

Region 3 DBHDD Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 2:42 pm on Thursday, March 17, 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; Cheryl Brannon; Dave Ake; Sharlene McClendon; Dr. Laklieshia Izzard; Elizabeth Bolton-Harris; Shirley Davis; Dr. Monica Hooker</p> <p>Excused Absence: Dianna Williams; Urmil Tracy Marshall; Evelyn Cunningham; Michelle Jordan-Vidal; Sunita Joshi</p> <p>Region 3 Staff: Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health Services; Vivia Black, RSA for Developmental Disabilities; Troy McQueen, Behavioral Health Region 3; Ruth Coody, Assistant to the Region 3 Advisory Council</p> <p>Speaker: Toyia Mather, GMHCN, introduced Jamison Dye from the RESPECT Institute as today’s guest speaker. Ms. Mather also introduced Jessica Smith who will be another Outreach specialist for GMHCN. Ms. Dye spoke about her history of mental illness and other factors that impacted her mental illness—substance abuse and sexual abuse. She spoke about the positive impact of the program Living Proof Recovery Next Door Program. She now helps other women who are admitted to the program. She emphasized that “connection is the opposite of addiction”.</p>		
Approve Minutes	The Chair, Dianne Hiltman, asked for a motion to approve the January 20, 2022, minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Elizabeth Bolton-Harris and Dave Ake seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.		
AGENDA	AGENDA ITEM(S)	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Old Business	Statewide Leadership Council	Dianne Hiltman will represent Region 3 at the next meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council on Maarch 25, 2022. Ruth Coody will send out an email to the other 2 officers (Lynne Anderson and Angelique Coke) and the two alternates (Urmil Tracy Marshall and Evelyn Cunningham) to determine if they are attending the March 25, 2022, virtual meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council. 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. Region 1 continues moving forward with implementing their region’s priorities.	The next meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council will be Friday, March 25, 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. Ruth Coody asked if this item should be removed from the agenda since there have not been any updates at recent meetings. The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, responded that it could be removed unless the Chairs for each of the three Top Priorities or DBHDD staff had any updates. Ms. Coody will send out a communication prior to the meetings to see if there are updates from the Chairs of the three Top Priorities or staff from DBHDD and if there are no updates, the item will not be on the agenda.	Ruth Coody will send out a communication to the Chairs of the 3 Top Priorities and the DBHDD RSAs to determine if there are any updates to be reported in the upcoming meeting. If there are no updates to report, the item will not be on the agenda.
New Business	Community Forums	During the prior meeting on January 20, 2022, the Advisory Council members voted to have a Community Forum in Newton County. Dr. Laklieshia Izzard volunteered to be the point person since she is a representative for Newton County. The agenda for the Community Forum is set by DBHDD to focus on educating community residents about what services are available in their county for behavioral health and developmental disabilities. Dates for the forum were discussed and May 21 will be the primary date with June 11 as a back-up date. Time will be from 10:00 am to Noon. Suggestions about selecting a location (county government buildings, public library) were given. Ruth Coody stated that the DBHDD Region 3 Advisory Council does not have any funds to pay for a location fee so the location will need to be free of charge. It is not clear at this time if this will be a hybrid meeting (virtual and persons in attendance) or just a virtual meeting. Members felt that with the new Omicron variant starting in Georgia, it is a bit early to make a decision at this time. A flyer may need to be developed for distribution as soon as the location and date are determined. The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, asked Clayton County and Gwinnett County representatives to learn from this forum in order to be ready to do one in Clayton County in 2023 and then Gwinnett County in 2024.	Dr. Laklieshia Izzard, Region 3 Advisory Council representative for Newton County, will coordinate logistics for the Community Forum and publicize the event with support from the Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, and Ruth Coody. Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health, and Vivia Black, RSA for Developmental Disabilities, as well as an administrative staff person for DBHDD will be the presenters. The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, projected a Community Forum in Clayton County in 2023 and then Gwinnett County in 2024.
	RSA Reports	Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health, gave a brief update on some items of importance. DeKalb County Community Development is linking behavioral health services and housing to the homeless population in four (4) hotels. They are serving 150 families/individuals. DBHDD is working with the Fulton County Public Defender office to house 12 individuals with Ms. Anderson. DBHDD is still working with PAD (Atlanta) to avoid arrests and link people to services. Intown Ministries in Fulton and DeKalb are working to link people to services.	

<p>New Business (continued)</p>	<p>RSA Reports (contd.)</p>	<p>DBHDD is working with Clayton County to connect behavioral health services and housing for people who are incarcerated. The collaborative includes Public Defenders, jail discharge planners , community providers and DBHDD staff. Many contracted providers have staff shortages creating a longer wait period for services. Telehealth is still allowed. Staff shortages also include the Mobile Crisis Teams. Question raised about the implementation of the Emergency number 988. Ms. Craddieth responded that DBHDD has several work groups with law enforcement, judges, community providers, etc., to determine procedures for dispatching, training, billing and a myriad of other issues to solve before the Emergency number is implemented. One benefit of the new Emergency number should be a reduction in calls to the 911 Emergency operators and centers. If 911 centers receive calls that should be routed to 988, the calls will be transferred to 988.</p> <p>Vivia Black, RSA for Developmental Disabilities, provided a verbal report as well as a written report. Ruth Coody will forward her written report to the Advisory Council members. Regional Hospitals in the DBHDD system implemented a new policy that all employees on the campus must be vaccinated by March 15th, 2022. Regions 1 and 4 were exempted from the policy due to not having a hospital campus in their regions. There have been a lot of referrals from DFACS (Dept. of Family and Children Services) and DD has been doing a lot of outreach with them. 7,000 individuals across the state are on the Planning List for a Medicaid waiver. Staff shortages are a major problem because it is forcing the closing of homes for services. There will be a 5% increase for providers starting July 1. 2022. Community Living Services are implementing an electronic clock-in system for providers. There is hope for a new Crisis Stabilization Unit with 16 beds in 2023. This new CSU might be located in Macon. There are ten (10) individuals with non-medical needs awaiting transition to services from Emory Hospital.</p>	
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New Business (continued)	Internal Family Systems (IFS)	Dave Ake, a representative from Fulton County, provided a presentation on the treatment modality, Internal Family Systems. Prior to his presentation, Mr. Ake stated that this treatment modality was not endorsed by DBHDD and that it is a modality of personal interest to him. After the presentation, a question was raised about what would be the benefits of the presentation. Discussion ensued about DBHDD paying to have professionals trained in the modality. Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health, responded that DBHDD will not pay to train professionals. It would be up to the service providers who contract with DBHDD to pay for the training. A session of IFS costs \$270.00.	
	Announcements/ Questions	There were no announcements at today's meeting.	
	Public Comments	There were no public comments at today's meeting due to the meeting being conducted using the Cisco WebEx system.	
Adjournment	The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, adjourned the meeting at 4:09 pm. The next meeting of the Region 3 Advisory Council will be Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 2:30 pm.		

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

Approved: _____