



**Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Meeting Summary
December 10, 2020
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.*

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

Chair Kim Ryan opened the meeting by recognizing Jeff Breedlove of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse to introduce the guest speaker Berlinda Jackson. Ms. Jackson shared her story of recovery.

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

1. October 8, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
2. Proposed 2021 DBHDD Board Meeting Dates

Commissioner Fitzgerald introduced our new Appointed Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs, Ashley Fielding. Commissioner Fitzgerald provided positive accolades and is confident Ashley will be an excellent addition to our team.

Commissioner Fitzgerald gave an update on COVID-19 and detailed updates regarding the DBHDD agency.

Emile Risby, M.D., *director of the Division of Hospital Services and Chief Medical Officer*, provided an update on the DBHDD hospitals COVID-19 co-existence, CARES Initiative, point of care testing in DBHDD Hospitals, and COVID-19 vaccine preparation.

Ron Wakefield, *director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities* and Ashleigh Caseman, *director of Waiver Services*, provided information regarding the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program renewal and the New Options Waiver Program amendment.

Commissioner Fitzgerald closed her report by thanking DBHDD staff and providers. She is optimistic about the pathway ahead and the agency's continued efforts.

Kim Ryan provided brief remarks.
There was one public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 pm.