



Board of Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Thursday, December 7, 2023 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

200 Piedmont Avenue, S.E.

West Tower, 5th Floor, Board Room 512

Atlanta, GA 30334

This meeting was conducted in person and via WebEx for the public and Board Members.

Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed.D. called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M. Board members Bubber Epps, Deb Bailey, and Jimmy Thomas attended the meeting in-person. Chair David Glass and Amanda Owens joined by phone. Lasa Joiner, Jean Sumner, M.D., and Jan Ligon, Ph.D. were absent from the meeting.

Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed.D. opened the meeting by recognizing recovery speaker, Andrea Beasley, with the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse organization. Ms. Beasley shared her recovery journey with the Board and expressed to them how grateful she is to be able to share her experience and story with the board members.

Action Items:

There were two action items on the agenda which the Board approved:

1. Board Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2023
2. Proposal of 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Tanner opened his report by inviting Director of Waiver Services, Ashleigh Caseman, to the podium to give an update on NOW and COMP Waiver.

Commissioner Tanner then introduced Regional Hospital Administrator, Gilbert Sutton, Jr., to present on C.A.R.E.S. Cottage (Compassionate Assistance to Responsive Employees and Staff Cottage).

Commissioner Tanner then introduced Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs, Ashley Fielding and Community Outreach Manager, Sheree Ralston, to provide an update on the 9-8-8 Faith and Farms Initiative. Following the presentation, Ashley Fielding welcomed and introduced Kaleb McMichen to the board as the Department's new Director of Communications. McMichen was previously the Deputy Chief of Staff for House Speaker Jon Burns and prior to that, was the Director of Communications for House Speaker David Ralston.

Commissioner Tanner introduced the Senior Communications Manager, Camille Taylor, to present to the board the Flame of Hope Award Ceremony.

Commissioner Tanner thanked staff members for presenting to the Board.

Commissioner Tanner closed his report.

Chairman's Report:

Vice-Chair Ellice Martin, Ed.D. gave brief comments regarding the presentations from Commissioner Tanner and staff members and thanked them for presenting to the Board.

Public comment was given by one meeting attendee.
The meeting adjourned at 2:05 P.M.