

DBHDD Region 6 Regional Advisory Council Minutes

Minutes: July 10, 2019

Present:

Lori McSwain	Upson	Jeffrey Cantor	Coweta	Beverly Richter	Dooly
Ted Kirk	Fayette	Siddiqah Gibson	Henry	Valerie West	Troup
Marlene Rozell	Meriwether	Kattie Kendrick	Peach	Starla DeSaussure	Harris
Jim McCarten	Fayette	Lisa Fort	Stewart	Natalie Belcher	Troup
BJ Lawrence	Pike	Irene Cheyne	Fayette		

Conference Call:

Jodie Goodman	Carroll	Annie Davis	Muscogee
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Absent:

Betty Cason	Carroll	Mike Patterson	Macon	Syntel Brown	Spalding
Celeta Cavender	Carroll	Cathy McGill	Crisp	Tomika Sales	Marion
Chanda Moore	Coweta	Sandra Willis	Randolph	Geraldine Jackson	Spalding
Neydi Belmonte	Coweta	Cynthia Smith	Muscogee	Beverly Garland	Muscogee
Ed Barnwell	Muscogee	Beverly Richter	Dooly	Jan Rayfield	Heard
Alan Everidge	Houston	Maggie McGruther	Sumter		

Guest:

Emily McFarland	Respect Institute Speaker	Gloria Jackson-McLean	DBHDD Supported Employment Coordinator
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DBHDD Staff:

Ann Riley	Regional Service Administrator (RSA – BH)
Lawonna Parks	Administrative Assistant/ RAC Assistant
Valona Baldwin	Regional Services Administrator (RSA – IDD)

	AGENDA ITEMS	PRESENTER(S)	DISCUSSION
	Call to Order	Valerie West, Chair	<p>Meeting called to order – 1:06PM</p> <p>A. Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valerie West – Welcome, let’s get started. We have a lot to present today, let’s start off by introducing ourselves, the county and or agency you represent. I’m Valerie West, I’m a County Clerk for Troup County and I’m also the Chair for the Regional Advisory Council. <p>B. Review of May 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valerie West – Please review the May 8th meeting minutes and at this time are there any corrections that needs to be addressed. • Lisa Fort – CBC Obesity Grant should read, CDC Obesity Grant. • Valerie West – Motion to approve the minutes as amended: Ted Kirk: I motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jeffrey Cantor: I second
	Membership Updates and Actions		<p>Review of Roster – Membership Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawonna Parks – The updated roster in is your folder, at this time, please review your information. If any changes have occurred, we can correct those now. Please welcome our two newest Council Members Mya Cullins, Henry County who made her first appearance at the last RAC meeting and Siddiqa Gibson also representing Henry County. LaVonne Harn, Houston County has resigned due to medical issues. Houston County now has two of their three slots vacant.
	Guest Presentations – Public Announcements		<p>Respect Institute Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily McFarland, Respect Institute Speaker (Presentation) <p>Public Comments (3 minutes per comment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irene Cheyne – I’ve passed out several brochures from ACCG and if you look on page 6 there is an article that reads, DBHDD Regional Advisory Councils identify local needs. This is the article I was talking about and I hope we can send this article along with the recruitment letter to the County Clerks. This will help signal to the clerks that the County Commissioner or Commissioners are interested in the work the Council does and what we represent. We have tried for two years to get DBHDD to arrange a meeting with ACCG and we were told it was impossible.

ACCG contacted us and now we have a great relationship and that is very exciting.

- **Jim McCarten** – Is there a reason why not to address that letter to the County Clerks and or the Chair of the County Commission.
- **Valerie West** – I said address it to the Clerks because previously we were sending it to the County Commissioner, and it was going nowhere. The Clerks are usually the ones who get that information to the Commissioners and they are usually the ones who coordinate materials of such.
- **Jody Goodman** – I received that same article electronically and I was able to share by way of social media.

Region 6 Surveys

- **Jeffrey Cantor** – In our last meeting I began working with Irene to hammer out a Region 6 version of a final report of the survey for the past two years. I completed the seven-teen page report with several graphs, tables and calculations however due to a glitch in the system, we do not have copies to present today. I attended to give everyone a copy of the draft report, this is my read of the data and my read of the two online conference calls that happened of the past few months. Before the week is out, you will receive an email with this report, please take a moment to look over it and if you have questions, please feel free to contact me by email if not wait til the September meeting and I'll collect that information at that time. At that time, we will finalize the report, give a copy to our counterparts in the other Regions, hopefully they will use it as a guide when constructing their own report, using the data they collected for their regions and later submit to the Statewide Leadership Council.

Council Member Liability Coverage

- Jeffrey Cantor – We are volunteers, each of us have appointed to represent our county. We are not state employees but volunteers to a state committee, serving a state agency. We learned in the past two years that the DBHDD attorney office made a determination that under the Torque Claims Act of 2008 as volunteers we were not protected from liability as volunteers under the service of a state agency. This resulted from actions which occurred within another Regional Advisory Council here in Georgia. If any legal actions are taken against us,

Regional Advisory Council members, we are on our own and that can get expensive. When we learned of this at the Statewide Leadership Council meeting, we requested the Georgia's Attorney General review of the situation and a reading of the Torque Claims Act from the standpoint of volunteers. On February 6, we received a written response from the Attorney's General office, I'll read a couple of lines from that response. It appears the Regional Advisory Council are functional extensions of DBHDD that are necessary parts of DBHDD. RAC's are qualified as functional units of DBHDD and members who are appointed by their respected counties/ districts no longer respect the RAC's appears to be operating for the benefit of and within the boundaries of DBHDD. We are not state employees; however, we're functioning in a capacity under the offices of the Torque Claims Act of 2008. The reading proved positive for us to be under that claim for liability. The Attorney General strongly advise the department and or any RAC member to contact the Department of Administrative Services directly to discuss punitive coverage and accruable premiums. It sounds like we should be covered, it's just up to us on how to make that happen with the state of Georgia. I motion to the Region 6 representatives to the Statewide Leadership Council to follow through to push this to its continuation and get some representatives of SLC to sit down with DOAS and work out the mechanics on how DBHDD is going to cover the extended premiums necessary for this Council. Hopefully this message will permeate out to the other Councils and agencies throughout the state of Georgia.

- **Irene Cheyne** – I second the motion (motion favored by all RAC Members)

Nominal Group Priorities Process

- **Irene Cheyne** – Today we will be identifying three priorities and strategies related to those priorities that we will share with the Statewide Leadership Council. These will be the priorities for Region 6 that we would like for DBHDD over the next two years to focus on. We also have findings from the survey, however, we do not have those findings yet. In the meantime, we will go ahead with selecting our three priorities along with the strategies and give those to the Leadership Council so they may be able to move forward with developing the priorities statewide. At our next meeting we will have

		<p>had two months to review all the information and at that time if we decide to change our priorities, we can do so at that time. We will have enough time before the Statewide Leadership Council take a final look and make their decision. Each Region can submit three priorities and three priorities from the state, the Leadership Council will take care of that. To determine the three priorities along with strategies the Region Advisory Council will submit, we use what we call the Nominal Group Technique. This technique is a method of brainstorming, voicing the concerns or ideals of our communities which we feel are the most needed. Each of us will write down our concerns or ideals on note cards and as we go around the room, those ideals are listed on flip charts where everyone can review and will discuss and determine which of those will be selected as our priorities by a process of elimination. To execute that process we will use colored sticking dots to help with voting and making our final selection. <i>(Council Members use index cards to write down their concerns or ideals. Ideals are placed on flip charts for all to view. Will start the discussion and elimination process)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Priorities Selected: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Transportation</i> 2. <i>Expand employment opportunities for competitive and integrated increase work place training opportunities apprenticeship</i> 3. <i>Information</i>
<p>Reports Field Office</p>		<p>Intellectual Developmental Disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Valona Baldwin – IDD will be launching their new system on August 19 of this year. We previously discussed concerns about underlying issues that have been occurring with the Phoenix Center. Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald addressed those issues and with much deliberation has terminated all contracts between DBHDD and the Phoenix Center. Middle Flint CSB will now be responsible for providing, managing and operating all services and programs for the counties of Crawford, Peach and Houston.

Behavioral Health

- **Ann Riley** – We have the following upcoming meetings and Save The Dates. BH will hold their Crisis Continuum Meeting at the Pathways Center in Griffin on Wednesday, July 17th. We also have a free Disaster Preparedness at the Mildred Terry Library in Columbus on Thursday, July 18th from 2:30p – 4p. This is a partnership between Regions 4 & 6, West Central, Salvation Army, Red Cross and the Department of Health. The Behavioral Health Annual Symposium will be held this year at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, October 2-4. Registration links are available on the flyer in your packet. The Georgia Suicide Prevention Conference will also be held in Pine Mountain at Callaway Gardens, September 23-25. Registration and contact information are also available on the flyer in your packet.

Advancing Employment for People with IDD

- **Gloria Jackson-McLean** – DBHDD has partnered with WISE (Washington Initiative Supported Employment) they are considered the leaders in getting individuals who have IDD into employment. In the state of Washington 86% of individuals with IDD are employed in competitive employment. DBHDD has reached out to WISE and invited them to come to Georgia to help teach and train us for the next three years the techniques on successfully helping our IDD individuals gain competitive employment. House Bill 831 (Georgia’s Employment First Act, was passed in 2018 forming the Competitive Integrated Employment service for all working age citizens with disabilities. (CIE) Competitive Integrated Employment is full time or part time work in the general labor market, including self-employment. The workplace is in the community and is not managed or owned by the provider of support services. The pay is minimum wage or higher and the person with a disability works and interacts with persons who do not have a disability. DBHDD’s goal is to increase the number of persons with IDD who are engaged in CIE to 48.9% by 2025. Supported Employment services to include Customized and Traditional Supported Employment will help those with IDD find and maintain work based on their strengths, abilities, needs, resources and interest. DBHDD also works with (GVRA) Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to assist persons with disabilities to enter or return to the workforce. GVRA funds time-limited Supported

		<p>Employment services for early supports to include Discovery – assist with exploring their talents and the type of work they want, Job Development – create or change jobs to match the person’s interest and talents and Job Coaching – guiding the person to do the job until he or she and the employer are satisfied. With Supported Employment supports, individuals with a most significant disability will have the chance to engage in CIE, having real jobs and the chance to build financial security. Persons with IDD, age 18 and older who desire CIE should first complete the application for DBHDD services and submit to the corresponding Field Office. The Field Office will conduct assessments to determine eligibility for IDD services. Individuals who are already receiving services and desire CIE services should contact their Support Coordinator or State Services Coordinator to begin the GVRA referral process. The GVRA process is handle by the Field Office I&E staff, PLA Navigator, State Services Coordinator or Support Coordinator. The referral is sent via email to the GVRA DD Counselor covering the county the referral was submitted. The following supporting documents must accompany all referrals; GVRA referral, signed release of information and psychological evaluation. If the individual has SSI or SSDI, a WIN referral must be submitted to WIPA if the individual would like assistance with work-related benefits. After all documents are submitted, GVRA staff will do an intake assessment to determine eligibility for services. An IPE meeting will be scheduled, and a copy of the completed plan will be sent to the PLA Supervisor within five business days. Upon approval, GVRA assigns the Supported Employment Provider of choice and begin Customized or Traditional Supported Employment Services.</p>
<p>Other Business</p>		<p>Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly Elected RAC Board: Ted Kirk, Chair – Fayette County Jeffrey Cantor, Vice Chair – Coweta County Valerie West, Secretary – Troup County • Executive Committee (Alternates – Statewide Leadership) Kattie Kendrick, Peach County Siddiqa Gibson, Henry County

VIII. Adjournment

Next Meeting

- **Meeting Adjourn – 4:30 PM**
- **Next scheduled meeting – September 11, 2019 - Upson Co. Senior Center**

RAC minutes prepared by Lawonna Parks