

Board of Community Health
Meeting
February 13, 2025

Members Present

Roger Folsom
David Crews
Anthony Williamson
Cynthia Rucker
Shane Mobley
Robert Cowles
Kathleen Ruth
Norman Boyd
Tommy Hopkins

Members Absent

The Board of Community Health held its meeting via Zoom teleconference. (An agenda and a List of Attendees are attached hereto and made an official part of these Minutes as Attachments #1 and #2). Chairman Roger Folsom presided and called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes

The Minutes of the January 9, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

Opening Comments

Chairman Roger Folsom shared the following:

- Items for consideration: 2 final adoption and 2 initial adoptions
- The legislative session is in full swing

Committee Report

None to report.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Carlson thanked the Board, members of the public, and staff for participating via Zoom.

The following updates were provided to the Board:

- Legislature preparing to convene for legislative day 17 of 40.
- Thursday, March 6th: Crossover Day (legislative day 28).
- Tuesday, April 4th: Sine Die (legislative day 40)
- The DCH team continues to prepare for appropriations hearings and multiple quick turnarounds on bill analysis and fiscal impacts.
- Expressed thanks and gratitude to the following:
 - Government Relations team led by Brandy Sylvan and all the subject matter experts that help with analyses.
 - Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) and the Governor's office for their support and counsel.
 - House, Senate, and Budget offices for their ongoing collaboration.
- DCH has been testifying throughout the week and wrapping up work on the amended budget.
 - Presented to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees
 - Full Senate Appropriations Committee will take action on the amended budget.
- Recognition for employees' years of service milestones.

Michael Smith, Director, Behavioral Health, Medical Assistance Plans presented to the Board for final adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment (SPA): Therapeutic Care Model (TCM) Public Notice.

The Therapeutic Care Model (TCM) is a multi-disciplinary, whole-person-centered, and community-based program designed to reduce residential treatment for the state's most vulnerable young people in Medicaid. TCM is also uniquely positioned to shepherd this population through their emerging adulthood into stable and sustainable community placements following system age out or after 21.

The TCM is modular. It contains core components and add-on options. The core and add-on components in the full model will be available in the SPA. Many iterations of the model can be developed and built, depending on the needs of the member and provider community.

Cost Impact

The per diem range for TCM is currently \$213-\$343 per day based on the composition of service package for the member, the level of programming intensity, and their geographic location: urban or rural. Rural per diem rates will be enhanced for rural placements.

State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
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\$6,028,711	\$11,704,097	\$17,732,808
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An opportunity for public comment was held on January 15, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Written comments were due on or before January 22, 2025.

Oral comments received:

- None

Written comments received:

- None

Mr. Smith respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of final adoption.

Tommy Hopkins MADE a MOTION to approve the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment (SPA): Therapeutic Care Model (TCM). Kathleen Ruth SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 9, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment (SPA): Therapeutic Care Model (TCM) Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

Melanie Simon, General Counsel presented to the Board for final adoption the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r.111-8-12.

The revised rules and regulations are being proposed pursuant to the authority granted to the Department of Community Health in O.C.G.A. § 31-7-360. The revisions add Adult Residential Mental Health Programs to the list of facilities subject to the requirements of the Georgia Long-term Care Background Check Program pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-7-351(8)(H). Under the amended rules, the owner, administrator and direct care staff of each Adult Residential Mental Health Program licensed by HFRD will require a fingerprint criminal background check.

An opportunity for public comment was held on January 28, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Written comments were due on or before January 28, 2025.

Oral comments received:

- None

Written comments received:

- None

Ms. Simon respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of final adoption.

Cynthia Rucker MADE a MOTION to approve the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-8-12. Shane Mobley SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 9, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-8-12, Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #4).

Melanie Simon, General Counsel presented to the Board for initial adoption the Rules and Regulations for Personal Care Homes, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r.111-8-62.

The proposed changes are being proposed pursuant to the authority granted to the Department of Community Health in O.C.G.A. §§ 31-7-2.1(a), 31-7-12.3 and 31-7-12.4(e). The revisions add requirements established by House Bill 1335 from the 2024 Session of the Georgia General Assembly, including standards for medical alert systems and clarification of staffing levels. The rule changes also create an exemption for medical foster homes regulated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and authorize portable memory care training.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on March 4, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Written comments are due on or before March 7, 2025.

Ms. Simon respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of initial adoption.

Tommy Hopkins MADE a MOTION to approve the Rules and Regulations for Personal Care Homes, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-1-62. David Crews SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 1 (Cynthia Rucker), and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Rules and Regulations for Personal Care Homes, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-8-62, Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #5).

Melanie Simon, General Counsel presented to the Board for initial adoption the Rules and Regulations for Assisted Living Communities, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-8-63.

The proposed changes are being proposed pursuant to the authority granted to the Department of Community Health in O.C.G.A. §§ 31-7-2.1(a), 31-7-12.3 and 31-7-12.4(e). The revisions add requirements established by House Bill 1335 from the 2024 Session of the Georgia General Assembly, including standards for medical alert systems and clarification of staffing levels. The rule changes also authorize portable memory care training.

An opportunity for public comment will be held on March 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Written comments are due on or before March 7, 2025.

Ms. Simon respectfully asked for the Board's favorable consideration of initial adoption.

Shane Mobley MADE a MOTION to approve the Rules and Regulations for Assisted Living Communities, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-8-63. Kathleen Ruth SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 9, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED.

(A copy of the Rules and Regulations for Assisted Living Communities, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-8-63, Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #6).

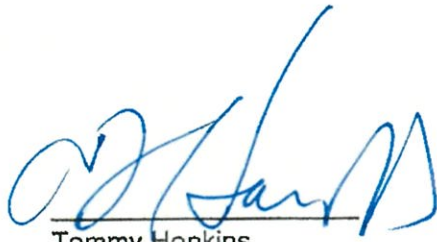
New Business/Closing Comments

- None to report

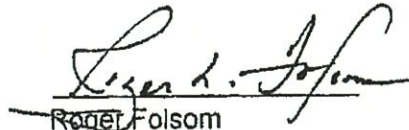
Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Roger Folsom adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 13th DAY OF February, 2025.



Tommy Hopkins
Secretary



Roger Folsom
Chairman

Official Attachments:

- #1 Agenda
- #2 List of Attendees
- #3 Medical Assistance Plans, State Plan Amendment (SPA): Therapeutic Care Model (TCM) Public Notice
- #4 Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-8-12, Public Notice
- #5 Rules and Regulations for Personal Care Homes, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-8-62, Public Notice
- #6 Rules and Regulations for Assisted Living Communities, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-8-63, Public Notice