



Georgia House of Representatives *2016-2017 House Rural Development Council*

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2017-2018 House Rural Development Council **July 19-20 Agenda** **Thomasville/Bainbridge, Georgia**

Healthcare and Developmental Disabilities

Wednesday (Thomasville)

Location: Southern Regional Technical College, Building B Auditorium
15689 US Highway 19 North, Thomasville, GA 31792

- 12:30-12:45** Welcome – *Co-chairs Powell and England*
- 12:45 – 1:15** Local Welcome – *Mayor Greg Hobbs; County Chairman Ken Hickey; Shelly Zorn, Economic Development* (discussing state of local businesses)
- 1:15 – 2:15** Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities (closure of hospital, placement of their clientele in community settings)
Judy Fitzgerald, Commissioner
- Are the mobile crisis response teams able to respond to calls for assistance in a timely manner? How are we measuring success?
 - On May 4, 2017 DBHDD was awarded the State Response to the Opioid Crisis Grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Service Administration (SAMHSA). The funding, totaling nearly \$11.8 million, will support DBHDD and other community providers combatting opioid addiction through prevention, treatment, and recovery services. When, and in what regions of the state, will these funds be expended?
- 2:15 – 2:30** Break
- 2:30 – 3:15** Miller County Hospital –Discussing the challenges and successes at Miller County Hospital
Robin Rau, CEO Miller County Hospital

cont.

- 3:15 – 4:00** Archbold Hospital – Challenges, successes and opportunities related to Behavioral Health and the changes to GDBHDD operations in Southwest Ga that impact their health system and their communities;
Kelli Vaughn RN, Director of Emergency Department
- Collaborative network of hospitals, nursing homes and clinics they have put together over the past 30+ years to keep healthcare access readily available in Southwest Georgia
LeDon Toole, VP for Long-term Care & System Affiliates
- Rural Communities continue to face challenges when it comes to recruiting and retaining qualified nursing professionals; What are some strategies being used to retain these professionals?
- 4:00 – 4:30** Law Enforcement; discuss issues facing Law Enforcement in dealing with individuals with developmental disabilities)
Sheriff Carlton Powell, Thomas County SO; and Chief Troy Rich, Thomasville PD
- With the current opioid crisis, not just in Georgia but across the nation, what substance abuse partnerships are available? Are there other possible solutions? (Chief Rich)
- 4:30 – 5:00** Council discussion and questions for presenters
- 5:00** Adjourn

Thursday, Bainbridge

Location: Bainbridge State College
2500 E. Shotwell St., Bainbridge, GA 39819

- 8:00 – 8:15** Welcome – *Co-Chairs England and Powell*
- 8:15 – 8:45** Local Welcome – *Mayor Edward Reynolds; County Chairman Pete Stephens; Rick McCaskill, Director of Economic Development*
- 8:45 – 9:15** FQHC (Federal Qualified Health Centers): what they do in underserved areas of state
Becky Ryles, Contract Counsel for Community Health Centers;
Duane Kavka, Executive Director for the Georgia Association for Primary Health Care;
R.B. Tucker Jr., CEO, South Central Primary Care Center. Inc. (Ocilla, Ga);
Ann Addison, PhD, CEO, Primary Care of Southwest Ga., Inc. (Blakely, Ga)
- What does FQHC do in underserved areas of the state?
 - How could FQHC mission be expanded for greater impact (ex. residency training and mental health services?)

cont.

- 9:15 – 9:45** Department of Community Health
Frank Berry, Commissioner
- How has DCH engaged with Georgia’s rural population to educate on Medicaid eligibility? How can this be improved?
 - On June 7, 2017, Governor Deal announced the creation of the Commission on Children’s Mental Health. Since most children’s mental health flows through Medicaid and not Behavioral Health, what are some of the key areas that should be reviewed that will help service delivery in Rural Georgia?
- 9:45 – 10:00** Break
- 10:00 – 10:45** Bainbridge Hospital – issues and challenges in healthcare
Sen. Dean Burke; Gregg Magers, Interim CEO; Glennie Bench, Board Chairman
- 10:45 – 11:15** Hometown Health – Jimmy Lewis – Layout what the rural hospitals are doing (challenges and successes)
- What do you see as the number one reason for rural hospitals struggling/failing? Solutions?
 - What are the successful rural hospitals doing that could be duplicated in other rural areas?
 - What can the state do to create a successful environment for rural hospitals? Are there programs to be enhanced or regulations to be changed that could make a positive difference?
- 11:15 – 11:35** Georgia Board of Physician Workforce - Health Care Data Reports; Medical Education Funding; Cancelable Loan Repayment Programs; Policy Proposals
Lasharn Hughes, Executive Director
- Which type of providers are most needed and in which areas of the state?
- 11:35– 12:00** Council Discussion and info on next meeting
- 12:00** Adjourn

cc: Speaker David Ralston
Bill Reilly, Clerk of the House
Tim Bearden, Director of Member & Administrative Services
House Budget and Research
House Media Services
Majority Caucus
Minority Caucus
Rural Development Council Partners