



Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2015
1:00 p.m.
24th Floor Board Room

Meeting Called By: Kimberly Ryan, Chair; 1:01 p.m.

Facilitator: Kimberly Ryan

Note Taker: Laurie Sparks (DBHDD)

Members Present: Kimberly Ryan, Chair
David Glass
Kim Carroll-Hawkins
Kenneth Holton
Jan H. Ligon
Jimmy Thomas

Members Teleconferencing: Ellice P. Martin

Members Absent: Johnny Grant
Jean Sumner

DBHDD Leadership: Frank Berry, Commissioner
Jeff Minor, Chief Operating Officer
Judy Fitzgerald, Chief of Staff
Lavin Gartland Briggs, Assistant Commissioner
Amy Howell, General Counsel
Andrew Johnson, Director, Office of Public Affairs
Dan Howell, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Dr. Emile Risby, Director, Division of Hospital Services

Agenda

Call to Order: Kimberly Ryan

Introduction of New Board Member

Chair Ryan welcomed new DBHDD Board Member, Jimmy Thomas, who is currently serving his fourth term as sheriff of Pike County, Georgia. Sheriff Thomas brings to the

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board more than 30 years of experience in public safety. A member of the Georgia Sheriff's Association, Sheriff Thomas serves as Regional Vice President of District 4. He is a graduate of the Clayton County Law Enforcement National Academy, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations Academy. He and his wife, Margaret, have 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

Recovery Presentation

Chair Ryan introduced Joel Slack, Executive Director of the RESPECT Institute of Georgia, who introduced recovery speaker Desire Baylis, a recent graduate of the institute. Ms. Baylis shared her story and her goal of becoming a certified peer specialist to give back to her peers.

Action Item

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ryan asked the board to approve the minutes from its last meeting on August 20, 2015. Jan Ligon made the motion, which was seconded by Kim Carroll-Hawkins. The minutes were unanimously approved without additions or corrections.

Department of Justice (DOJ) Update

Chair Ryan recognized Chief of Staff Judy Fitzgerald to give an update on the DOJ:

The final report of the independent reviewer, Elizabeth Jones, has been submitted. Ms. Fitzgerald said that the report was written with the benefit of DBHDD staff input, was a fair assessment of where things stand, and would serve as a trigger for renegotiation. DBHDD has taken all of Ms. Jones' recommendations very seriously, has acted in a very transparent way, and will faithfully continue to work with its legal department on areas of noncompliance. DBHDD is drafting a response to the letter DOJ sent to the Governor and Attorney General regarding the report findings. Per Ms. Fitzgerald, the department's response to this letter will be thoughtful reflection of the very comprehensive plans already in place to address the compliance issues. The deadline for this response is November 6.

(Report of the Independent Reviewer available at <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/settlement-agreement>)

Commissioner's Report

Chair Ryan recognized Commissioner Frank Berry to give his report:

Commissioner Berry announced that David Crews, who served as interim manager of Gateway Behavioral Health Services since July 2013, had announced his retirement. Dr. Mark Johnson will assume the role of onsite manager at Gateway.

Commissioner Berry said that DBHDD's leadership team had been participating in hospital governance meetings throughout the state. The team received feedback that recruiting is one of the biggest challenges faced by hospitals. Commissioner Berry assured the board that the DBHDD is addressing those challenges through workforce development efforts. He also

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noted that work done to refurbish and revitalize the old hospitals was making a difference. He thanked Deana Crider, Deputy COO, and Jeff Minor, COO, for their efforts to this end.

Commissioner Berry also highlighted continued partnerships with other agencies, including the Department of Public Health and the CDC (prescription drug abuse), and the new Department of Community Supervision (community transitions from jails and prisons).

Commissioner Berry recognized Terri Timberlake, Director of Adult Mental Health, to give a recap of the Behavioral Health Symposium held on October 6-8, 2015. He also asked Stuart Wilkinson, Legislative Liaison, to provide an update on study committees that the department was following during the legislative interim.

(PowerPoint presentation available at <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/presentations-reports>)

Chair's Report

Chair Ryan announced that the Board Education and Training Day would be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Loudermilk Center located at 40 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

There was no further business. Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth Holton and seconded by Jan Ligon. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.


Special Notes

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **December 17, 2015**.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laurie Sparks, recording secretary

Signatures:



Chair



Secretary

Attachments