

Meeting of the Alabama Department of Mental Health Board of Directors Minutes
August 16, 2024 – 10:00 AM
In – Person and Virtual

Call to Order

ADMH Board Chairwoman Donna Foster called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Attendance / Minutes / Agenda

Commissioner Kimberly Boswell took attendance and declared there was not a quorum. The members present were:

Rodney Barnes
Leslie Sanders
Larry Bailey
Donna Foster
Dr. Cynthia Bisbee
Dave White* - Governor Ivey designee

Also, in attendance:

Collier Tynes Dixon
Andrea Hutchings
Nicole Walden
Kathy Sawyer
LaVonda Blair
Tommy Kliner
Malissa Valdes

Kellye Jackson
Joe Rittner
Peggy Olson
Dr. Christine Rembert
Beverly Johnson
Mike Cason
Alander Rocha.

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 10th meeting was not made due to the lack of quorum.

A motion to approve the agenda was Larry Bailey. Following a second by Rodney Barnes, the meeting agenda was approved.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Boswell began her report highlighting that she gave a summer budget presentation to the General Fund committee. During this report she reviewed the prominent

slides on the ADMH budget presentation: ADMH general funding trends, service growth vs inflationary increases, staffing investments, renovation of the Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility, workforce investments, crisis care staffing, 988 metrics, youth mental health, and removing phones out of the schools. Following the over view of this presentation, there were no additional questions, which concluded the Commissioner's report.

Chief of Staff Report

Collier Tynes Dixon reported on the 2024 legislative session, highlighting two main points. First now that we have the 2024 budgets, the department can now begin operations planning. Second, ADMH team tracked 233 bills, and of those bills, 75 were enacted, which led to the 32% passage rate. To conclude the report, Collier highlighted the ongoing efforts to enhance the communication around the opioid commission/council.

DIVISIONAL REPORTS

MH/SU

Associate Commissioner Walden reported that Alabama received the demonstration grant for CCBHC, and that WellStone and Altapointe would be the first two providers to go live on July 1st. AC Walden also informed the group that the department applied for a pregnant and postpartum grant with SAMSHA with women who have substance use.

There was discussion on a CCBHC requirement on primary care integration, but AC Walden clarified the guidelines and the payment mechanisms. That concluded the MH/SU report.

Developmental Disabilities

Associate Commissioner Kathy Sawyer began her report by updating the board on the waiver waiting list, stating that the number has continued to decrease, but there are currently 1588 on the list. AC Sawyer then presented on the waiver amendments. The ID and LAH waiver amendments were both approved effective July 1, 2024. Following the waiver update, she informed the board that the CWP launched the nationwide RFP on May 2nd, and had largest response to services since the program began.

Next, AC Sawyer report Guidehouse Consulting Group has been training staff and reviewing CMS heightened scrutiny summaries for over 600 HCBS settings. In addition, they have participated in meetings with CMS and Medicaid. This work is to be completed by the end of the calendar year. The Heightened Scrutiny Summaries will then be published by Medicaid for public comment.

To conclude her report, AC Sawyer reported on DHR Crisis Referrals. The division continued its collaboration with DHR to address both children and adults on the DHR waiting lists in need of specialized services. Six (6) children and two (2) adults were placed in DD residential settings in the last quarter. The division also met recently with DHR to introduce a new initiative to address children in crisis in Jefferson County. This initiative proposes to use funding from both agencies to provide specialized foster homes, respite services and special training for this population.

Following the report there was discussion on the DHR initiative between Dave White, Leslie Sanders, and Commissioner Boswell on how all the agencies can come together and utilize all the recourses with this initiative to be effective for those we serve.

Administration

Associate Commissioner LaVonda Blair started her report by introducing the new Office of Certification Administration automation project that the administrative division has been working on the last few months. Following the description, AC Blair showed a demonstration video of the product to the group, and highlighted how it will help the OCA.

Dave White, the Governor's designee, inquired if this is a product that we have to purchase. The Commissioner clarified that this would be a one-time cost, but also how this impacts the providers with timely certification. Following the discussion, that concluded AC Blair's report.

Public Information Office

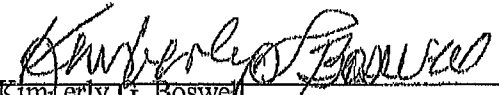
Malissa Valdes began her report by showing pictures from the Bryce Hospital Museum opening that took place in June 2024. To conclude her report, she highlighted the upcoming ADMH All Staff conference. Malissa informed the group that she will provide an update at the next meeting on the turnout and feedback from the conference. The Commissioner noted that the all-staff conference was the result of the CLARUS leadership training.

Other Business & Adjournment

Chairwoman Foster opened up for other business discussion. Trustee Bisbee asked Associate Commissioner Nicole Walden additional follow up questions on CCBHC. During that discussion, AC Walden informed Trustee Bisbee that the two tier one providers were brought online on July 1st, and the discussions were on going on when the others will be rolled out, and that the training for the tier one and two were going to continue.

Following that discussion, Chairwoman Foster asked if there were additional questions, hearing none, the ADMH Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 12pm upon information and belief.

Respectfully Submitted:


Kimberly G. Boswell
Secretary of the Board and Commissioner

Date: 12/17/2024


Donna Foster
Vice Chair of the Board

Date: 12/17/2024