

Region 3 DBHDD Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2022

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm on Thursday, January 20, 2022, by Dianne Hiltman, Chairperson, for the Region 3 Advisory Council. A quorum was present for today's meeting.		
Welcome/ Introductions	Ms. Hiltman, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed Council Members, staff from the Region 3 Field Office and the speaker for today. This meeting was conducted using the DBHDD Cisco WebEx system due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.		
Attendees	<p>Council Members Present: Dianne Hiltman, Chair; Lynne Anderson, Vice-Chair; Angelique Coke, Secretary; Cheryl Brannon; Urmil Tracy Marshall; Sunita Joshi; Dave Ake; Sharlene McClendon; Michelle Jordan-Vidal; Evelyn Cunningham; Dr. Jade Gillispie; Dr. Laklieshia Izzard.</p> <p>Excused Absence: Dianna Williams; Shirley Davis; Dr. Monica Hooker; Johnnie Watkins; Elizabeth Bolton-Harris</p> <p>Region 3 Staff: Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health Services; Ruth Coody, Assistant to the Region 3 Advisory Council</p> <p>Speaker: Claudette Freedman was the RESPECT Institute speaker at today's meeting. Ms. Freedman is currently employed at Grady Hospital on the Integrated Behavioral Health Team. She is also a Certified Peer Specialist. She spoke about hardships in her childhood which led to addiction problems. She encouraged Council members to be a Change Agent in every situation in their lives. Toyia Mather with the Mental Health Consumer Network introduced Ms. Freedman. Ms. Mather is the contact person at the MHCN who works with Ruth Coody to provide a speaker from the RESPECT Institute for our meetings.</p>		
Approve Minutes	The Chair, Dianne Hiltman, asked for a motion to approve the November 18, 2021, minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Dr. Jade Gillispie and Lynne Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.		
AGENDA	AGENDA ITEM(S)	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Old Business	Statewide Leadership Council	Tracy Marshall represented the Region 3 Advisory Council at the last meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council on November 19, 2021. Lynne Anderson stated she intends to be at the next meeting on January 28, 2022. There have not been any major steps forward with the Statewide Leadership Council Priorities. DBHDD Commissioner, Judy Fitzgerald, has indicated that the Priorities are aligned with DBHDD. The Council will do some fine tuning of the Priorities in the next meeting. Region 1 is moving forward with implementing their region's priorities.	The next meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council will be Friday, January 28, 2022. The meeting will be a virtual meeting using the DBHDD Cisco WebEx system

Old Business (continued)	Region 3 Priorities	There were no updates regarding the Top Priorities for Region 3. Council members did discuss some activities that NAMI is doing to coordinate a legislative focus for this year. The Georgia Mental Health Partnership has worked very hard for the last two years to coordinate legislative efforts to be more effective. Question about the budget for DBHDD in this legislative session and members were encouraged to participate in the Mental Health Day at the Capitol and the other advocacy days at the Capitol.	Ruth Coody sent the document developed by the SWLC to the Region 3 Advisory Council prior to the January 20, 2022, meeting. Ms. Coody will continue to send the document out prior to each Region 3 Advisory Council meeting.
New Business	Community Forums	The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, brought up the topic of Community Forums. She would like to return to doing the forums in the six counties represented in Region 3. The last forum was done in DeKalb County, on January 18, 2020, before the current pandemic began. She asked Ruth Coody to give a summary of the order of previous forums by county and the purpose. Ms. Coody provided the previous order of counties which forums and that the main purpose was community education and awareness as to the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities services that were available in their specific county. A Question and Answer period was held after each of the two main presentations. The forum lasted two hours and was typically done on a Saturday morning. Dr. Laklieshia Izzard, new representative for Newton County, proposed that the Community Forum be held in Newton County. Lynne Anderson made a motion the DBHDD Region 3 Advisory Council hold the next Community Forum in Newton County. Dianne Hiltman seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by Council members.	The next Community Forum for the DBHDD Region 3 Advisory Council will be in Newton County. Ruth Coody will contact Dr. Izzard on Monday, January 24, 2022, to start the planning.
	RSA Reports	Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health, gave a brief update on some items of importance. DBHDD is waiting to see how it will fare with the budget this fiscal year which will start, July 1, 2022. The emergency number 988 will go into effect soon and DBHDD is gearing up to meet demand by trying to get Access Teams organized as well as Crisis Stabilization Units to meet the needs. 10 new short-term crisis beds will be added with stays at six months to a year and twenty-two crisis residential beds with a stay of thirty days (could be moved up to sixty days) will also be added. A question was asked about the definition of homelessness to apply for a housing voucher. Ms. Craddieth responded that the person can be "couch surfing" or 3 episodes of hospitalization plus homelessness; can be in a shelter; can be homeless without a roof overhead or a bed. Dianne Hiltman mentioned the effort in Chamblee, Georgia, that if an individual is close or near to being sent to jail, they will get diverted if they have a mental illness. Ms. Craddieth commented	

New Business (continued)	RSA Reports (continued)	<p>on the PAD Program in Atlanta and asked one of the Fulton County representatives how he thought the effort was going. He was not clear but said he would have a report for the next meeting in March.</p> <p>There was no report from Vivia Black, RSA for Developmental Disabilities.</p>	
	Announcements/ Questions	<p>Dianne Hiltman asked Dave Ack to do his presentation on Internal Family Systems at the March meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Izzard mentioned a training event about Equity and Inclusion that will be coming up soon. She will send the flyer to Ruth Coody who will distribute to the Region 3 Advisory Council members. There will be another event on February 28th regarding Equity and Social Justice. NAMI DeKalb continues to focus on Diversity and is looking at support groups for the LGBT community and doing outreach to the Spanish speaking community.</p> <p>Gwinnett County will use Black History Month to focus on Self-Love.</p>	
	Public Comments	<p>There were no public comments at today's meeting due to the meeting being conducted using the Cisco WebEx system.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm. The next meeting of the Region 3 Advisory Council will be Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 2:30 pm.</p>		

Minutes recorded and submitted by Ruth Coody, Advisory Council Assistant for Region 3

Approved: _____