



## Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Frank Berry, Commissioner

### Region 2 DBHDD Office

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## REGION TWO MHDDAD PLANNING BOARD MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012 AT 1:00 PM MEETING SUMMARY

The Region Two MHDDAD Planning Board met at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 13, 2012 via video conferences taking place at: the Northeast Health District Office, 189 Paradise Blvd., Athens, Georgia 30605; the North Central Health District Office, 811 Hemlock Street, Macon, Georgia 30507; and the Richmond County Health District Office, 1916 North Leg Road, MIS Conference Room Bldg B, Augusta, Georgia 30909.

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Josette Akhras, Putnam; Gloria Berry, Walton; Saundra Brown, Bibb; Andrew Chase, Morgan; Laverne Crawford, Richmond; Martha Crumbley, Burke; Sherri Cunningham, McDuffie; Linda Echols, Wilkes; Kathy Fitzner, Screven; Margaree Gibson, Wilkinson; Nan Gunn, Jefferson; Debbie Harbin, Monroe; Tammy Hearing, McDuffie; Lisa Jones, Columbia; Geneice McCoy, Richmond; Don Wilkes, Emanuel

### EXCUSED ABSENCES

Linda Ellis, Bibb; Ed Glauser, Clarke; Cathy Hayes, Columbia; Mandy Underwood, Jenkins

### UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Bessie Bonds, Twiggs; Rosie Cullars, Taliaferro; Ann Hester, Oconee

### REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF PRESENT

Karla Brown, DD RSA; Jessica Seigler, Executive Secretary; Audrey Sumner, Regional Coordinator

### GUESTS

Sherri Cunningham

### VACANCIES AS OF 12/13/2012

Baldwin (1), Barrow (1), Bibb (3), Clarke (2), Elbert (1), Glascock (1), Greene (1), Hancock (1), Jackson (1), Jasper (1), Jones (1), Lincoln (1), Madison (1), Oglethorpe (1), Richmond (2), Twiggs (1), Walton (1), Warren (1), Washington (1)

### CALL TO ORDER

Geneice McCoy, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

### ROLL CALL

Present Board members were accounted for and are reflected in the attendance above.

### OCTOBER 18, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

The October 18, 2012 meeting minutes were approved as written.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS/ RESIGNATIONS/NEW VACANCIES**

The Board welcomed Margaree Gibson, Wilkinson County, and Tammy Hearing, McDuffie County, who have been recently been appointed. Rosie Cullars, Taliaferro County, has also been appointed recently, but was not in attendance.

## **PUBLIC FORUMS**

It is estimated that 82 is the combined attendance total of all five public forums, with a breakdown as follows: Richmond County, 25; Clarke County, 15; Emanuel County, 23; Baldwin County, 20.

## **FY15 ANNUAL PLAN/PRIORITY REVISIONS**

In the October 2012 meeting, Priorities 1, 4, 5 and 6 were identified as those which revisions were desired by the Board. The agreed upon revisions are as follows:

Priority 1 Inform and educate consumers, families and other community stakeholders regarding available and needed disability services and other relevant issues impacting the delivery of mental health, developmental disability and addictive diseases services (e.g., ADA Settlement, Regional Planning Board, etc.).

Priority 4 Increase supported employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, including adolescents graduating from high schools, by encouraging schools and other community agencies to work together to stimulate more community participation.

Priority 5 Strengthen the continuum of treatment and recovery supports for persons with addictive disease and co-occurring MH/AD and DD/AD disorders and encourage and promote court systems to implement accountability courts to guard against the recidivism of institutionalized care and incarceration.

Priority 6 Develop more services and greater provider capacity in rural areas to families who do not have the ability to access services a distance from their homes. Provide rural areas with mobile technology through community support staff employed by our providers to offer, where appropriate, mobile telecommunications, such as, telepsychiatry, teletherapy, and other support services for equal access for more rural utilization.

## **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES REPORT**

Karla Brown presented the DD report. (*Attachment 1*).

Karla also answered a question posed by Shannon Harvey of River edge at a Public Forum regarding the length of time it takes to obtain a provider number for a home. Shannon stated it is currently taking one year and meanwhile they are paying for utilities, inspections, and must apply to HFR under DHR to get a license.

Karla advised that these things are not under our department, therefore we cannot assist in speeding up process. There has, however, been an increase in efficiency as of late and it is no longer taking a year to complete, but is taking about three months, under normal circumstances.

It was also noted by Audrey Sumner that just because a home is available, there is no guarantee that the home will be occupied as the choice belongs to the individual as to where they will reside.

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REPORT**

Keith Edmonds presented the BH Report. (*Attachment 2*).

## **DBHDD LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT**

Sandra Brown presented the LC report.

Concerns about issues potentially requiring investigation have been brought to the forefront. This information has been sent to members via email.

Personnel changes are being made with DBHDD. Members have been asked to come to discuss and clarify changes in further detail.

The next PB meeting will likely allow for more information to be presented, once a greater understanding of the issues is achieved.

**BUSINESS CARDS/ID CARDS**

It has been suggested by Board Members that there be some sort of ID to show members of the public the legitimacy of the Planning Board membership. Members unanimously agreed that identification in the form of business cards is desired.

Audrey suggested that this issue be brought before the Leadership Council, so this is a statewide initiative and has the approval of the Commissioner. Geneice will scan her previous card and send it to Sandra Brown, Bessie Bonds and Debbie Harbin, so they can bring it to the Commissioner's attention at the next LC meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITIES**

Debbi Harbin announced the "You Can Have A Real Home" one day conference and Lisa Jones announced a new nonprofit Coffehouse and Café established by the Pastor of the United Methodist Church and they will email the details to the Board Members.

Andrew Chase noted his his displeasure with the unavailability of the Athens video conference site for the October meeting. He suggested we check into the Continuing Education Center at the University Of Georgia. Jessica Seigler will follow up on his request.

Gloria Berry announced a newly elected probate judge in her county and stated it is opportune time to meet with them and make the Planning Board presence known. Judge Don Wilkes stated there are 43 new ones across the state.

**ADJOURN**

Hearing no further comments, Geneice McCoy adjourned the meeting at 3:02 PM.

**PREPARED BY Jessica B. Seigler  
Executive Secretary**

**APPROVED AT \_\_\_\_\_ BOARD MEETING**

**(Attachment 1)**

**Behavioral Health Report**

- The Carter Center and DBHDD Region 2 Office will hold a Town Hall meeting, *A Shared Vision of Behavioral Health Community Services and Supports for All Georgians*, on December 18, 2012 from 12:30-4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Augusta Technical College cafeteria, 3200 Augusta Tech Drive, Augusta, GA 30906. Frank Berry, DBHDD Commissioner and Thomas Bornemann, Ed.D., Director, Carter Center Mental Health Program will be presenters. The Governor may attend. Legislators, city and county officials, and agency representatives have been invited. The Regional Planning Board is invited and we would like for you to serve as spotters for legislators and that we need to recognize.
- The Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network has established their top 5 priorities: Access to Affordable Medical, Dental, and Eye Care; Unrestricted Access to Affordable Medications; Affordable, Accessible Housing; Higher Wages for Peer Staff, Including CPS's; Jobs/Employment/Supported Employment.
- DBHDD is holding a series of BH Crisis Continuum Stakeholder meetings to get community input into the development of statewide mobile crisis services.
- DCH is continuing to move towards a case management system for individuals who are aged, blind, and disabled. The state faces a \$700 million shortfall in the Medicaid program this fiscal year and next.
- Foster children will be placed into a single CMO in January 2014. Behavioral Healthcare will no longer be managed by DBHDD. DBHDD is meeting with DCH and other child-serving agencies to work through what our role will be and how we will be part of the shift of DFCS youth to a CMO.
- The target date for the closure of the Craig Center is 1/1/14.
- Advantage has done an excellent job of transitioning individuals being served by PSI in ACT to Advantage. Advantage is now enrolling new individuals and has a census of 32. American Work's ACT census is 67 and River Edge's ACT census is 73.
- Ogeechee opened a 10 bed residential SA treatment program (Braswell House) and Intensive Outpatient Services on December 3, 2012 in Swainsboro, Georgia. The program will collaborate with CSUs in R2 and R5 to serve individuals leaving CSUs and hospitals.

## **(Attachment 2)**

### Changes in Department

- Dr. Charles Li remains in the role of Acting Assistant Commissioner of DD is (has been Dir. of Operations of Hospitals)
- Sara Case (previously with a CSB) has been named Deputy Assistant Commissioner of DD

### Initiatives for FY '13

We are doing a Community Awareness Campaign statewide to include meetings/forums in each region. They are to help law enforcement learn what services options are available. Region 2's meetings are tentatively scheduled from 11:00 – 1:00, including lunch on the following dates: (More info to come)

Jan. 14 - Athens

Jan. 16 - Augusta

Jan. 17 - Milledgeville

Jan. 23 - Macon

- Continuing focus on getting individuals moved from ICF's into the community. There are 349 individuals in ICP's statewide with 267 individuals in East Central – Gracewood. The Person Centered Descriptions have all been completed and sent out to providers.
- Southwestern Hospital was a focus last year and the beginning of this year, but that has changed.
- New focus on getting individuals moved from Craig Nursing Center, CSH, into the community, with closure planned by 1/1/14. There are 55 individuals with DD in Craig and Region 2 is responsible for placing 18 people. These folks have all been evaluated by physicians from Emory and it has been determined that they can be supported in the community. PCD's are being scheduled and completed so that we can find providers.
- Continuing focus on getting folks with DD out of the hospital psych units and into the community,. We have a provider who has agreed to support 14 individuals in psych and forensic units.

### Region 2 Funding Updates:

- We are placing individuals who don't have Medicaid into services with state-funded providers. We have placed 67 individuals from the Short-Term Planning List into State-Funded Services.
- Continuing to place folks from the Short-Term Planning List into Waiver Services. We have placed 60 this Fiscal Year and 158 this Calendar Year.

### Provider Capacity

- There are close to 100 DD providers in Region 2 but providers capable of providing supports to individuals with intense medical and/or behavioral challenges aren't available.
- We have been developing that capacity with new out-of-state and out-of-region providers.
- A potential provider meeting was held in Macon on 12/12/12. Most of the people there were interested in becoming residential providers. Much of the meeting entailed helping the interested parties to understand the costs of services and the risks involved with starting up this business.

### Community Forums

- Provided information about DD Services and Initiatives which people found informative
- Did not have any concerns or complaints about DD Services, although one parent had concerns that the school system was not meeting the needs of her child.
- Received one request for an application for DD Services

### Georgia Crisis Response System:

- Since there is an intense focus on getting people out and keeping people out of state hospitals and ER's, we have had greater need for just crisis "placement".
- Continuing to work on options for Emergency Respite so individuals don't have to go to the Crisis Home when we don't have placement options.

- Continuing to see lots of individuals who have never applied for services before, or who are on the planning list with no services.
- Crisis #: 1-800-715-4225