

Region 3 DBHDD Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2022

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 2:34 pm on Thursday, August 4, 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; Dr. Laklieshia Izzard; Shirley Davis; Urmil Tracy Marshall; Sunita Joshi; Dave Ake; Dr. Freda Hammonds</p> <p>Excused Absence: Monique McDowell</p> <p>Region 3 Staff: Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health Services; Vivia Black, RSA for Developmental Services; John McQueen, Behavioral Health Region 3; Ruth Coody, Assistant to the Region 3 Advisory Council</p> <p>Speaker: Jessica Smith, GMHCN, introduced Patrick Watkins from the RESPECT Institute as today’s guest speaker. Mr. Watkins spoke about his history of substance abuse and mental illness as well as a family history of substance abuse. His main themes were “we can recover, don’t give up and don’t be afraid to ask for help”. He gave credit to his 12 Step Program and his transitional housing (Intensive Treatment Residence) for his ten months of sobriety.</p>		
Approve Minutes	The Chair, Dianne Hiltman, asked for a motion to approve the May 19, 2022, minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Dave Ake and Shirley Davis seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.		
AGENDA	AGENDA ITEM(S)	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Old Business	Statewide Leadership Council	Ms. Hiltman reported on the meeting held on July 15, 2022. The Statewide Leadership Council mainly discussed the implementation of the 988 crisis phone system for mental health and the implementation of HB 1013 by DBHDD. The Council members were able to listen in on a meeting hosted by the DBHDD Commissioner, Judy Fitzgerald. Lynne Anderson and Urmil Tracy Marshall also attended the meeting. Ms. Marshall added that there was discussion about not using the wording “committed suicide” which gives a negative connotation but instead, use the wording “died by suicide”. Council members discussed continuing to meet virtually since it promotes better attendance.	The next meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council will be Friday, September 16, 2022. The meeting will be a virtual meeting using the DBHDD Cisco WebEx system.

Old Business (continued)	Region 3 Priorities	The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, asked for updates to the Top 3 Priorities. She stated that the Region 3 Advisory Council will continue to use the Top 3 Priorities done in 2020. She mentioned Monique McDowell volunteered to Chair Priority 1 (Community Awareness) since the previous Chair resigned when she rotated off the Region 3 Advisory Council. Ms. McDowell was not able to attend today's meeting but will report at the next meeting about several community awareness efforts being done by the Office of Prevention in DBHDD. Ms. Hiltman stated that the Region 3 Top 3 Priorities are different from the Statewide Leadership Council's Top Priorities as are the priorities for the other five regions. The DBHDD Commissioner, Judy Fitzgerald, has received a copy of the six regional advisory councils' top priorities and the statewide priorities.	This topic will be on the agenda for the September 15 th , 2022, meeting.
	Community Forums	Dr. Laklieshia Izzard provided a report on the Community Forum in Newton County on Saturday, June 11 th , 2022. She discussed the presentations by DBHDD Region 3 Field Office staff-Vivia Black for Developmental Disabilities, John McQueen for Behavioral Health, and Olga Pittman regarding services for Youth and Young Adults. There were community residents, service providers and recipients of behavioral health services in attendance. The Chair, Dianne Hiltman, mentioned that Clayton County was selected at one of the Region 3 Advisory Council meetings to do a Community Forum in 2023. She also recommended that the representatives for Clayton County use Dr. Izzard as a resource for planning their Community Forum.	Ruth Coody will send a communication to the Clayton County representatives about providing the leadership to organize a Community Forum in 2023. She will provide the contact information for Dr. Izzard to the representatives.
New Business	Election of Officers	The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, asked for members to step up to serve as an officer for 2022-2023. Urmil Tracy Marshall was selected as Chairperson after a motion by Lynne Anderson and a second by Dianne Hiltman. Dave Ake was selected as Vice-Chairperson after a motion by Dianne Hiltman and a second from Lynne Anderson. Lynne Anderson was selected as Secretary after a motion from Dr. Freda Hammonds and a second from Dr. Laklieshia Izzard. All three officers were selected unanimously during each of the three separate votes taken. The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, appointed Dr. Laklieshia Izzard and herself as the Alternates for the three officers representing the Region 3 Advisory Council at the Statewide Leadership Council.	Elections for officers are held annually. The next election will be July, 2023

<p>New Business (continued)</p>	<p>RSA Reports</p>	<p>Gwen Craddieth, Regional Services Administrator for Behavioral Health, gave a report. DBHDD staff currently located at 2 Peachtree Street will be moved to the James M. “Sloppy” Floyd building located across from Liberty Plaza and the State Capitol by June 30, 2023. The Floyd building is commonly referred to as the Twin Towers. Individuals on housing vouchers are not getting evicted as much because having a case manager is working very well. There will be two trainings for Certified Peer Specialists for Parents and Youth. These will be paid positions. Behavioral Health service providers are referring individuals and paying the fee for training. Gwen announced that her Administrative Assistant for over 10 years left May 29th. Dion Cannon will finish her education and training to be a nurse. Viewpoint Health will be operating six residential beds for individuals coming out of jails. There will be two beds in Gwinnett County and four beds in Rockdale County. There will be four specialized beds for individuals with personality disorders. The provider has finally received their licensing to operate these beds. There will be six additional Crisis beds for young adults. The majority of crisis beds are for individuals over 30 years old so crisis beds were needed for younger adults. The implementation of HB 1013 has created confusion about dropping off individuals at Emergency Receiving Facilities. The individuals get sent back to the Sheriff’s offices. Region 3 staff are working with the various Sheriff’s offices to work out procedural problems. Ms. Craddieth discussed issues with the implementation of the 988 phone system for behavioral health crises. The Mobile Crisis teams should respond within 60 minutes, but it is more like 90 minutes to two hours. There is a problem with hiring staff especially in Clayton County. A major issue with getting staff is the requirement that they must be licensed. Mobile Crisis teams cannot transport a person who is violent, so they need assistance from the local sheriff office to transport and this takes time.</p>	
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	RSA Reports (continued)	Vivia Black, Regional Services Administrator for Developmental Disabilities, provided a report. Staff shortages in the Region 3 Field Office are making it hard to find providers for individuals with developmental disabilities who are in a hospital or a jail. Region 3 staff are trying to get procedures in place to keep individuals out of jails and/or find places for individuals when they are ready for discharge from hospitals. They are doing training to get new service providers but that is hard to do without adequate staffing.	
New Business (continued)	Announcements/ Public Comments	<p>There were no public comments at today's meeting due to the meeting being conducted using the Cisco WebEx system.</p> <p>Dianne Hiltman announced that both politicians and advocates for behavioral health and substance abuse worked together to get HB 1013 passed. It targets specific services in the legislation. She is hoping for a decade of improvement in services and not just a year. Speaker of the House, David Ralston and his wife, were the major players in the passage of the legislation during the last session. She encouraged all of the Region 3 Advisory Council members to take the time and opportunity to thank their local and state politicians for getting the legislation passed. She also announced that NAMI will be doing an 8-session class for survivors of friends and family members who have died by suicide. She also added that the DBHDD website has lots of information about free and available services for survivors. Ms. Hiltman reminded everyone that the Fall season will soon be here which means that several organizations will be doing fundraisers to raise money and awareness. NAMI intends to do a walk to the State Capitol in the fall. Please remember that sharing personal experiences about behavioral health or substance abuse helps reduce stigma.</p>	
Adjournment	The Chairperson, Dianne Hiltman, adjourned the meeting at 3:58 pm. The next meeting of the Region 3 Advisory Council will be Thursday, September 15 th , 2022, at 2:30 pm.		

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

Approved: _____