



# **Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Meeting Minutes**

**February 18, 2016  
1:00 p.m.  
24<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room**

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**Meeting Called By:** Kimberly Ryan, Chair; 1:02 p.m.

**Facilitator:** Kimberly Ryan

**Note Taker:** Laurie Sparks (DBHDD)

**Members Present:** Kimberly Ryan, Chair  
David Glass  
Kenneth Holton  
Jan H. Ligon  
Ellice P. Martin  
Jean Sumner

**Members  
Teleconferencing:** Johnny Grant  
Jimmy Thomas

**Members Absent:** Kim Carroll-Hawkins

**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

## **Agenda**

**Call to Order:** Kimberly Ryan

Chair Ryan welcomed everyone and took a brief moment to recognize Commissioner Berry's assistant, Terry Caldwell, who would be beginning maternity leave the following day. Everyone wished Terry, and her husband Ralph, well they anticipate the arrival of their son, John.

*Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities  
Frank W. Berry, Commissioner*

*2 Peachtree Street, NW • 24<sup>th</sup> Floor • Atlanta, Georgia 30303 • (404) 657-2252 • dbhdd.ga.gov*

## **Recovery Presentation**

Chair Ryan recognized Neil Campbell, Executive Director of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, who introduced recovery speaker Ivy James, a recent graduate of the CARES Academy. Ms. James shared how she was successfully using her lived recovery experience to help others achieve the same.

## **Action Item**

### *Approval of Minutes*

Chair Ryan asked the board to approve the minutes from its last meeting on October 15, 2015. Jean Sumner made the motion, which was seconded by Kenneth Holton. The minutes were unanimously approved without additions or corrections.

## **Commissioner's Report**

Chair Ryan recognized Commissioner Frank Berry to give his report:

Commissioner Berry recognized Chief of Staff Judy Fitzgerald to give a departmental update. Fitzgerald provided an update on the DOJ settlement negotiations and commended DBHDD's team members for their unwavering commitment to our vision and the progress we have made. Fitzgerald noted that two new offices have been created in the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Office of Transitions, under the direction of Beth Shaw, RN, is leading revisions of the process for transitioning from hospitals to the community. A new transition policy is now available on the DBHDD website. The Office of Health and Wellness, under the direction of Dana Scott, RN, is working to define what community should look like for people who have transitioned. DBHDD has also developed an Integrated Support Team, a group of licensed and certified health professionals available for deployment to any area of the state where a particular expertise is needed. Additionally, Fitzgerald spoke about DBHDD's Management Academy program led by the Carl Vincent Institute of Government. Fitzgerald commended this important effort to recognize emerging leaders within the department and offer training with the goal of filling future leadership roles from within.

Commissioner Berry recognized Jeff Minor, COO, for a budget and facilities update. Minor explained in detail how the budget supports the vision of the department (presentation linked herein). He recognized Commissioner Berry's advocacy for DBHDD's vision to Governor and the General Assembly, and its essential role in achieving almost complete support of the department's budget requests for FY 2017.

Commissioner Berry recognized Mary Price, CFO, and Kenneth Ward, Director of Internal Audit and Risk Management, who happily reported that DBHDD had no finding of any weakness or deficiency during the state audit process. Stuart Wilkinson, Legislative Liaison, followed with an update on bills of interest to DBHDD during the current legislative session.

Commissioner Berry reported on meetings with the Georgia Sheriff's Association and the Department of Community Supervision, both of which focused on the need to build a core

infrastructure for transitions. Berry thanked Jeff Minor and Judy Fitzgerald for their leadership and support for the great progress made across the department. He also informed the Board that the next DOJ court date is scheduled for March 28.

(Budget presentation available at <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/presentations-reports>)  
(Transition policy available at <http://gadbhdd.policystat.com/policy/2081266/latest/>)

### **Chair's Report**

Chair Ryan stated the Board members appreciated the opportunity to get to know each other better at the Board Education and Training Day held in November, and that the Board would continue to move forward to define its future role with the department. Ryan commended the team reports as among the best she had ever heard, and said that the information relayed to the Board gave evidence of the tremendous work and standards of excellence being exhibited by DBHDD leadership and staff.

### **Public Comment**

Commissioner Berry mentioned that Mr. Thomas Weaver contacted DBHDD regarding a potential issue regarding the definition of a weapon. Unfortunately, Mr. Weaver was unable to attend the meeting to express his concerns to the Board directly. Berry stated he appreciated Mr. Weaver taking the time to contact the department, and that his concerns are currently under review. The department will solicit feedback from the offices of the Governor and Attorney General. There were no further public comments.

### **Adjournment**

There was no further business. Chair Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Jan Ligon and was seconded by David Glass. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

### **Special Notes**

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be held on **April 21, 2016**.

### **Respectfully submitted by:**

Laurie Sparks, recording secretary

### **Signatures:**

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Chair

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Secretary

Attachments