deputy Executive Director Medical Assistance Plans from the Department of Community Health to provide an update on their rate study. Mr. Dowd gave an overview of what Medicaid is and how its services are mainly utilized in our state and gave a brief overview about the difference between a state Medicaid plan and a waiver. He mentioned that the state plan amendment has been presented to the Department of Community Health's board at the March Board meeting and the final adoption of state plan amendment is expected to receive a vote at the May 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Mr. Dowd welcomed the council members to the meeting and asked if there were any questions regarding his presentation.

Chairman Tanner thanked our recovery speaker, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Stanley and Mr. Dowd for presenting to the council members. He welcomed Commissioner Patricia Ross from the Department of Veteran Service to the council and informed the members that they should receive an email from Chelsea Nabritt regarding HB 1344 and how it would affect the council. Commissioner Tanner asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding today's presentations.

### **Adjournment:**

There was no further business for the day, Chairman Tanner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Christopher Nunn, which was seconded by Alexia Jones. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.


### **Special Notes:**

The next scheduled meeting will be August 6, 2024.

### **Respectfully submitted by:**

Chelsea Nabritt, Community Outreach Manager

### **Signatures:**

  
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Chairman, Kevin Tanner  
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Secretary, Stanley Jones, Esq.