

Region 3 DBHDD Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2020

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm on Thursday, November 19, 2020, by Lynne Anderson, Vice-Chairperson for the Region 3 Advisory Council. The Chairperson, Dianne Hitman, was in attendance for the entire meeting but could not get the audio portion to work on her computer. She was able to make comments via the Chat function on the WebEx system.		
Welcome/ Introductions	Ms. Anderson, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed Council Members and staff from the Region 3 Field Office. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. This meeting was done by 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; Urmil Tracy Marshall; Melinda Morgan-Carson; Solomon Adewusi; Freda Hammonds; Nyree Williams; Sunita Joshi; Evelyn Cunningham; Janice Scott</p> <p>Excused Absence: Dianna Williams</p> <p>Region 3 Staff: Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health Services; Ruth Coody, Assistant to the Region 3 Advisory Council; Kerri Bradford, Administrative Assistant for Developmental Disabilities</p> <p>Guest: Michelle Jordan-Vidal from Gwinnett County listened to the meeting. She is interested in applying to be a representative for Gwinnett County on the DBHDD Region 3 Advisory Council.</p>		
Approve Minutes	The Vice-Chair, Lynne Anderson, asked for a motion to approve the September 17, 2020, minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Evelyn Cunningham and Dianne Hiltman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.		
AGENDA	AGENDA ITEM(S)	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Old Business	Statewide Leadership Council	Dianne Hiltman and Lynne Anderson plan to attend the November 20, 2020, meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council. Dianne Hiltman and Evelyn Cunningham attended the September 25 th , 2020, meeting via the WebEx system. There were no statements made at the meeting about whether the three priorities selected by the Statewide Leadership Council have been forwarded to the Department’s Commissioner, Judy Fitzgerald.	The next meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council will be Friday, November 20, 2020. The meeting will be a virtual meeting using the DBHDD Cisco WebEx system.

<p>Old Business (continued)</p>	<p>Region 3 Priorities</p>	<p>The discussion regarding the Top Priorities and Key Strategies was led by the Vice-Chair, Lynne Anderson, and the past Chair, Melinda Morgan-Carson. At the September 17, 2020, meeting, the Chair, Dianne Hiltman, asked Melinda Morgan-Carson and Ruth Coody to take the work from the Small Group Discussion on August 12, 2020, the comments made in the September 17, 2020, Advisory Council meeting by Council members, and develop a draft of the Top 3 Priorities and Key Strategies to be presented at the November 19, 2020, meeting. Ms. Morgan-Carson and Ms. Coody did the work as the Chairperson requested. Their work was completed in October, 2020, and sent out to Advisory Council members and the two RSAs, Gwen Craddieth and Vivia Black. Ms. Craddieth responded and raised questions about some of the Key Strategies. Today's discussion was focused on the work done by Ms. Morgan-Carson and Ms. Coody and the questions raised by Ms. Craddieth. The Advisory Council members received this document prior to today's meeting. Melinda Morgan-Carson read each Priority, Goal, and the Key Strategies. Advisory Council members had comments and raised questions. Some examples of comments and questions raised are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What if the provider will only do virtual services and not offer visits in the office? • What if providers are not using effective virtual services? Does DBHDD get involved? • Will virtual services continue after the pandemic and offices are opened again? • Are providers following CDC guidelines during the pandemic for office visits? • Several questions were raised when the discussion turned to increasing the number of certified Peer Specialists; how many will be non-English speaking; training needed before getting a job, etc. • Suicide education and prevention was added as a focus after members felt this area should have some priority. 	<p>Determining the Top 3 Priorities and Strategies will continue using a Small Group. The Chair, Dianne Hiltman, asked Lynne Anderson, Venessa Abram, Melinda Morgan-Carson, Tracy Marshall, Gwen Craddieth, Vivia Black and Ruth Coody to meet again to continue refining the Priorities and Key Strategies. Ruth Coody will set up the meeting.</p>
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New Business	RSA Reports	Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health, provided a brief report. She stated that things seem to be moving slower at this time. Virtual services and in office visits continue to be provided. There is a new CEO at the DeKalb Community Services Board. The previous CEO, Dr. Joe Bona, died a few months ago. Persons who are homeless are still a major concern and targeted population for DBHDD. The ACT teams have been very active in this area. DBHDD received a grant from the federal government through SAMSA. It provides temporary shelter for the homeless mentally ill in hotels.	
		There was not a report from the RSA for Developmental Disabilities, Vivia Black, who was not able to attend today's meeting.	
	Announcements & Questions	Dianne Hiltman, Chairperson, asked Gwen Craddieth to send out training information as quickly as possible. She stated that she does not always have enough time to send out training notices before the training occurs. Ms. Craddieth stated she would do her best to get announcements about training to Ruth Coody so she can send them on to the Advisory Council members as soon as possible. Ms. Craddieth receives a large volume of emails each work day. Ms. Coody stated that she works part-time since she is a retired State employee and does not work on Fridays. She may not get to the emails forwarded from Gwen in a timely manner.	
		Ms. Hiltman asked Ms. Craddieth if there is a waiver for individuals with mental illness like the waiver for individuals with developmental disabilities. Ms. Craddieth responded that there is not such a waiver.	
		Ms. Hiltman asked why there is not a lot of information on the DBHDD website about suicide guidelines. Ms. Craddieth encouraged members to contact Jill Mays at DBHDD who is in charge of the Office of Prevention and this topic would fall under her office.	
	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-Chair, Lynne Anderson, adjourned the meeting at 3:57 pm. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2021.		
Minutes recorded and submitted by Ruth Coody, Advisory Council Assistant for Region 3			
Approved: _____			