

Region 3 DBHDD Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2021

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm on Thursday, November 18, 2021, 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 speakers 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; Shirley Davis; Dr. Monica Hooker; Meia Ballinger; Cheryl Brannon; Urmil Tracy Marshall; Freda Hammonds; Sunita Joshi; Dave Ake; Sharlene McClendon; Michelle Jordan-Vidal; Elizabeth Bolton-Harris; Johnnie Watkins; Venessa Abram</p> <p>Excused Absence: Dianna Williams; Evelyn Cunningham</p> <p>Region 3 Staff: Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health Services; Kerri Bradford, Administrative Assistant for Developmental Disabilities</p> <p>Speakers: Ralph and Susan Smith spoke about their 32-year-old son who was diagnosed with autism at a very early age. They spoke about programs which were beneficial to them and their son. They talked about the Deeming Waiver (also known as the Katie Beckett waiver), DeKalb County Schools, Marcus Autism Center, Special Needs Trust, Jewish Family and Career Services Center in Dunwoody, and a Benefits Navigator who assisted the family to receive the maximum benefits their son is entitled to receive. The Special Needs Trust provides information and support about how their son will be supported upon the death of the parents. Another speaker, Corey Jones, with HOPE IS REAL discussed how her program works within the courts' diversion programs.</p>		
Approve Minutes	The Chair, Dianne Hiltman, asked for a motion to approve the September 16, 2021, minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Lynne Anderson, and Freda Hammonds seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.		
AGENDA	AGENDA ITEM(S)	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Old Business	Statewide Leadership Council	Due to technical difficulties with obtaining a consistent internet connection, the Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, was not able to provide a report from the Statewide Leadership Council. She will bring the Region 3 Advisory Council up to date in the next meeting on January 20, 2022.	The next meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council will be Friday, November 19, 2021. The meeting will be a virtual meeting using the DBHDD Cisco WebEx system

<p>Old Business (continued)</p>	<p>Region 3 Priorities</p>	<p>Due to technical difficulties with obtaining a consistent internet connection, the Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, was not able to lead the discussion regarding any updates to the Region 3 Priorities. This topic will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Region 3 Advisory Council on January 20, 2022.</p>	<p>Ruth Coody sent the document developed by the SWLC to the Region 3 Advisory Council members prior to the November 18, 2021, meeting. Ms. Coody will continue to send the document out prior to each Region 3 Advisory Council meeting.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>RSA Reports</p>	<p>Gwen Craddieth, Regional Services Administrator for Behavioral Health, announced that DBHDD has funded a position to work with the DeKalb County Sheriff, Melody Maddox, with the Co-Responder Project. Viewpoint Health is the identified provider for the DeKalb County Sheriff's project. DBHDD has funded a position for staff to work with the NICK project in Fulton and DeKalb counties to assist individuals with a severe mental illness who are incarcerated to link them to services prior to discharge. DBHDD has funded a position for In-Reach with the DeKalb County Jail. The DeKalb County Community Service Board is the identified service provider. This service will assist with linking individuals to services while they are incarcerated. DBHDD has funded a position to work with the Georgia Justice Project. The identified service provider is Grady Hospital. Staff from Grady with Georgia Justice Project will link individuals to services who are currently incarcerated and/or have been released and needs services. DBHDD has allocated funding for the PAD (Policing Alternative and Diversion) initiative. The goal of PAD is to reduce arrests and increase support services in Atlanta and Fulton County. There are three phases for the PAD Initiative: 1) Engagement-meet people on the street and attempt to get them into housing; 2) a hotel has been identified to accept the individuals. While at the hotel, there will be a team assisting with getting all vital documents, linkage to behavioral health services and attempts to find permanent housing; 3) once housing is located, the individual will be connected to Housing Support Providers to assist with and lease/landlord issues. Funding has been allocated for DBHDD Region 3 to get 10 additional residential beds. 6 beds are dedicated for short term placement (up to six months) and the remaining 4 beds are dedicated for individuals that need an intensive treatment modality such as DBT, etc.</p>	

New Business (continued)	RSA Reports (continued)	<p>The Office of Supported Housing will be hiring 2 Medicaid Eligibility Specialists (MES) to assist individuals on the Georgia Housing Voucher to apply for Social Security.</p> <p>DBHDD will begin webinars, hopefully, in January, 2022, which will be called Resource Fair Fridays. The purpose is to showcase providers and their services. The goal is to provide another resource for the people in the community looking for services.</p> <p>Funds were allocated to some of the APEX (school-based programs) providers to hire interns. Hopefully, this will eliminate some of the staffing shortages and entice the interns to work for the agency.</p> <p>Vivia Black, Regional Services Administrator for Developmental Disabilities Services, did not have a report for today's meeting.</p>	
	Announcements/ Questions	Lynne Anderson spoke about the diversion programs in Rockdale and Henry counties that will address low level offenders.	
	Public Comments	There were no public comments at today's meeting due to the meeting being conducted using the Cisco WebEx system.	
Adjournment	The Vice-Chairperson, Lynne Anderson, made a motion to adjourn the meeting due to the technical difficulties and Johnnie Watkins seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The next meeting of the Region 3 Advisory Council will be Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 2:30 pm.		

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

Approved: _____