

Region 3 DBHDD Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2021

| Call to Order | The meeting was called to order at 2:42 pm on Thursday, September 16, 2021, by Dianne Hiltman, Chairperson, for the Region 3 Advisory Council. A quorum was present for today's meeting. | | |
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| 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; Venessa Abram, Secretary; Shirley Davis; Dr. Monica Hooker; Meia Ballinger; Cheryl Brannon; Urmil Tracy Marshall; Freda Hammonds; Angelique Coke; Sunita Joshi; Dave Ake</p> <p>Excused Absence: Elizabeth Bolton-Harris; Dianna Williams; Sharlene McClendon; Michelle Jordan-Vidal</p> <p>Region 3 Staff: Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health Services; Dion Cannon, Administrative Assistant for Behavioral Health Services; Ruth Coody, Assistant to the Region 3 Advisory Council</p> <p>Speakers: Bobbie Jo Downey, CPS, from the RESPECT Institute, spoke about her history of drug addiction, incarceration, and the things that helped her overcome them. Staff from the DBHDD Office of Prevention were present to talk about the different components of their office and numerous prevention efforts across the State of Georgia. Nykia Greene-Young spoke about the varied prevention efforts for substance abuse and mental health; Brian Khang Le spoke about the department's different responses to the opioid crisis and what the federal grant from SAMSA provides; Rachel Holloman spoke about the numerous projects in the area of suicide prevention. There is a designated Prevention Specialist for each of DBHDD's six regions.</p> | | |
| Approve Minutes | The Chair, Dianne Hiltman, asked for a motion to approve the July 15, 2021, minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Venessa Abram and Lynne Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. | | |
| AGENDA | AGENDA ITEM(S) | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
| Old Business | Statewide Leadership Council | The Region 3 Advisory Council Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, reported on the July 23, 2021, meeting of the SWLC in Macon. The meetings are still virtual. The SWLC meetings may continue to be held virtually since there is better attendance for the meetings. It is hard for members to travel to Macon. The SWLC sent a document to DBHDD Commissioner, Judy Fitzgerald, containing the Top 3 Priorities for the state and the regional advisory boards' priorities. Ms. Hiltman stated that the SWLC is expecting to hear comments from the DBHDD Commissioner, Judy Fitzgerald, at the next meeting on September 24, 2021. Dianne Hiltman, Lynne Anderson, and Venessa Abram will represent Region 3 at the meeting. | The next meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council will be Friday, September 24, 2021. The meeting will be a virtual meeting using the DBHDD Cisco WebEx system. |

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| Old Business (continued) | Region 3 Priorities | Ms. Hiltman reiterated the importance of the document the SWLC sent to DBHDD Commissioner, Judy Fitzgerald, and that Council members need to read the document to understand the differences in priorities among the six regional councils. It is important to know the Top 3 Priorities developed by the SWLC for the State of Georgia and to be familiar with the regional priorities. There are differences in priorities based on urban and rural areas. There were no new reports from the three Region 3 Advisory Council chairs for the Top 3 Region 3 Priorities. | Ruth Coody sent the document developed by the SWLC to the Region 3 Advisory Council members again prior to the September 16, 2021, meeting. Ms. Coody will continue to send the document out prior to each Region 3 Advisory Council meeting. |
| New Business | Resignation of Venessa Abram, Secretary of the Region 3 Advisory Council | Venessa Abram, a current representative for Gwinnett County and the elected Secretary for the Region 3 Advisory Council, announced she would be resigning from her roles as a member and the Secretary for the Region 3 Advisory Council. Ms. Abram will attend the next meeting of the SWLC on September 24, 2021. The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, asked for a volunteer to fill the role of Secretary and Angelique Coke, a representative for Gwinnett County stepped up and volunteered to be the Secretary of the Region 3 Advisory Council. The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, appointed Ms. Coke to the position of Secretary of the Region 3 Advisory Council. | Angelique Coke volunteered and the Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, appointed Ms. Coke to be the Secretary for the Region 3 Advisory Council. |
| | RSA Reports | Gwen Craddieth, Behavioral Health RSA, and Dianne Hiltman, began Gwen's report by discussing efforts by local mental health professionals and local police departments working together. Ms. Hiltman discussed what is happening in Brookhaven, Georgia (DeKalb County). Ms. Craddieth mentioned what Viewpoint Health (Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale counties) is doing with the Gwinnett Police Department and the Rockdale Police Department. DBHDD has received a lot of money from the federal government through SAMSA. Providers have submitted plans and she is waiting to hear which initiatives will be funded. Supported Housing 2.0 providers (Assertive Community Recovery (ACR), Viewpoint Health, and Step Up on Second (Step Up) are gearing up to provide services to persons in supported housing (760 individuals). BH Providers are having difficulty having enough staff to provide services. Some providers have had to close some services and/or combine services. GRHA Regional Hospital has had to put a hold on admissions temporarily due to staff shortages. Ms. Hiltman asked about the training classes for Certified Peer Specialist (CPS). They seem to be full all the | |

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| New Business (continued) | RSA Reports (continued) | time. Gwen stated that DBHDD provides funding for the classes. Meals and travel can be a problem. Gwen suggested virtual classes may be an option to offset the costs for individuals who have problems paying for meals and travel. | |
| | | Vivia Black, RSA for Developmental Disability Services, could not be at today's meeting. She had a client crisis that came up just prior to our meeting today. | |
| | Announcements/ Questions | Tracy Urmil Marshall attended the meeting of the Behavioral Health Coalition at the beginning of the month. The BH Coalition will once again sponsor a Day at the Capitol in February, 2022. It will be held virtually. Ms. Marshall is also on the City of Johns Creek Advisory Council. This advisory council is looking at health and mental health issues in their community. | |
| | 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 4:05 pm. The next meeting will be Thursday, November 18, 2021. | | |
| Minutes recorded and submitted by Ruth Coody, Advisory Council Assistant for Region 3 | | | |
| Approved: _____ | | | |