

Board of Community Health  
Meeting  
August 8, 2019

**Members Present**

Allana Cummings  
Mark Trail  
Roger Folsom  
David Crews  
Russ Childers  
Russell Crutchfield  
Kenneth Davis  
Anthony Williamson

**Members Absent**

Norman Boyd

The Board of Community Health held its regularly scheduled meeting at the Department of Community Health (DCH), 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia. (An agenda and a List of Attendees are attached hereto and made an official part of these Minutes as Attachments #1 and #2). Vice Chairman Roger Folsom presided and called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the July 11, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Opening Comments**

None to report.

**Committee Reports**

None to report.

Brian Dowd, Deputy Executive Director, Policy, Compliance and Operations presented to the Board for final adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, Waiver Amendment: New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) Supported Employment for the Developmentally Disabled Rate Increase Public Notice.

Pending final Board and CMS approval, the Department proposed a 10% rate increase for both individual and group Supported Employment Services in NOW and COMP waivers. The State funds for these services were allocated to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) who is the operating agency for both the NOW and COMP waivers.

An opportunity for public comment was held on June 20, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room. Written comments were accepted on or before July 15, 2019. No oral or written comments were received.

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

Russell Crutchfield MADE a MOTION to approve for final adoption the Medical Assistance Plans, Waiver Amendment: New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) Supported Employment for the Developmentally Disabled Rate Increase Public Notice. David Crews SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of the Medical Assistance Plans, Waiver Amendment: New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) Supported Employment for the Developmentally Disabled Rate Increase Public Notice is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #3).

Melanie Simon, Executive Director, Healthcare Facility Regulation presented to the Board for final adoption the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Chapter 111-8-12. The rules are being proposed pursuant to the authority granted the Department of Community Health in O.C.G.A. § 31-6-21 and O.C.G.A. § 31-6-21.1.

Board members were provided a copy of the synopsis of the proposed rules. During the oral presentation, the following was discussed:

- The new rules are necessary to comply with the provisions of Senate Bill 406 from the 2018 Session of the General Assembly which requires fingerprint criminal background checks for owners and direct access employees of certain long-term care facilities.
- No additional changes to the proposed rules were recommended.

An opportunity for public comment was held on July 9, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room. Written comments were accepted on or before July 12, 2019. Three written comments were received, and no oral comments were received.

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

David Crews MADE a MOTION to approve for final adoption the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Chapter 111-8-12. Kenneth Davis SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Chapter 111-8-12 is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #4).

Candy Norton, State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) Advisory Council member presented to the Board the following remarks from the August 2, 2019 meeting:

- Jeff Rickman, Executive Director, State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) presentation included:
  - Active and retired members served
  - How rates are established
  - 2020 Plan direction
- Questions and comments:
  - Clarification on the 2019 Advisory Council presentation vs the actual rates presented to the Board
  - How the “Employer holiday” monthly premium may cause stress on funds, impact future member premium increases and reduction in benefits
  - Plans to address the larger surprise billing issue
  - Wellness programs effectiveness, percentage of members enrolled and total cost

Jeff Rickman, Executive Director, State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) presented to the Board for adoption the 2020 SHBP Teachers Plan Employer Contribution Rates and Non-Certificated Public-School Employee Plan Employer Contribution Rates Resolution. This Resolution was a continuation of the rates from last year and contains an employer contribution rate of \$945 PMPM for teachers and Non-Certificated Public-School employees, and a rate of \$843 PMPM for library employees under the Teachers Plan.

Allana Cummings MADE a MOTION to approve for adoption the 2020 SHBP Teachers Plan Employer Contribution Rates and Non-Certificated Public-School Employee Plan Employer Contribution Rates Resolution. Russell Crutchfield SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of the 2020 SHBP Teachers Plan Employer Contribution Rates and Non-Certificated Public-School Employee Plan Employer Contribution Rates Resolution is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #5).

Mr. Rickman then presented an overview of the 2020 Plan Design and Rates. The goal for 2019 has been to provide members with stability and consistency and to ensure the Plan is on firm financial footing. These same goals will guide the plan into 2020. Mr. Rickman then stated that the Plan designs, along with the current vendors, will remain the same for 2020 and active members would see no increase in the commercial rates next year. The Medicare Advantage rates will depend upon the vendor and option chosen, but the lowest cost standard Medicare Advantage plan will cost \$20 and the lowest cost premium Medicare Advantage plan will cost \$128.22.

Next, Mr. Rickman presented to the Board for adoption the SHBP Calendar year 2020 Member Contribution Rates Resolution.

Russ Childers MADE a MOTION to approve for adoption the SHBP Calendar year 2020 Member Contribution Rates Resolution. Mark Trail SECONDED the MOTION. ON THE MOTION, the yeas were 8, nays 0, abstained 0, and the MOTION was APPROVED. (A copy of the SHBP Calendar year 2020 Member Contribution Rates Resolution is attached hereto and made an official part of these minutes as Attachment #6).

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Berry thanked the Board, members of the public and staff for their attendance.

In recognition of Ms. Dawn Alford, Commissioner Berry read the following article:

#### **Andy Miller, Georgia Health News Tribute: Dawn Alford Cleared The Path For Others With Disabilities**

As a lobbyist, Dawn Alford was smart, tenacious and effective. As a person, she was unfailingly pleasant, greeting people with a big smile.

And as a woman with disabilities, Dawn set a compelling example of what's possible. She influenced countless individuals she met, affecting how they viewed people with physical or intellectual disabilities.

Elizabeth Dawn Alford passed away last week at age 41. Her sudden death shocked friends, colleagues and family in the Temple area in western Georgia, where she lived.

"She really changed people's minds about disabilities and really opened hearts," state Rep. Mary Frances Williams, a Marietta Democrat who used to work alongside Dawn as a public policy advocate.

Dawn was a public policy director and lobbyist at the state Capitol for the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. Using a power wheelchair, and accompanied by her service dog Kab, she attended many of the legislative meetings over funding, services and accessibility for people with disabilities.

"She had a great reputation at the Capitol with legislators," said Eric Jacobson, executive director of the Council on Developmental Disabilities. "She always had a great smile. She was willing to debate when debate was necessary, and to throw out new ideas.

"We're all struggling with her loss. She was such an inspiration. She inspired younger people with disabilities to be involved – to fight for equal rights."

Dawn grew up in Temple. She was a poster child for muscular dystrophy and met President Ronald Reagan.

Along with her persistence and good spirits, she had great intelligence. She was valedictorian of Temple High School and later graduated magna cum laude from Georgia Tech with a chemical engineering degree.

She was such an inspiration. She inspired younger people with disabilities to be involved – to fight for equal rights.”

Eric Jacobson, executive director of the Council on Developmental Disabilities

“She was one of the most professional, diligent and effective advocates at the Capitol,” said David Tatum, a vice president of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. “She had obviously dealt with the physical challenges and showed they didn’t hold her back” in advocacy and education.

A letter from Gov. Brian Kemp was read at Dawn’s funeral last week.

“Having borne her own physical challenges with grit and grace, she became the very face of advocacy in Georgia for others facing similar hardships,” Kemp said in the letter. “She was tireless in her pursuit of enabling the disabled through effective legislation, enhancing resources and advocating for those things that help overcome physical barriers.

“Dawn truly was a freedom fighter – the freedom to live a joyful life in the face of daunting physical challenges. She was truly a titan of advocacy and will be sorely missed by so many of us who became familiar with Dawn and her constant K-9 companions. We give thanks for Dawn’s incredible tenacity, tireless work and joyful celebration of life itself. Let us honor Dawn by celebrating each day that we too, can be of service to another.”

She was one of the most professional, diligent and effective advocates at the Capitol.”

David Tatum, a vice president of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Dawn’s faith was a big part of her life, friends said.

At the Capitol, Williams said, “Dawn liked being down there and was really good at being effective for the disability community. She pushed pretty hard. But everyone liked her.”

“I knew she was in pain, but she never said anything about it. “

State Rep. Katie Dempsey of Rome worked with Dawn on issues such as opportunities for people with disabilities after they graduate from high school.

"Her mind was strong and alive," Dempsey said. "Dawn was a voice for inclusion, possibility and perseverance. She was beloved. She established pathways that will benefit people in Georgia forever."

This year is the 20th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision involving people with disabilities. The Olmstead case began with two Georgia women confined in a state-run mental hospital in Atlanta.

The Olmstead ruling held that unjustified segregation of people with disabilities is a form of discrimination and violates the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This decision created new opportunities for individuals with disabilities to live and work in their communities.

Talley Wells, an attorney who has long represented people with disabilities, said Dawn embodied the promise of the Olmstead decision.

"Dawn lived as much as anyone I have ever known. She lived her faith, she lived her friendships, she lived her vulnerabilities. And she loved. She loved God. She loved her friends and fellow advocates. Dawn was Olmstead. She is Olmstead. Dawn Alford will always be Olmstead."

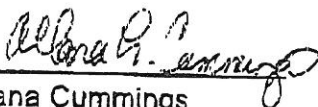
#### New Business/Closing Comments

None to report.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Vice Chairman Roger Folsom adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS THE 8th DAY OF August, 2019.

  
Allana Cummings  
Secretary

  
Roger Folsom  
Vice Chairman

Official Attachments:

- #1 Agenda
- #2 List of Attendees
- #3 Medical Assistance Plans, Waiver Amendment: New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) Supported Employment for the Developmentally Disabled Rate Increase Public Notice
- #4 Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Chapter 111-8-12
- #5 2020 SHBP Teachers Plan Employer Contribution Rates and Non-Certificated Public-School Employee Plan Employer Contribution Rates Resolution
- #6 SHBP Calendar year 2020 Member Contribution Rates Resolution