

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COORDINATING COUNCIL  
HELD  
JANUARY 6, 2010**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commissioner Frank E. Shelp, Department of Behavioral Health  
Jerry Dubberly, on behalf of Commissioner Rhonda Medows  
Department of Community Health  
Commissioner B. J. Walker, Department of Human Services  
Commissioner Albert Murray, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Commissioner Brian Owens, Department of Corrections  
Senator Renee Unterman, Member of Senate  
Stanley Jones, family member of a consumer  
William McDonald, M.D., ex-officio, Governor's Office

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY**

Diane Reeder, parent representative  
Julie Spores, consumer representative

Frank E. Shelp, Chair, called the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Council meeting to order at 11:10am, January 6, 2010. Dr. Shelp welcomed Julie Spores and Diane Reeder to the meeting via telephone.

### **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 3, 2009**

Motion to approve Minutes duly made by Commissioner Albert Murray and seconded by Commissioner Brian Owens. Minutes unanimously approved.

### **ADOPTION OF COUNCIL By-LAWS**

Commissioner B. J. Walker made a Motion to approve the tabled By-Laws with revisions that were made at the December 3, 2009 meeting. Senator Renee Unterman seconded the Motion. Motion unanimously approved.

### **SCHEDULING OF 2010 COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Dr. Shelp suggested that the Council meet monthly for the next two months and then meet on an ad hoc basis as needed. The meetings for February and March will be scheduled on a Monday or Friday morning at 10:30am. Liz Hurst will schedule and advise Council.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

#### **UPDATE ON CRIPA/DOJ**

Commissioner Shelp reported that the Department of Justice continues to monitor the hospitals and will be returning to Central State Hospital next week. DOJ has requested a status hearing before Judge Parnell to look at the status of the settlement agreement. Commissioner Shelp stated that there are serious needs within the hospitals and the community and that the Department is working on those needs. He also noted that the Department of Justice and Georgia's Department of Human Services seems to be duplicating services. He stated that our mission is to provide safe and continued treatment for the mentally ill. A status hearing date with Judge Parnell has not yet been set.

### **DISCUSSIONS:**

#### **FUNDING - TASK LANGUAGE**

The following "Funding -Task Language" has been proposed by Commissioner B. J. Walker:

Proposed language to clarify an initial task related to funding to be completed as part of the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Council.

Given the current State Budget and projected revenue projections, the Council proposes, as one of its first tasks to:

- *Identify additional funding opportunities – federal and private – that Georgia could apply for or draw down that could be used to expand the scope and scale of programs and services in behavioral health. We also need to identify local funds that are not currently being used to match federal dollars in case we need to “match” any new funding that is identified. Finally, we need to identify any changes in regulatory or statutory policies that would allow the State to draw down additional federal dollars. In particular, the Council is interested in funding that will help expand housing, case management, employment, transportation and other support services in community settings.*

The Council discussed that the “Task Language” made a very comprehensive statement that looks at revenue sources wherever allowable or applicable and would require coordination of communities as well as other agencies.

Diane Reeder questioned if this is part of the Council's mission and should the Council be looking for matching funds and “how are we going to operationalize this information”.

Stanley Jones noted that there are some issues that are not the same for all providers; and he does not believe that provider networks are uniformed. He asked that we focus on the gaps within the system.

Commissioner Shelp posed some questions:

- How do we operationalize funding
- How do we examine the pharmacy and network issues
- How are we going to staff our operationalize initiatives

Commissioner Brian Owens suggested we hire a professional grantwriter and his department is willing to assist us with a professional person.

Commissioner B. J. Walker stated that we need to look at the opportunities out there and the Council can decide if it intersects and do we go after it. She suggested that we will have to hear from others on how they did it and we really need to identify potential revenue sources and whether the sources intersect with our needs.

Julie Spores stated that we first need to decide what are things we are not getting and the adults and children that are being cut. She noted that we need to go after the federal money and decide what the needs are presently and in the future.

Commissioner Walker noted that we have a stimulus opportunity we can take advantage of between now and 2010. We need a “swat team” work group on this stimulus money. The decision must be made on how we can draw down and expand the scope of services for the next 6-8 months. She also agreed that the Council should accept the offer on the table from Commissioner Owens regarding the grantwriter.

After much discussion, an “ad hoc executive workgroup” was agreed upon to begin moving on identified funding areas for Behavioral Health and act on issues identified by the Council. The workgroup will consists of seven (7) members, each Commissioner would make an appointment to the workgroup and Dr. William McDonald and Stanley Jones would each make an appointment. The Executive Workgroup will meet over the next several weeks and make an interim report to the Council.

Diane Reeder left the meeting via telephone at 12:15pm.

### **Privatization – Craig Nursing Home**

Dr. Shelp noted that the department may not be the best authority to be operating or running a nursing home and this may best be served by an agency with expertise. Because nursing homes affect individuals with behavioral health issues he placed it on the agenda but will discuss the issue at a later date.

Dr. Shelp tabled the “Detoxification Process” until the next meeting.

### **1915i Waivers**

Dr. Shelp reported that he and Dr. McDonald visited Pathways to Housing in New York on January 5. He noted that there is nothing magical about how Pathways is managing their program. Dr. McDonald stated that three areas the state of New York has incorporated is placing a lot of money on housing, employment and case management. He stated that Pathways is 80% Medicaid funded and could very well be a model for what Georgia is doing. In order for Georgia to have success we must have coordinated efforts and we are looking at a number of different models including the 1915i waivers.

Dr. Shelp asked that the names of the appointees to the Executive Workgroup is submitted to him or his assistant within the next 7-10 days. Commissioner Murray requested that the members of the Executive Workgroup be invited to the next meeting in February so people will know them.

Commissioner Walker has a DHS group that will report at the February meeting on TANF dollars through the Stimulus Program.

Dr. Shelp will revisit HB 228 to possibly include the Departments of Labor and Community Affairs with DBHCC this legislative session.

Commissioner Murray asked that the Council invite the Department of Community Affairs to the next meeting since housing is an important issue with the mentally ill.

Commissioner Murray made a Motion to Adjourn and Commissioner Walker seconded the Motion. Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

### **THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be decided at a later date.

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B. J. Walker, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Frank E. Shelp, Chair