

# Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Meeting

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**BE D·B·H·D·D**

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

May 13, 2020



# Agenda

Call to Order

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Recovery Speaker

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Action Items

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BHCC Initiatives

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Commissioner's Report

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Next Meeting Date

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# Call to Order

Judy Fitzgerald  
Commissioner



# Recovery Speaker

Erwin Thomas

RESPECT Institute of Georgia



# Action Items:

- Past Meeting Minutes
- 2019 BHCC Annual Report

# BHCC Initiatives

# Interagency Directors Team

**Danté McKay, JD, MPA**

Director

Office of Children, Young Adults, and Families

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# Transition Reentry Committee

**Terri Timberlake, Ph.D.**

Director

Office of Adult Mental Health

DBHDD

Transition Reentry Committee Co-Chair

**Michelle Stanley**

Deputy Director

Office of Reentry Services

Department of Community Supervision

Transition Reentry Committee Co-Chair



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# BHCC Transition Reentry Committee Focus Areas

- 1 Access to RESPECT Institute speakers for partnering agencies
- 2 Forensic Peer Mentor Program
- 3 Employment for returning citizens
- 4 Family Reunification Project

# Georgia Department of Corrections

## Returning Citizens with Behavioral Health Classification

Returning citizens who paroled from GDC back into the community with classification Mental Health Levels 2, 3, and 4

Level	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020
Level 2 - Outpatient Treatment	160	153	180
Level 3 - Inpatient Moderate	15	6	13
Level 4 - Inpatient Intensive	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>193</b>

# Forensic Peer Mentor Program Enrollment FYTD

## Department of Corrections Facilities Day Reporting Centers

### 7 State Prisons (5 positions)

- Lee Arrendale
- Pulaski
- Baldwin
- Phillips
- Rutledge
- Metro Atlanta
- Phillips Transitional Center

**312 returning  
citizens enrolled**

### 8 Day Reporting Centers (5 positions)

- Atlanta
- Athens
- Griffin
- Morrow
- Gainesville
- Gwinnett
- Columbus
- Rome

**329 enrolled**

## State Hospitals Mental Health Treatment Courts

### 2 State Hospitals (5 positions)

- Georgia Regional (Atlanta)
- Central State (Milledgeville)

**78 enrolled**

### 5 Mental Health Treatment Courts (5 positions)

- Avita (Hall/Dawson Co.)
- Cobb CSB (Cobb Co.)
- Highland Rivers (Fannin/Gilmer/Pickens Co.)
- River Edge CSB (Bibb Co.)
- McIntosh Trail (Spalding Co.)

**45 enrolled**

# Forensic Peer Mentor Program Outcomes FYTD

## Recidivism/Re-arrest Readmissions

### Prison Release on FPM Peer List: 68

Psychiatric hospital readmission:	(3)	4.41%
Re-arrest:	(3)	4.41%
Re-Conviction:	(0)	
Probation/Parole Violations:	(0)	

### Enrolled In Daily Report Centers: 194

Psychiatric hospital readmission:	(0)	
Re-arrest:	(5)	2.57%
Re-Conviction:	(2)	1.03%
Probation/Parole Violations:	(0)	

## Program Outcome Highlights (Prison Post-Release)

### Of those actively working with FPM:

- 33% Engaged in Behavioral Health Services
- 38% Gained Employment
- 43% Gained Permanent Housing

# Forensic Peer Mentors in Treatment Courts FYTD

## Program Outcome Highlights

### 6 Courts Funded for FPM

Census	156
Number of Participant Graduates	31
New Enrollments	39
Permanently Housed	88%
Employed	80%
Episodes of Homelessness	4 2.56%
Re-arrests (new charges)	10 6.41%
Readmission to CSU/Psych Hospital	12 7.69%



Ramona (right) with The Honorable Judge Mary Staley, Cobb County Superior Court

“Having been in the system as a convicted felon in that revolving door of substance use, illness, and trouble with law enforcement, as well as my experience with homelessness, despair, estrangement from family and profound loneliness [gives] me a perspective that comes with that lived experience. I know that if I can recover, anyone can. I try to offer unconditional positive regard and carry hope for others until people find it for themselves, because Recovery is Real and Possible and available to All.”

--Ramona Burkett, Forensic Peer Mentor  
Cobb County Mental Health Court/Cobb Douglas CSB

# Other DBHDD-Funded Accountability Courts

## Outcomes (October 2019 - March 2020)

### Collaborations

- Aspire CSB/Dougherty MHC
- Albany ARC/Dougherty MHC
- Georgia Pines/Mitchell County MHC

### Census

- 246 Participants

### Graduates

- 7 Graduates

# BHCC – Transition Reentry Committee

## Employment for Returning Citizens

### Engage

- Individuals with criminal justice involvement and a serious and persistent mental illness with opportunities for gainful employment
- Employers in dialogue that leads to employing talent from this pool

### Educate

- Individuals on strategies for maintaining employment (including soft skills)
- Employers about the benefits of recruiting and hiring from this rehabilitated talent pool

### Connect

- Individuals with opportunities
- Employers to benefits and recruitment resources
- Agencies doing similar work (**DCS, GVRA, DOL, DOJ, Georgia Justice Project**)

# Family Reunification Initiative

**FREE**

**Family Reunification, Education, & Empowerment Project**  
*Psychoeducation, Counseling, and Peer Support to Facilitate Successful Re-Entry for Georgia's Returning Citizens*

New initiative that will be a family-focused, peer-facilitated, multi-session project

- Forensic peer mentors and *certified* peer specialists-parent
- Returning citizens and their family/support network
- Improving communication
- Strengthening family support
- Supporting successful transition into the community



Pilot site: Metro Atlanta Reentry Facility/Central State Prison

Proposed 20 returning citizens in first cohort





# Commissioner's Report: COVID-19 Updates

Judy Fitzgerald  
Commissioner

# Legislative Update

**Doug Reineke**

Director of Legislative Affairs

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# Hospital Activities

**Emile Risby, M.D.**

Director of Hospital Services and Chief Medical Officers

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# Behavioral Health Network

**Monica S. Johnson, MA, LPC**

Director

Division of Behavioral Health

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# Supporting the Community and Providers

# Strategies for Maintaining Mental Health Wellness

**Stay informed on  
federal activity**

**Telehealth**

**Provider  
Webinars &  
Support**

**Collaboration with  
other states**

**Behavioral Health  
Support**

# Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line

- 310 calls since April 6

**Georgia COVID-19  
Emotional Support Line  
866-399-8938**

 Georgia  
Department of  
Behavioral Health  
& Developmental  
Disabilities

 BHL  
Behavioral Health Link

 beacon  
health options

# 2x2 Webinar Series

## 2x2 Series: Daily Self-Care Tips and Support for Health Care and Emergency Response Workers

These WebEx events are designed to provide daily self-care tips and support for health care and emergency response workers.

Each session will provide attendees with mental health tips about managing stress, grief, work/life balance, and wellness.

**2,259 participants to date**





# Access to Housing Support

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- Allowances and Flexibility for Georgia Housing Voucher Access
- Flexibilities for Bridge Funding (e.g., unemployed due to COVID-19)
- Partnerships
- Homeless Task Force

# Crisis Services

**Debbie Atkins, LPC**

Director of Crisis Coordination

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# Next BHCC Meeting

August 12, 2020