



Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

Meeting Summary

Thursday, May 8, 2025, 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

Chairman Kevin Tanner called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The hybrid meeting was held at 200 Piedmont Avenue, S.E. West Tower, 5th Floor, Board Room 512 Atlanta, GA 30334 and online via Webex; the following BHCC members participated:

Council members attended in person: Commissioner Kevin Tanner (*DBHDD*), Commissioner Kathleen Toomey (*DPH*), Nathan Call, Ph.D. (*Expert on Child & Adolescent Health*), Patricia Ross, Ed.D. (*GDVS*), Stanley Jones, Esq., (*Family Representative*), Representative Katie Dempsey (*District 13*), Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (*District 32*)

Council members attended via WebEx: Brian Pettersson, Esq. on behalf of Commissioner Candice Broce (*DHS*), Commissioner Amy Jacobs (*DECAL*), Alexia Jones (*Adult Consumer*), Emily Yona on behalf of Commissioner Russell Carlson (*DCH*), Sherri Bloodworth on behalf of Commissioner Michael Nail (*DCS*), Veda Johnson (*Pediatrician*), Ombudsman Jacquice Stone (*ODOS*), Shaun Owen on behalf of State School Superintendent Richard Woods (*DOE*), Joyette Holmes on behalf of Chairman Terry Barnard (*PAP*), Commissioner Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb (*DJJ*)

Council members absent: Director Jerry Bruce (*OCA*), Commissioner Greg Dozier (*TCSG*), Commissioner Christopher Nunn (*DCA*), Commissioner Tyrone Oliver (*GDC*)

DBHDD Leadership staff in attendance: Brandon Kenney, *Assistant Commissioner of Operations*, Monica Patel, Esq., *Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs and Chief Legal Officer*, Allen Morgan, *Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations North*, Jenniffer Dunn, *Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations, South*, Brenda Cibulas, *Director of the Division of Behavioral Health*, Brenda Woodard, Esq., *General Counsel* (via WebEx)

Chairman Kevin Tanner invited guest speaker Mr. Jerry Smiley from the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network to the podium to share his recovery story with the Council. Mr. Jerry Smiley informed the Council that Jen Banathy was unable to attend the meeting to introduce him; however, he is thankful for the opportunity to share his story.

There was one action item on the agenda that was approved unanimously:

1. February 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Kathleen Toomey, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner for the Department of Public Health, and Katie Kopp, MPH, Director of Maternal Programs in the Office of Women's Health at the Department of Public Health. presented on Mental Health Conditions – Maternal Mortality.

Renee Johnson, Director of Georgia State University Georgia Health Policy Center presented an update on the Mindworks Georgia.

Heather Stanley ATR-BC, LPAT, MATCH Program Director with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, presented an update on MATCH.



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Commissioner Tanner thanked everyone for presenting to the council and adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.