



**Behavioral Health Coordinating Council  
Meeting Minutes**

**December 16, 2015  
10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 24.260**

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**Meeting Called by:** Commissioner Frank Berry (DBHDD); 10:10 a.m.  
**Facilitator:** Commissioner Frank Berry

**Note Taker:** Tracy Gamble (DBHDD)

**Members Present:** Commissioner Frank Berry (DBHDD)  
Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D. (DPH)  
Commissioner Homer Bryson (DOC)  
Commissioner Michael Nail (DCS)  
Representative Katie Dempsey (District 13)  
Senator Renee Unterman (District 45)  
Disability Services Ombudsman Lavinia Luca (ODSO)  
Chairman Terry Barnard (PAP)  
Stanley Jones, Esq. (Family Representative)

**Tele-Conferencing** Diane Reeder, Parent Representative

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Clyde Reese, Esq. (DCH)  
Commissioner Avery Niles (DJJ)  
Commissioner Camila Knowles (DCA)  
Commissioner Mark Butler (DOL)  
Commissioner Robin Crittenden (DHS)  
Julie Spores Adult (Consumer Representative)  
Superintendent Richard Woods (DOE)

**DBHDD Leadership:** Lavin Gartland Briggs, Assistant Commissioner  
Amy Howell, General Counsel  
Andrew Johnson, Director Public Affairs

**Agenda**

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Berry called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Berry recognized new council members Michael Nail, Commissioner Department of Community Supervision, and Lavinia Luca, Disability Services Ombudsman.

### **Recovery Presentation**

Berry introduced guest speaker, Noah, who shared his compelling story about the challenges he faced growing up in an environment where substance abuse was prevalent. Noah is a young adult in recovery, and he attributes his road to recovery to the George W. Hartmann Center.

Ms. Green with the George W. Hartmann Center Adolescent Long Term Treatment Center gave an overview about the center.

### **Action Items Approval of June 24, 2015 meeting minutes**

Commissioner Berry requested a motion to approve the amended June 24, 2015 BHCC meeting minutes. Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald made the motion to approve, and Senator Renee Unterman seconded. The June 24, 2015 amended meeting minutes were approved.

### **Approval of September 23, 2015 meeting minutes**

Commissioner Berry requested a motion to approve the September 23, 2015 BHCC meeting minutes. Stanley Jones made the motion to approve, and Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald seconded. The September 23, 2015 amended meeting minutes were approved.

### **Approval of the 2016 BHCC proposed meeting calendar**

Commissioner Berry requested a motion to approve the proposed 2015 BHCC meeting calendar. Senator Renee Unterman made the motion to approve, and Commissioner Brenda Fitzgerald seconded. The 2015 BHCC meeting calendar was unanimously approved.

### **BHCC Initiatives**

Commissioner Berry introduced Michael Nail, Commissioner of the new Department of Community Supervision. Nail gave an overview about the newly created department along with its mission, vision, and work.

### **Interagency Directors Team (IDT)**

Dr. Christine Doyle, DJJ Director of Behavioral Health and Chair of the Interagency Directors Team, gave the following update on the team's activities for the last quarter:

- Partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prepare a survey of community providers who are giving evidenced-based, non-medicinal alternative treatment for children who have been receiving ADHD medications.
- Developing a Capacity Survey; training providers to gear up to provide non-medicinal alternative treatment services.
- Developing a unified training calendar for IDT-member agencies.
- Focus on the needs of the emerging adult population (16-25 years of age) and developing guidance documents for working with this particular population. Information is published on the IDT, DBHDD, and the Department of Correction's websites.

- Continuation of the strategic plan with a focus on school-based mental health services to include or improve services.
- Enhancing system of care legislation

### **Transition Support and Re-Entry Workgroup**

Dr. Terri Timberlake, Director of DBHDD's Office of Adult Mental Health, provided the following update about the workgroup:

The workgroup is focused on helping people who have a mental health diagnosis transition from the prison system back into the community. From this work, the Forensic Peer Mentor Initiative was developed, which has included the following:

- Training individuals with a mental health and correction background.
- Supporting more than 1,000 people at Lee Arrendale state prison, the Augusta Day Reporting Center, the Atlanta Reporting Center, and Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta.
- Expansion at Baldwin and Lee Arrendale state prisons coming in January 2016.
- Developing a Workgroup Re-Entry Survey for incarcerated individuals at both Lee Arrendale and Phillips state prisons.

The workgroup is in the planning phase of organizing an anti-stigma walk and run in May 2016 to increase awareness of mental health.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Berry reminded the council members about the BHCC Annual Report that will be given to the members for review and approval at the next scheduled council meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

### **Respectfully submitted by:**

Tracy Gamble, Council and Executive Committee Liaison

### **Signatures:**

  
Chair

  
Secretary