

# Advantage

## Behavioral Health Systems

MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND ADDICTIVE DISEASES  
SERVICE BOARD MEETING #183

July 26, 2011

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Katie McDaniel – Oconee

Pat Ellis – Jackson

Mae Davis – Elbert

Judy Spurgeon – Oglethorpe

Carter Smisson – Jackson

Shirley Segars – Barrow

Dr. John Davis – Athens-Clarke

Emma Evans – Barrow

R. Charles White – Walton

Linda Vinson – Walton

Mary Jo Matthews – Madison

Dr. Paul Roman – Morgan

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Gannon Gunn – Athens-Clarke

Vacant – Walton

Melanie Villalta - Athens-Clarke (EX)

Vacant – Greene

### ADVANTAGE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS STAFF PRESENT

Cindy Darden

Brenda Smith

Barbara Geter

Art Davis

Michelle Creech

Terri Weimorts

Mary Ferguson

Melody Platt

Lee Smith

Barbara Reid

Janice Callaway

Laurie W. Bailey

Terry Frazier

Elizabeth Stewart

Fred Eckhardt

Matt Hurd

Cheryl Fleming

Paula Andrew

Tammy Dalton

**The meeting was opened by Kate McDaniel, Community Service Board (CSB) Chairperson.**

### **ACTIONS**

Motion to accept the agenda. Moved (John H. Davis); Seconded (Carter Smisson); Passed (Unanimously).

Motion to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2011 CSB Meeting. Moved (Linda Vinson); Seconded (John H. Davis); Passed (Unanimously).

Motion to give Dr. Darden a vote of confidence in proceeding with her approach regarding the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Request for Proposal (RFP). Moved (Mary Jo Matthews); Seconded (John H. Davis); Passed (Unanimously).

Motion to approve the revised FY2012 CSB Strategic Plan. Moved (Linda Vinson); Seconded (Paul Roman); Passed (Unanimously).

Motion to approve the FY2012 ABHS Strategic Plan. Moved (Shirley Segars); Seconded (Pat Ellis); Passed (Unanimously).

Motion to accept the Bylaws and Policy Committee's recommendations regarding the ABHS policies. Moved (Pat Ellis); Seconded (John H. Davis); Passed (Unanimously).

Motion to amend the CSB Bylaws (see Board Reports 5.4). Moved (Mary Jo Matthews); Seconded (John H. Davis); Passed (Unanimously).

Motion to adjourn. Moved (John H. Davis); Seconded (Linda Vinson); Passed (Unanimously).

### **AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

Linda Vinson, CSB Awards Chairperson presented quarterly awards to the following staff: **Excellence in Administrative Support** – Melody Platt, Operations Manager, Addictive Disease Services; **Commitment to Service Award** – Mary Ferguson, Training/Employment Tech, Custom Industries, Barrow County Developmental Disabilities; and **Excellence in Management** – Paula Andrew, Site Supervisor, Unlimited Services, Walton County Developmental Disabilities. Staff received a framed certificate and a monetary award.

Ms. McDaniel presented the **2011 CSB Chairperson Award** to Elizabeth (Betsy) Stewart, Ph.D., Director of Behavioral Health for her dedication and commitment to ABHS clients, staff and the agency and her willingness to take on new challenges. This award is presented annually and the recipient is selected by the CSB Chairperson. Dr. Darden noted that ABHS and Mental Health America co hosted the annual awards and banquet, June 28, 2011. The theme was "A Lifetime of Support...A Lifetime of Service". She noted that the theme inspired her to honor a group of individuals who are rarely recognized, but who provide a tremendous amount of service to ABHS. She recognized those individuals who have served ten (10) years or more on the CSB: John

H. Davis, Athens-Clarke County, 13 years; Carter Smisson, Jackson County, 14 years; Mary Jo Matthews, Madison County, 14 years; and Shirley Segars, Barrow County, 16 years. Mae Davis, Elbert County, 12 years was presented at the event. Dr. Darden presented the CSB members with a clock because there is nothing more valuable people can give than their time. These individuals represent sixty-nine (69) years of service to ABHS and their leadership has been invaluable.

### **REPORTS FROM THE CSB DIRECTOR**

Dr. Darden updated on the plans for the new ABHS logo. Consumers and staff will be given the opportunity to submit designs for the logo. A broadcast email will be distributed detailing the contest with a deadline of August 15, 2011. The designs will be presented to the CSB in August for selecting the winner. Art Davis, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), will report at the next meeting on prices for changing the signs throughout the agency.

Dr. Darden updated on the Policy Makers CSB Tour. They visited three (3) CSBs including DeKalb, Avita and ABHS. David Bayne, Chief Analyst in the State Budget Office, was the guest speaker. Senator Frank Ginn, Madison County, and Ms. McDaniel joined for a portion of the tour; and Paul Roman, Morgan County CSB Representative, attended the wrap-up session. They toured ABHS Milledge Avenue building and met with a group of clients and staff members representing four (4) programs: ACT, Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Peer Supports and Residential Services. The formal part of the tour ended with a round table discussion at North Avenue.

Dr. Darden reported that ABHS was not awarded the ACT RFP instead, it was awarded to an out of state agency from Maryland. ABHS was given ten (10) days to file an appeal with the Department of Administrative Services. Dr. Darden and Michael Daniel, Attorney drafted the appeal and submitted it on July 21, 2011. The appeal was based on three (3) factors: the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) went outside of its normal solicitation process; preference is supposed to be given to agencies with whom the State had contracted; and the intended awardee is not recognized as a business in Georgia. Dr. Darden noted that Ms. Bailey and Dr. Stewart worked on a budget plan for operating the ACT Program without the contracted funds by billing individual/family/group/Community Support Individual (CSI) rather than ACT. This issue has been addressed with staff, but the clients have not been informed of the possible change. Dr. Darden believes that this is a clear sign that the DBHDD does not value CSBs and want them to merge. The firm that was awarded the contract will receive

significantly more funds than ABHS because the funds are based on how long an ACT Program has been in existence. Dr. Darden requested the Board's permission to meet with the local legislators including the Speaker of the House, Department of Justice (DOJ) evaluator, DBHDD Board meeting, Governor's office, and newspapers regarding this issue. Dr. Davis recommended for Dr. Darden to address this issue with Terry Tellefson, former ABHS CEO; Derril Gay, former DeKalb CSB CEO; Steve Anthony, Lobbyist, Georgia Association of CSB; and politicians for feedback prior to moving forward. Dr. Roman suggested for Dr. Darden to keep her approach extremely straightforward and separate the issues.

#### **4.0 NEW BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (Received in Board packages for review.)**

**4.1.1** Terry Frazier, Human Resources reported that the new 401K plan was approved on July 14, 2011. ABHS proposed a newly revised plan by establishing a minimum contribution based on years of services and match the employee contribution up to 10%.

**4.2** Michelle Creech, Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) reported that the ABHS FY2012 and the CSB FY2012 Strategic Plans were addressed at the CSB Work Day, July 13, 2011. Dr. Roman requested that the outreach activities to community stakeholders be integrated in the CSB Strategic Plan. His primary interest is to get the CSB involved in outreach to stakeholders in the communities. Ms. Creech will revise the CSB Strategic Plan by adding a Goal 4 including access, outreach activities to community stakeholders.

#### **5.0 BOARD REPORTS**

**5.1** Finance Committee – Mr. Davis presented the financial report for the month ended June 30, 2011.

**5.2** Membership & Nominations Committee – Mary Jo Matthews, Committee Chairperson, reported that she sent correspondence to a potential candidate for Greene County and is waiting to hear from him. She plans to contact the Greene County Board of Education to recommend a candidate. Dr. Darden noted that in reviewing the 2010 Census Report, no additional members were assigned. However, there are three (3) extra positions and one (1) has been assigned to Walton County. The

committee needs to determine the number of members and designate which county will be represented and why. Dr. Darden suggested that the committee meet and address this issue and present recommendations at the next meeting.

**5.3** Legislative Committee – Ms. McDaniel reported that she contacted Mary Gannon Gunn, Athens-Clarke County Representative, prior to the meeting. Ms. Gunn assured that she would be in attendance today.

**5.4** Bylaws and Policy Committee – Ms. Ellis, Committee Chair Person, reported that the committee met today and reviewed eight (8) policies that deal with transportation. The policies required minor changes and are as follows:

1200.110 Transportation – Fleet Operations

1200.111 Transportation – Vehicle Identification

1200.112 Transportation – Vehicle Control and Use

1200.120 Transportation – Minimum Requirements for Vehicle Operators

1200.130 Transportation – Passenger Safety

1200.140 Transportation – Vehicle Maintenance

1200.150 Transportation – Clients in Wheelchairs

1200.160 Transportation – Driver Responsibilities

Ms. Ellis noted that the committee reviewed the CSB Bylaws and identified some wording changes throughout the document: Georgia Department of Human Resources of Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities to Department of Behavioral Health Developmental Disabilities. The committee recommended the Board's approval to amend the CSB Bylaws to reflect the changes.

**5.5** Rights of Persons Served Committee – Dr. Roman noted the committee met and reviewed seven (7) cases.

**5.6** Ad Hoc Public Relations Committee – no report requiring an action.

**5.7** Ad Hoc Friends of Advantage Committee – Dr. Davis noted that FOA met July 21, 2011. Tammy Dalton reported on the Building Community Services (BCS) community grant that was awarded to ABHS and FOA. ABHS and FOA members are eligible to participate in free training and/or seminars. She noted that the trainings are very informative and there are two (2) remaining and she will follow up with the dates, time and location.

The next FOA fundraiser is the 'Afternoon Tea' scheduled for August 27, 2011, tickets are available at \$20 each.

- 5.8** CSB Association Update – Dr. Roman noted that the Association is involved in several activities including a RFP for a Lobbyist Legislative Educator; starting a major campaign to protest the plunging of reimbursement for DD Services; and a reception honoring behavioral health and primary care services integration initiatives, August 18, 2011 in St. Simons, Georgia.

**6.0 REPORTS FROM THE CSB CHAIRPERSON**

- 6.1** Ms. McDaniel reminded the CSB of the Educational Exchange, October 16-18, 2011, Legacy Lodge, Lake Lanier Georgia. She encouraged participation. She recommended for the members who will not be available to attend to find a substitute seminar/training to attend, i.e. the BCS seminars. Ms. Dalton will follow up with alternative training opportunities for the Board. Ms. Segars suggested for Board members attending seminars present an overview at a CSB Work Day.

**7.0 PUBLIC ACCESS**

- 7.1** No one present to address the Board.

**8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

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DATE

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APPROVED BY: Melanie Villalta  
SECRETARY

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SUBMITTED BY: BRENDA SMITH

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APPROVED BY: V. Kate McDaniel  
CHAIR PERSON