

Region 3 DBHDD Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 16th, 2023

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 2:36 pm on Thursday, March 16th, 2023, by Urmil Tracy Marshall, Chairperson, for the Region 3 Advisory Council. A quorum was present for today’s meeting.		
Welcome/ Introductions	Ms. Marshall, 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: Urmil Tracy Marshall, Chair; Shirley Davis; Monique McDowell; Dr. Monica Hooker; Lynne Anderson, Secretary, Andrea Alabi; Lina Christian; Sharlene McLendon; Chad Potts; Michelle Jordan-Vidal; Debra Hoyte-Malet; Dave Ake, Vice-Chair; Dr. Alfreda Hammonds</p> <p>Excused Absence: Dianne Hiltman; Sunita Joshi; Elizabeth Bolton-Harris; Evelyn Phillips- Cunningham; Cheryl Brannon; Dr. Laklieshia Izzard</p> <p>Region 3 Staff: Gwen Craddieth, RSA Behavioral Health Services for Region 3; Ruth Coody, Assistant to the Region 3 Advisory Council; John T. McQueen; Terrence Franklin; Camille Rowe; Nakita Robinson; Debora Cook, Developmental Disabilities</p> <p>Speaker: Brittany Barnett, GMHCN RESPECT Institute shared her story, Blue Fuzzy Socks. She talked about her mother’s mental illness and her father’s alcoholism. When she was a freshman in high school, her mother committed suicide. She experienced her first psychotic break at age 19. She identified with her mother wearing blue fuzzy socks when she was hospitalized for her psychotic break. She did well for fourteen years and obtained two degrees, married a supportive spouse, and completed her Master’s degree in MH Counseling. She finds strength in believing in “never giving up and I am more than a diagnosis”.</p>		
Approve Minutes	The Chair, Urmil Tracy Marshall, asked for a motion to approve the January 19 th , 2023, minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Monique McDowell and Shirley Davis seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.		
AGENDA	AGENDA ITEM(S)	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Old Business	Statewide Leadership Council	Ms. Marshall reported on the meeting held on January 27, 2023. During the January 27, 2023, meeting, the Statewide Leadership Council discussed the Statewide Priorities the six regions’ priorities. There are still issues with making progress in staffing even with the passage of the state legislation, Mental Health Parity. Ms. Marshall talked about citizens coming from all over Georgia to attend Mental Health Day at the Capitol. The new DBHDD Commissioner, Kevin Tanner, spoke on behalf of the department. Ms. Marshall will attend the March 17th meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council. Dave Ake, Vice-Chairperson, will not be	The next meeting of the Statewide Leadership Council will be Friday, March 17th, 2023. The meeting will be a virtual meeting using the DBHDD Cisco WebEx system.

	Statewide Leadership Council (cont.)	at the meeting, however, Lynne Anderson will attend. It was not clear about the availability of the two alternates, Dr. Laklieshia Izzard and Dianne Hiltman.	
Old Business (continued)	Region 3 Priorities	<p>The Chairperson, Urmil Tracy Marshall, asked for updates to the Top 3 Priorities. Monique McDowell chairs Priority One which is Community Awareness. Historically, the Top Priorities were intended to be a way to track the activities of DBHDD and how they were doing to further the regional priorities. The current Chairperson, Tracy Marshall, would like to see more attention on identifying ways for Region 3 to help DBHDD push the strategies forward; having Region 3 members be more of a presence in their counties to partner with DBHDD at community events to listen and talk to the counties about their concerns and needs; collaborating with DBHDD to assist with promoting community awareness (DBHDD sharing calendars with the regions about events or encourage DBHDD to attend events in the counties with members of the Advisory Council; explore ways to build on the network of influencers. The Committee for Priority 1 met on January 24, 2023, with the addition of John McQueen who represented Gwen Craddieth. Mr. McQueen spoke to the North Fulton County Collaborative in January to further this priority. Dave Ake, Chairperson, for Priority Two (Prevention and Early Intervention). His committee would like to use the next community forum to explore the issues of incarcerated individuals being linked to services. Gwen Craddieth said she will address this issue as part of her presentation at the next county forum. Dianne Hiltman is the Chairperson for Priority Three (Recruit and Train Additional Certified Peer Specialists) could not be present today.</p>	This topic will be on the agenda for the May 18th, 2023, meeting.
New Business	County Forum	<p>Clayton County was selected by the members of the Region 3 Advisory Council to host a Community Forum in 2023. Monique McDowell volunteered to coordinate the forum and Dr. Monica Hooker volunteered to assist her. They will also ask for assistance from the other members who represent Clayton County-Shirley Davis and Joe Grubbs. Ruth Coody reviewed several points about how the Community Forum should be conducted. The agenda is set by DBHDD so that the two RSAs for Region 3, Gwen Craddieth for BH and Vivia Black for DD, can review the specific services for Clayton County residents. Saturday mornings from 10:00 am to Noon is the timeframe for the forum. There are no service vendors allowed to set up booths or distribute brochures. County</p>	Clayton County is the selected site for the next Community Forum.

		representatives need to find a venue that is free to use, coordinate a date with the Region 3 staff, and do the advertising of the forum. The Clayton County CSB was suggested as a starting point for a location to hold the forum. All Advisory Council members are invited to attend so they can see what they will need to do when their county is selected.	
New Business (continued)	Bi-Monthly Report Form	Ruth Coody reviewed the form with the Advisory Councils to help them understand how to use the DBHDD form to communicate with their county commissioners. The local boards of county commissioners are the appointing authority for citizens who want to serve on the DBHDD regional advisory councils. The exception is DeKalb County who has a CEO.	Bi-Monthly Report Form distributed to all members of the Advisory Council.
	RSA Reports	<p>Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Region 3 Behavioral Health, presented a lengthy report including Re-Entry projects in DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties. The Re-Entry projects are to discuss and develop transition plans for individuals with an SPMI who are in jails. She also reviewed the priorities for Commissioner Kevin Tanner and the duties for the newly appointed Assistant Commissioner of Operations, Brandon Kenny. She announced the appointment of Brenda Cibulas as the Director of Behavioral Health effective March 27, 2023. She reviewed the list of the DBHDD Grant funded Co-Responder Programs per Senate Bill403. Dave Ake asked what are the major gaps in services for BH and Ms. Craddieth responded that housing is the major gap. Landlords are difficult to work with. Sharlene McLendon gave Ms. Craddieth the name of a real estate agent in Gwinnett County regarding Section 8 housing.</p> <p>Debora Cook with Developmental Disabilities for Region 3 provided a report. 513 people are to be moved into waiver slots by June 30, 2023. About half of that number have been placed. DD is seeking more funding to increase the daily rate for care givers. The state legislature is looking at pay increases for care givers in the current legislative session.</p>	Ms. Craddieth’s report will be emailed to each member of the Advisory Council. Ruth Coody will attach a copy to the minutes for the March 16, 2023, meeting to maintain a documented copy of the complete report.
Adjournment	The Chairperson, Urmil Tracy Marshall, adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm, after a motion by Ms. Marshall and a second to the motion by Monique McDowell, to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting of the Region 3 Advisory Council will be Thursday, May 18th, 2023, at 2:30 pm.		

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

Approved: _____