

Region 3 DBHDD Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2020

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 2:32 pm on Thursday, May 16, 2020, by Melinda Morgan-Carson, Chairperson for the Region 3 Advisory Council.		
Welcome/ Introductions	Ms. Morgan-Carson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed Council Members and staff from the Region 3 Field Office. Vivia Black, the recently appointed Regional Services Administrator for Developmental Disabilities, was introduced and she provided information about her work experiences. Nyree Williams, newly appointed representative for Clayton County was introduced and provided information about her volunteer experience. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. This meeting was done by using the DBHDD Cisco WebEx system due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.		
Attendees	<p>Council Members Present: Melinda Morgan-Carson, Chair; Lynne Anderson, Secretary; Shirley Davis; Urmil Tracy Marshall; Dianne Hiltman; Dianna Williams; Veneesa Abrams; Solomon Adewusi; Freda Hammonds; Nyree Williams; Sunita Joshi; Evelyn Cunningham</p> <p>Excused Absence: There were no excused absences.</p> <p>Region 3 Staff: Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health Services; Vivia Black, RSA for Developmental Disabilities; Ruth Coody, Assistant to the Region 3 Advisory Council; Kerri Bradford, Administrative Assistant for Developmental Disabilities</p>		
Approve Minutes	The Chair, Melinda Morgan-Carson, asked for a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Melinda Morgan-Carson. Lynne Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.		
AGENDA	AGENDA ITEM(S)	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Old Business	Statewide Leadership Council	<p>A conference call meeting of the Priorities Process Subcommittee of the Statewide Leadership Council was held in May, 2020. Melinda Morgan-Carson and Lynne Anderson represented Region 3 on the call. Representatives updated and selected the three (3) Priorities that will guide the work of DBHDD's six regional advisory councils and the Statewide Leadership Council for the coming year. The Priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Services • Prevention and Early Intervention • County Connections <p>Ms. Morgan-Carson discussed some of the other items arising in the meeting. In the past, DBHDD provided two staff to assist the Statewide Leadership Council to carry out their functions and one of the staff was the full-time liaison from DBHDD to all six regional advisory councils and the Statewide Leadership Council. The other staff person was an</p>	
Old Business	Statewide	Administrative Assistant from Region 4 who provided all of the	Lynne Anderson will continue as a

(continued)	Leadership Council (continued)	administrative support to the Statewide Leadership Council. These two staff are no longer in these support positions and the Statewide Leadership Council asked DBHDD to provide this level of support again. DBHDD does not have to provide hired staff to fill these positions. The Statewide Leadership Council is asking each of the six regions if any staff from their respective regions can fill these gaps. Ms. Morgan-Carson stated during the meeting that Region 3 does not have any nominations that could assist the Statewide Leadership Council. Lynne Anderson asked that Dianne Hiltman join her as the other representative for Region 3 on the Priorities Process Subcommittee. Ms. Hiltman agreed to be on the subcommittee. Ms. Morgan-Carson reviewed the work done in 2017-2018 by the Region 3 Advisory Council to come up with 3 Priorities, strategies for each of the Priorities, and what has been accomplished as of October, 2019. She asked Ruth Coody to send this material out again to the current members of the Region 3 Advisory Council.	member of the Statewide Leadership Council Priorities Process Subcommittee. Dianne Hiltman will now join her as the other representative on the subcommittee for the Region 3 Advisory Council. Ruth Coody will send out the 2017-2018 Region 3 Advisory Council Priorities, strategies, and what has been accomplished for each of the Priorities and strategies by DBHDD. The document is dated as of October, 2019. The Priorities and strategies will need to be reviewed, modified and updated by the members of the Region 3 Advisory Council.
	Community Forums	The Region 3 Advisory Council held a Community Forum in DeKalb County on January 18, 2020. Attendance was pretty good and Kathie Gannon, Chairperson, of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, was present and provided comments. Three members of the Region 3 Advisory Council were in attendance (Melinda Morgan-Carson, Dianne Hiltman, Lynne Anderson) along with staff from the Region 3 Field Office. At the end of the presentations by Gwen Craddieth for Behavioral Health and Debra Cook for Developmental Disabilities, there was a Question and Answer period. A big thank you to Dianne Hiltman and her husband, Paul, who provided coffee and pastries on behalf of NAMI DeKalb.	The Community Forum in DeKalb County will be the last one until a later time to be determined due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which has put in place government requirements for the number of people allowed to gather in crowds, social distancing, etc. This agenda item will be removed at this time.
New Business	Terminations	In accordance with the Bylaws (September 29, 2016) for DBHDD Regional Advisory Councils, a notification was sent to all the members of the Region 3 Advisory Council 10 days (May 11, 2020) prior to the meeting today, May 21, 2020, that the names of Advisory Council members, Art Harris and Lasonya Jackson, would be brought forward for a motion to terminate both members for not following the	
New Business	Terminations (continued)	attendance policy as stated in the Bylaws. The 10-day notification is required for officers of Regional Advisory Councils and not general	Ruth Coody will notify Mr. Harris and Ms. Jackson of the Region 3

	<p>members. Mr. Harris was elected as Vice-Chairperson on August 5, 2019, but never attended a subsequent meeting nor responded to individual inquiries about his lack of attendance. Ms. Jackson has not attended a meeting nor responded to individual inquiries about her lack of attendance for over a year. Both Mr. Harris and Ms. Jackson received notification of today's meeting on two occasions to terminate their membership and neither member responded. There was discussion about how far the Advisory Council should go to make sure there is actual contact with a member before there is a vote to terminate them for lack of attendance. Members finally reached agreement that enough had been done to contact the members. Freda Hammonds made a motion to terminate Art Harris and Lasonya Jackson as members of the Region 3 Advisory Council for not adhering to the attendance policy. Solomon Adewusi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to remove the two members.</p>	<p>Advisory Council's vote to terminate their membership. She will also notify their respective county officials of their terminations.</p>
Annual Elections	<p>Annual elections for the Region 3 Advisory Council will be conducted at the next meeting which is scheduled for July 16, 2020. Three officers (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary) and two General Representatives to the Executive Committee will be elected. Also, the Chairperson will name two members to be alternates to the Statewide Leadership Council. The alternates are needed to be at meetings and vote when the officers are not able to attend. Each of the six regional advisory councils has three votes at the meetings.</p>	<p>Ms. Morgan-Carson asked Ruth Coody to send another copy of the Bylaws to Council members so each member can become familiar with the responsibilities of the officers and general members elected to the Executive Committee.</p>
RSA Reports	<p>Gwen Craddieth, RSA for Behavioral Health, reported that providers for behavioral health services are working remotely during the pandemic. Individuals can call a provider and ask for an in-person office visit. She advised that if Council members get questions about providers doing services, it is best to tell the person to call the provider first to see if an in-person office visit can be done. She then discussed the budget cuts that will impact DBHDD. DBHDD, along with all of the other departments in state government, have been asked to submit budgets that have made 14% in cuts. For DBHDD, this amount will be \$172.3 million dollars for fiscal year 2021 which begins July 1, 2020.</p>	

	RSA Reports (continued)	<p>Staff will have 2 furlough days each month and about 400 positions will be cut. The proposed budget cuts are awaiting legislative approval which should occur in June, 2020, when the legislative session reconvenes after suspending the legislative session in March, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Vivia Black, the new RSA for Developmental Disabilities, provided more background information about her professional career which spans over 34 years in the area of developmental disabilities. She discussed Appendix K which will impact services until 2/28/21 for over 8,800 individuals served by the COMP waiver and 4,800 individuals receiving services under the NOW waiver. The Governor’s Shelter-in-Place order extends until June 13, 2020, which impacts many individuals with developmental disabilities.</p>	
	Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dianne Hiltman announced that there is interest in the Clubhouse model for adults with behavioral health issues in the Dunwoody area of DeKalb County. • Dianne Hiltman, her husband and their son returned from Costa Rico where their son received ECT treatments at a much lower rate than in the United States. The family received financial support through a Go Fund Me effort. 	
	Public Comments	There were no public comments at today’s meeting due to the meeting being conducted using the Cisco WebEx system.	
Adjournment	The Chair, Melinda Morgan-Carson, adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm. The next meeting will be Thursday, July 16, 2020.		

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

Approved: _____