



**Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**April 15, 2021**  
**1:00 p.m.**

*This meeting was conducted via WebEx with video connection for Board Members.  
There was no in-person attendance at the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities.*

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Vice Chair David Glass called the meeting to order. Board members David Glass, Ellice Martin, Justine Welsh, Jan Ligon, Jimmy Thomas, Laura Whitaker, and Lasa Joiner joined by WebEx. Jean Sumner did not attend the meeting.

Vice Chair David Glass opened the meeting by recognizing Jeff Breedlove of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse to introduce the guest speaker Renee Smith. Ms. Smith shared her story of recovery.

There were two action items on the agenda that were approved:

1. February 11, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
2. Election of New Board Chairperson

David Glass was elected as Chairperson, Ellice Martin, Ed.D. was elected Vice Chair, and Jan Ligon, Ph.D. was elected Secretary.

Commissioner Fitzgerald introduced members of her team to provide an update:

Madhu Gundlapalli, M.D., *deputy medical director of the Division of Hospital Services*, provided a thorough hospital update on COVID-19 coexistence in the DBHDD hospitals.

Maxwell Ruppensburg, *director of the Office of Supportive Housing*, provided a broad overview of a supporting housing 2.0 update with detailed statistical information.

Debbie Atkins, *director of Crisis Coordination*, gave an overview of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis line: 9-8-8.

Commissioner Fitzgerald closed her report by informing the board of the continuous efforts and strides of the DBHDD staff.

David Glass provided brief remarks, commended the agency for its great work, support, and continuous efforts.

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.