



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Judy Fitzgerald, Commissioner

Region 2 DBHDD Regional Field Office

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Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Region 2 Advisory Council

Dear County Resident:

The Region Two Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Advisory Council needs you to be an advocate for those who require mental health, developmental disability, and addictive disease services. While there are many important things you can do for your community, this is one that is seriously needed now.

In the commission of your duties as a council member, you will listen to your community and report back to the Advisory Council on the needs of both the consumers and providers of these services. This information will help plan for needed changes in service delivery and address major planning changes.

A person who is willing to accept this unpaid job (transportation costs are reimbursed) is a person of exceptional compassion. The individuals who use these services have a heavy load and, in many cases, cannot advocate or speak for themselves. In addition to being asked to perform the duties of the Advisory Council to the best of your ability, you are asked to support the Constitution of the United States and the State of Georgia.

Please keep in mind that you cannot be the holder of any public money due the State and unaccounted for, nor can you be the holder of any office or trust under the US Government, State, or any foreign state. Consumers of mental health and/or disability services and family members of consumers are strongly encouraged to respond.

This is a council of concerned, active citizens. We welcome you to join us.

Sincerely,

Region 2 DBHDD Advisory Council



THE REGION 2 DBHDD Advisory Council

AT A GLANCE

What We Do

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, in partnership with others, will effectively deliver compassionate, innovative, and accountable services to individuals, families, and communities. In addition to sharing this mission, the Regional Advisory Council shares the state's obligation and responsibility to develop and implement planning and service delivery systems that focus on a core set of consumer oriented, community based values and principles which include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Consumer and family choice about services and providers
- ▶ A single point of accountability
- ▶ A comprehensive, accessible, and adaptive system of service delivery
- ▶ Public programs and private programs utilized in the interest of consumer choice and cost-effectiveness
- ▶ Planning at the local level
- ▶ Priority given to those most in need
- ▶ High quality service achieved through incentives, flexible funding, and evaluation
- ▶ A separation of consumer services provided by contractors and administrative and evaluative functions
- ▶ Single point of entry into the system for consumers and their families
- ▶ Ongoing training and access to management resources for consumers, staff, providers, and regional planning board and community service board members
- ▶ Responsibility for appropriate use of funds for quality services
- ▶ Consumer protection from abuse and maltreatment

As a public official, you will be expected to:

- ▶ Inform county commissioners, local legislators and other local stakeholders of the regional mental health, developmental disabilities, addictive disease, and prevention services and service needs
- ▶ Consult with consumers, family members, advocates, providers, and others within the region to get their ideas about service needs and gaps in services
- ▶ Make recommendations to the regional office and Division regarding service needs and funding needs of the region
- ▶ Advocate for resources needed within the region to provide quality services
- ▶ Meet with elected officials and let them know about identified needs
- ▶ Work with local advocacy groups on behalf of consumers
- ▶ Be knowledgeable of the services provided within the region
- ▶ Promote public awareness of mental health, developmental disabilities and addictive disorders issues

Service Areas

The Region 2 Advisory Council currently serves 33 counties. Based on census information, each county with a population of 50,000 or less will appoint one member to the Advisory Council. Counties with a population of 50,000 or more will appoint one member for every 50,000 people. The counties and number of allowable members is as follows:

Baldwin(1); Barrow(1); Bibb(3); Burke(1); Clarke(3); Columbia(2); Elbert(1); Emanuel (1); Glascock(1); Greene(1); Hancock(1); Jackson(1); Jasper(1); Jefferson(1); Jenkins(1); Jones(1); Lincoln(1); Madison(1); McDuffie(1); Monroe(1); Morgan(1); Oconee(1); Oglethorpe(1); Putnam(1); Richmond(4); Screven(1); Taliaferro(1); Twiggs(1); Walton(2); Warren(1); Washington(1); Wilkes(1); and Wilkinson(1).

Meetings

- ▶ The Regional Advisory Council meets 6 times per calendar year.
- ▶ Currently, meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of every even month from 1:00 P.M. until 3:00 P.M., except in December when the meeting takes place on the second Thursday.
- ▶ Meetings are held from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. via teleconference or face-to-face at meeting sites in Athens, and Augusta. Board members may attend at the location most convenient for them.
- ▶ Travel costs are reimbursable at the current rate of \$.575 cents per mile.

Appointments & Terms

- ▶ Appointments are made by the county governing authority, usually the county commissioners.
- ▶ Appointees should be consumers of disability services, family members of consumers, advocates for disability services, or interested local leaders or business persons.
- ▶ A new member's initial term length is determined by the Commissioner of Human Resources.
- ▶ County term expiration dates are assigned by DBHDD Commissioner. A regional advisory council member may serve a partial term (less than 3 full years) plus two consecutive full three (3) year terms.
- ▶ Chair and Vice Chair members are elected for one year terms with an option for re-election for a second one year term.

Ineligibility

A person will be deemed ineligible for appointment if any of the following conditions apply:

- ▶ He/she is a member of the region's community service board;
- ▶ He/she is an employee or board member of a provider that contracts with the Department of Human Resources to provide mental health, developmental disability, or addictive disease services within the region, or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of such an employee or board member;
- ▶ He/she is an employee of the regional office or an employee or board member of a group that contracts with or receives funds from the regional office, or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling or such an employee or board member.