

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, June 12, 2025 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:**

Lasa Joiner, Chair

### **Recording Secretary:**

Chelsee Nabritt, Board and Special Project  
Manager

### **Board Members**

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

### **DBHDD Leadership:**

Brandon Kenney, *Assistant Commissioner of  
Operations*, Monica Patel, *Assistant  
Commissioner for Agency Affairs and Chief  
Legal Officer*, Allen Morgan, *Deputy Assistant  
Commissioner, Field Operations North*,  
and Brenda Woodard, *General Counsel*

## **Agenda**

**Call to Order:** Chair Lasa Joiner called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Chair Lasa Joiner welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Chelsee Nabritt to conduct the roll call.

## **Action Items**

2. Breakthru House Inc. Resolution - Chair Lasa Joiner approached the podium and read the proposed Breakthru House, Inc. Resolution to the Board members. Jimmy Thomas made a motion, which was seconded by Jean Sumner, M.D. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Guest Speaker**

Chair Lasa Joiner then invited Ms. BreNita Jackson, Executive Director of Breakthru House, Inc. to the podium to accept the Resolution and to take a quick photo before sharing the numerous recovery stories the Breakthru House, Inc has seen.

Mrs. BreNita Jackson shared that the Breakthru House is not only a home for women who have experienced domestic violence and are in need of substance use and mental health services, but also a place of healing. She shared how her team has helped rebuild women who enter the program by teaching them how to read, tell time, and other essential things they will need to have an efficient life. They have opened the Breakthru House to women who have children and will even find placement for the children while the mother does everything she can to heal herself and create a better life for the family. Mrs. BreNita invited Board Chair Nancy Young to the podium to share her experience with Breakthru House, Inc. and how she got involved with the organization. Mrs. Young shared that while she is new to the position, she brings years of experience and has always been moved by the transformation she has seen the women experience while at the Breakthru House. She mentioned that she believed the therapeutic housing services, and the group therapy are things that the Breakthru House offers, however, each case and person is completely different, and they really try to tailor their services to fit the needs of the person in front of them. She expressed that she is excited for the future of the organization and explained that it has been a pleasure connecting with those within the organization.

Mrs. BreNita Jackson thanked the Board members for the opportunity to share information about the services they offer and thanked the Board members for presenting them with a Resolution.

Chair Lasa Joiner thanked BreNita Jackson and Nancy Young for presenting to the Board and introduced the next agenda item requiring Board action.

1. Board Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2025. Chair Lasa Joiner reminded the Board members that they received the Board meeting minutes in advance for review and asked for a motion to approve. Bubber Epps made a motion, which was seconded by Jimmy Thomas. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Tanner opened his report by showing the DBHDD Recruitment Video which features West Central Georgia Regional Hospital in Columbus, Georgia. Commissioner Tanner then invited Regional Hospital Administrator, Marcia Capshaw and Nurse Manager, Nelsondria Brown to the podium. Commissioner Tanner announced that Nelsondria Brown was being awarded the Triple Excellence Award. He then shared that West Central Georgia Regional Hospital also won the agency's social media challenge and asked Chair Joiner randomly draw the West Central Georgia Regional Hospital employee name out of the bowl, for a chance to win a dinner with the Commissioner. Chair Joiner selected Devron Wright's name and Commissioner Tanner mentioned that the Communications team would follow up with the winner. A group photo was quickly taken and Commissioner Tanner moved on to the next segment of the meeting.

Commissioner Tanner then invited Carol McVey, Senior Director of the Office of Adult Mental Health and Joy Bell, Forensic Manager of the Office of Adult Mental Health, to the podium to provide the Co-Responder presentation. Ms. McVey spoke about the different Co-Responder programs across the state and how effective they have been and expressed that Senate Bill 403 is a large part of the success. Ms. McVey shared the budget details of the program by line item and highlighted the sustainability for the program. She stated that a full comprehensive evaluation of a Co-Responder program can generate evidence of cost-savings by law enforcement, criminal justice, and mental health systems. She spoke about how successful Co-Responder Day at the Capitol was and how she was thankful to receive House and Senate resolutions regarding the program. Ms. McVey turned the presentation over to Joy Bell, and she spoke about the specialized Co-Responder trainings, and how Georgia received an award to develop a curriculum for statewide Co-Responder training. She also spoke about how the National Co-Responder training was held in Atlanta, GA this year and shared that there were more than 1200 attendees at the meeting. Ms. Bell and Ms. McVey invited Chief Bill Grogan, Chief of Police of Norcross, Georgia, to the podium to share the impact of the Co-Responder Model.

Commissioner Tanner then invited Monica Patel, Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs and Chief Legal Officer, to the podium to present a Legislative and Budget Update. Ms. Patel shared the victories of the 2025 legislative session and gave an overview of the legislation that passed and affected the agency. She also highlighted that the FY 2026 budget invests in the State Hospital's infrastructure, reinforces provider rate increases, enhances access to services across division and supports the DOJ Compliance. Finally, she gave an update about the *Belton v. Georgia* Litigation and expressed how the lawsuit has been dismissed because the Department has met the terms of the federal consent decree.

Commissioner Tanner then invited Taylor Peyton, Opioid Abatement Liaison for the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust, to present an update on the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust. Ms. Peyton gave a quick overview of the 2025 opioid grant applications and reviewed how many applications have been submitted. She also shared how the team held informative workshops across the state to ensure there was equal opportunity for individuals to ask questions and stay informed before the applications were open to the public.

Lastly, Commissioner Tanner shared the Board Engagement events with the Board and thanked them for actively participating in the agencies' events and staying connected to the community. He also spoke about the Crisis Services Diagnostic Center's grand opening event and thanked the Board members for attending. Before closing his report, Commissioner Tanner introduced the new Senior Director, Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families, Christy Doyle, Ph.D. to the Board; he mentioned that he is very excited for her to join the Agency, and how he has worked with her through the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, and she will be a great asset to the Department.

Commissioner Tanner closed his report.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chair Lasa Joiner thanked the presenters for speaking and thanked the Breakthru House, Inc. team again for joining us for the meeting. She encouraged the Board members to continue to engage with the Department and informed Commissioner Tanner that she will support the Department and the community as much as possible, and if they need anything from her or any Board member to please let her know.

Chair Lasa Joiner closed her report.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Lasa Joiner asked if there was any further business for the day. After hearing none, Chair Lasa Joiner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Bubber Epps, which was seconded by Jimmy Thomas.

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

### Special Notes


The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **Thursday, August 28, 2025**.

### Respectfully submitted by:

Chelsee Nabritt, Board and Special Project Manager

### Signatures:

  
Chair

  
Secretary

