

DBHDD

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health &
Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Tanner, Commissioner

Office of the Commissioner

Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(Hybrid Meeting)**

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

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*), Brian Pettersson, Esq. (*DHS*), Commissioner Christopher Nunn (*DCA*), Commissioner Russell Carlson (*DCH*), Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (*District 32*), Nathan Call (*Expert on Child & Adolescent Health*), Shelly-Ann Simpson (*GDVS*), Stanley Jones, Esq., (*Family Representative*)

Video Conference: Commissioner Amy Jacobs (*DECAL*), Alexia Jones (*Adult Consumer*), Director Jerry Bruce (*OCA*), Commissioner Greg Dozier (*TCSG*), Commissioner Kathleen Toomey (*DPH*), Commissioner Tyrone Oliver (*GDC*), Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb (*DJJ*), Veda Johnson (*Pediatrician*)

Absent: Ombudsman Jacquice Stone (*ODOS*), Representative Katie Dempsey (*District 13*), Commissioner Bruce Thompson (*DOL*), Shaun Owen (*DOE*), Joyette Holmes (*PAP*), Sherri Bloodworth (*DCS*)

DBHDD Leadership: Brandon Kenney, *Assistant Commissioner of Operations*, Allen Morgan, *Deputy Assistant Commissioner*, 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 asked Robin McCown, Executive Director for Georgia Professional Health Programs, Inc. to come to the podium to introduce the recovery speaker for the day. Robin McCown introduced herself and asked Colin Murphy, M.D. to come to the podium to share his story. Colin shared his story with the council members and spoke about how his recovery journey has made a difference in his life because he is a Georgia physician, he spoke about how passionate he was about both his career and his recovery journey and how recovery is part of him and how he is thankful he is able to impact others within the recovery community.

Action Items:

There were 2 action items on the agenda that required approval.

Approval of the August 6, 2024, meeting minutes: Chairman Kevin Tanner asked for a motion of approval. Stanley Jones, Esq. made a motion, which was seconded by Nathan Call. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the BHCC 2025 Meeting Schedule: Chairman Kevin Tanner asked for a motion of approval. Senator Kay Kirkpatrick made a motion, which was seconded by Stanley Jones, Esq. The motion passed unanimously.

BHCC Initiative Updates:

Chairman Tanner introduced Renee Johnson, Director of Georgia State University Georgia Health Policy Center, to present an update on the Mindworks Georgia Strategic Plan. Mrs. Johnson spoke about the strategic plan and the highlighted the implementation process, she also gave an update on where we are currently within the process. Mrs. Johnson also spoke about the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Funding Opportunity and Georgia's approach to the grant opportunity. Mrs. Johnson described in detail the Mass Casualty Incident and Disaster Response in Georgia, she spoke about how these natural disasters affect our communities physically, psychologically, behaviorally, and emotionally and the actions we should take as a state.

Chairman Tanner thanked Mrs. Renee Johnson and her team for their hard work and encouraged them to continue to share the status of the grant opportunity with the council members at future meetings and to please reach out to the members of the

council if her team and DCH need help with additional partnerships and obtaining the main goal.

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. Mrs. Stanley mentioned that the committee is currently in a partnership with Voices for Georgia's Children to create focus groups across the state to incorporate youth voices into system processes and services. The committee also have identified gaps in the system for the youth in the areas of services, support and growth opportunities and further explained how we should respond to these gaps as a state.

Chairman Tanner then introduced Julie Oliver, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Forensic Services, to the podium to present a forensic services update and initiatives the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities are currently working on. Mrs. Oliver gave a brief overview of what her office does, and we are managing the forensic bed utilization at the state hospitals. Mrs. Oliver further explained that jail-based restoration programs and diversion pilot programs have been able to help the department increase bed capacity. Mrs. Oliver also explained that the department has taken initiatives to increase bed capacity as well by creating programs like Operation New Hope and Project New Hope on state hospital campuses, and developing Community Integration Homes, and looking to build new crisis centers in the state.

Chairman Tanner then introduced John Izzo, LPC, Assistant Director, Office of Behavioral Health Services, and Lisa Mantz, Deputy Commissioner Division of Treatment and Care with Department of Juvenile Justice. Together they presented a comprehensive overview of the Behavioral Health Services their agency provides and how their office offers behavioral health services to all youth facilities. They also discussed how they treat substance abuse in the youth detention centers and provided the data for risky youth, displayed some of the challenges they are facing now, and how they can overcome these obstacles to better protect the youth.

Chairman Tanner thanked the presenters for presenting to the council members and complimented the council members for working together on some of the initiatives that were presented. He encouraged agency heads to continue to work together to obtain common goals and asked each council member to please reach out to him directly if the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities can be of any help to them. Chairman Tanner also informed everyone that this is the last meeting of the year, and reminded the council members that staff will be reaching out directly, regarding changes to future agendas for 2025, and that all council members participation and recommendations are welcome. Chairman Tanner then asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding today's presentations.

Adjournment:

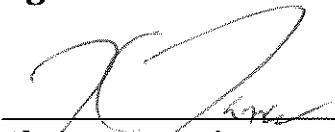
There was no further business for the day, Chairman Tanner asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Christopher Nunn, which was seconded by Nathan Call. The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.


Special Notes:

The next scheduled meeting will be February 11, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chelsee Nabritt, Board and Special Project Manager

Signatures:

Chairman, Kevin Tanner

Secretary, Stanley Jones, Esq.