

Board Meeting

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Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental
Disabilities

February 8, 2024



Agenda

Roll Call

Call to Order

Introduction to Recovery
Speaker

Action Items

- Board Meeting Minutes –
December 7, 2023

Commissioner's Report

- Governor's Budget Update
 - IDD Workgroup 1st Year Report
 - Regional Structure Update
-

Chair's Report

Public Comment

Roll Call

Chelsee Nabritt

Communications Outreach Manager

Call to Order

David Glass

Chair

Introduction of Recovery Speaker

Toyia Mather

Respect Institute of Georgia Outreach

Coordinator

Action Item

Board Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2023

Commissioner's Report

Kevin Tanner
Commissioner

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Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Chris Hamilton
Chief Financial Officer



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DBHDD Budget Update

AFY 2024 and FY 2025



Budget Highlights – AFY24

One-time salary supplement for full time, benefits eligible employees

- AFY24 Funding: \$9,856,446
- Includes employees in our network of CSBs

Capital maintenance and repair funding for our state operated hospitals

- AFY24 Funding: \$59,538,812
- Based on a survey conducted by GSFIC and RLR

Hospital capital needs identified by the reports include:

- HVAC, roof, floor, window, and door replacements;
- Remediation of water drainage and damage issues; and
- The replacement of drain lines, sewage lines and freshwater lines

Budget Highlights – FY25

Cost-of-living-adjustment for full time, benefit eligible employees

- FY25 Funding: \$27,176,955
- Includes employees in our network of CSBs

Waiver for funding for individuals with IDD

- FY25 Funding: \$11,722,994
- Annualizes waivers funded in FY24 and funds 100 new waivers for FY25

Funds to staff and operate a forensic step-down facility (Operation New Hope)

- FY25 Funding: \$3,218,210
- Will be located in Savannah

Budget Highlights – FY25

Funding for 1 new BHCC

- FY25 Funding: \$9,481,532
- Will help address the needs identified in the statewide crisis bed study

Annualized funding for 3 BHCCs

- FY25 Funding: \$6,599,785
- Annualizes facilities in Fulton County, Augusta, and Dublin

Fully funds the IDD and BH Rate Studies

- FY25 Funding for IDD: \$79,901,675
- FY25 Funding for BH: \$22,430,804 (state funded services)
- Additional \$4.2M in DCH's budget to provide for BH Medicaid State Match

Conclusion & Summary

- DBHDD is well positioned as we look ahead to AFY24 and FY25
- The funding we have received in the Governor's Budget Report goes a long way towards addressing the many critical needs faced by the Agency
- We have had productive conversations with the House Budget & Research Office and the Senate Budget & Evaluation Office
- We look forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly as the Appropriations Bills move forward during the legislative session

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Ronald Wakefield
Director, Division of IDD



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Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Workgroup



Background

The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Workgroup was convened to assist in developing potential solutions in three areas of focus:

1. IDD Planning List
2. Community Hospitals and Emergency Rooms
3. IDD Provider Workforce

DBHDD partnered with the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government to facilitate a workgroup planning process and guide the development of recommendations.

Workgroup Members

Lori Campbell	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities	D'Arcy Robb	Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
Brian Dowd	Department of Community Health	Pauline Shaw	Georgia Assoc. of Community Care Providers
Dom Kelly	New Disabled South	Allison Vallotton	PL Family
Twana King	Georgia Support Services	Ben Watson	Senator District 1
Cindy Levi	Georgia Assoc. of Community Service Boards/Avita Community Partners	Diane Wilush	Service Providers Assoc. for Dev. Dis./United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia
Bruce Lindemann	Developmental Disability Advisory Council	Rita Young	Rita Young & Associates
Ruby Moore	Georgia Advocacy Office	Lawrence Young	United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia
Mitzi Proffitt	P2P of Georgia		

Workgroup Process for each Focus Area

- Examination of status quo/challenges
- Discussion
- Breakout groups idea generation
- Consolidation of ideas
- Prioritization

IDD Planning List

Challenges

- DBHDD currently maintains a Planning List with over 7,000 people with IDD who have been determined to be pre-eligible for NOW or COMP Waiver services
- Not all individuals on the list are actively seeking services
- Actual service needs are not clear from the list

Priority Recommendations

- Conduct a longer-term planning process to
 - better examine challenges
 - identify priority recommendations
 - develop specific business cases to support decisions and implementation

Community Hospitals and Emergency Rooms

Challenges

- Increasing number of ER visits by people with IDD with challenging behavior
- Lack of ER preparedness for and knowledge of the needs of people with IDD leading to difficult ER experiences
- Difficulty making follow-up connections to services after an ER experience (provider capacity)

Priority Recommendations

- Educate and train hospital/ER staff to better prepare for, treat, and support people with IDD
- Strengthen provider capacity to provide services to people with IDD with challenging behavior to avert ER visit
- Train families to help them better support people with IDD with challenging behavior

IDD Provider Workforce

Challenges

- Low wages and benefits for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)
- Insufficient competency-based training & supervisory/mentoring supports
- Lack of career ladders or advancement opportunities/professional growth
- Lack of a pipeline generating a new engaged DSP workforce
- High turnover rates
- Demanding work schedules with unpredictability

Priority Recommendations

- Address salary and benefit deficiencies for DSPs
- Develop workforce pipeline
- Develop career ladders
- Develop remote supports

Current Efforts

- Rate Study – 40% increase to providers, DSP \$10.63/hr. – \$16.70/hr., plus benefits
- 3 DSP Competency-based certification pilots
- Employee Resource Network pilot

Next Steps

- Move forward with this year's Legislative agenda
- Initiate longer-term Planning List project
- Develop specific decision packages for other priority recommendations (Emergency Rooms & IDD Workforce)
- Develop plan for next year's Legislative agenda

Leadership Team Updates

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Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Tanner,
Commissioner of DBHDD



Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs and Chief Legal Officer



Monica Patel, Esq.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations North



Allen Morgan

Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations South



Jennifer Dunn

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Chair's Report

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