

REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL – REGION 5

County Board of Health Representative

Recommended by the Georgia Department of Public Health

Josh Kight

City of Dublin Mayor

Board of Health (Laurens County)



Mayor Joshua Kight was elected to serve the citizens of Dublin on November 2, 2021. Kight previously served as chairman of the Dublin Downtown Development Authority, director of the Dublin-Laurens Land Bank, treasurer of Visit Dublin, and a board member of numerous nonprofit organizations. Mayor Kight was born and raised in Dublin, Georgia and is a licensed attorney.

Mayor Kight serves as the City's representative to the Laurens County Board of Health, the Laurens County Solid Waste Management Authority and the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia. In addition, Mayor Kight appoints committees of council and directly participates in the Finance and Personnel Committees. Mayor Kight also serves on the Legislative Policy Council of the Georgia Municipal Association.

Community Service Board Representative

Recommended by the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards

Denise Forbes, LPC

Chief Executive Officer

Community Service Board of Middle Georgia

(serving Bleckley, Burke, Dodge, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Screven, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler and Wilcox counties)



Throughout her career, Denise Forbes has demonstrated strategic vision, operational excellence, and success in the behavioral health field. As Chief Executive Officer leading the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia since 2012, she has sustained a proven ability to drive strategic initiatives and achieve exceptional results. Her extensive experience in service and resource development, regulatory compliance, contract management, budget oversight, and community partnerships make her an invaluable asset to her agency and the communities she serves. Additionally, she is a well-known ally and advocate to stakeholders, families, and individuals seeking assistance for mental health, addictive disease, and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities needs. With nearly four decades of behavioral healthcare management experience, Forbes encourages a person-centered philosophy of care and values all pathways to recovery. She faithfully advocates for best practice behavioral health initiatives, including trauma-informed care practices, integrated healthcare options, and enhanced crisis capacity for rural areas. She leads with a transformational teamwork style and supports her team in every aspect of service coordination and delivery.

Forbes graduated from Georgia College and State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude, and a Master of Science degree in Psychology. She obtained her License in Professional Counseling as well as her Certified Master Addiction Counselor credential. She is a well-respected and highly regarded

behavioral health professional who remains dedicated to providing high-quality behavioral healthcare to Georgia's rural communities.

Sheriff's Office Representative

Recommended by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association

Mark Melton

Sheriff

Appling County



Mark Melton is a native of Lanier County but has lived most of his adult life in Baxley, Georgia. He graduated high school and obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Valdosta State College in 1985. Later, after working for several years, he attended Columbus State University, Law Enforcement Command College, Class 11. Throughout his career, he also participated in many leadership programs and has completed almost 5,000 hours of POST approved training.

His career began in 1985 when he accepted a position as probation officer in Baxley. He progressed through the ranks from probation officer to full time training officer. Eventually he was promoted to Southeast Region Training and Compliance Coordinator. At the end of his 20-year career with the Department of Corrections/Probation Division he was the Special Programs Coordinator for the entire state.

Melton then took a position as Investigator for the Prosecuting Attorney's Council, District Attorney's Office, Brunswick Judicial Circuit where he worked investigations in Appling, Wayne and Jeff Davis Counties. He retired from the State of Georgia in April 2016, ran for Appling County Sheriff and was elected to that position effective January 2017. He is currently in his second term and is planning to run one final time to finish out his distinguished career.

University System

Dr. Rob Bohler

Assistant Professor

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health
Georgia Southern University (Bulloch)



Dr. Robert Bohler is an Assistant Professor at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) at Georgia Southern University. He received his PhD in Social Policy with an emphasis in Behavioral Health Policy from Brandeis University and received his MPH with an emphasis in Epidemiology from JPHCOPH.

Dr. Bohler has been working on policies and interventions to address the opioid crisis since 2018. He has been the lead researcher on developing a website to help communities respond to the opioid crisis (opioid-resource-connector.org). He worked on the HEALing Communities Study for the last 3 years, a \$360 million federal research project that implemented evidence-based strategies to reduce opioid overdose deaths at the community level.

In addition, Dr. Bohler has helped develop abatement plans to address the opioid crisis in states and cities as part of opioid litigation. He was previously a Rappaport Policy Fellow through the Harvard Kennedy School where he developed tools to help policymakers address the opioid crisis in Massachusetts, and he has previously consulted for the Recovery Research Institute at Mass General Hospital and Harvard Medical School where he was involved in a project to disseminate the latest evidence-based information and findings in addiction treatment and recovery research to a broad audience. He has published more than 10 academic papers and reports on substance use and addiction, mostly focused on the opioid crisis.

Provider

Recommended by the Georgia Council for Recovery

Alicia Brawley

Treatment Center Director

Medmark Treatment Centers (Chatham County)



Alicia Brawley serves as the Treatment Center Director for Medmark Treatment Centers of Savannah, Georgia. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and is pursuing her Masters in Psychology. She also serves as the treasurer for the Opioid Treatment Providers of Georgia.

Brawley is a native of Fairbanks, Alaska and has always pursued interests working in a field that helps others. She moved from Alaska to Georgia in 2021 and started a career path in the south working as an officer for Chatham County Police Department and soon found an interest in wanting to further help those whom suffer from addiction.

Lived Experience

Recommended by the Georgia Council for Recovery

Craig George

Executive Director

Forge Recovery Center (Toombs County)



Craig George is a native of Richmond Hill, Georgia. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Forge Recovery Center, a robust 12-step immersion recovery facility for men. Forge is a non-profit organization that is community based and community focused. Its mission is to help men find a life of freedom, hope, and purpose. Additionally, he is currently the Executive Director of the Gardens of Hope Recovery Community Organization. Through policy change, community outreach, and education Craig is impacting the lives of others seeking recovery.

George is a man who is invested in his family, individuals, and his community. George also is a member of the Serendipity Group of Narcotics Anonymous in Vidalia, Georgia. His drive and motivation to help those who suffer from substance use disorders and mental health challenges can be seen through his passion, his compassion, and his patience. His zest and determination to see other's experience the freedom he has found, in his own life, is inspiring and contagious.

In June 2022, George received the Annie Rose Jackson Humanitarian Award, an honor given to community members whose lives are dedicated to serving others. In October 2022, he was nominated for the Department of Community Supervision (DCS) Stakeholder Award for his work with Forge. Then, in October 2023, he was once again nominated for the DCS Stakeholder Award for his work with Toombs County Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery and the development of the Intensive Outpatient Program. Both times, he stood with law enforcement at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and was recognized. George continues to work with federal and state agencies to improve the quality of life for those with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) like himself. He is accredited by the State as a Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist (CARES), Certified Peer Specialist of Addictive Disease (CPS-AD), Forensic Peer Mentor (FPM), and a Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) Instructor.

Judiciary

Recommended by the Georgia Council of Accountability Court Judges

Stephen Kelley

Judge

Brunswick Judicial Circuit Superior Courts

(serving Appling, Camden, Glynn, Jeff Davis, and Wayne counties)



Judge Stephen Kelley is a judge for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit Superior Court in Georgia. He was appointed to serve by former Governor Sonny Perdue on December 29, 2009.

Judge Kelley earned a bachelor's degree in theological studies from Southern College of the Seventh-day Adventists in 1983. He then completed a J.D. at the University of Georgia School of Law in 1986.

After graduation, Judge Kelley joined the Brunswick Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office. He started as an assistant district attorney, rising through the ranks to become District Attorney in 1997. He served in that capacity until his appointment to the bench.

While serving as District Attorney, he is credited with starting the Victim's Assistance Program, the Golden Isles Children's Advocacy Center and the Drug Court.

He currently serves as Chair of the Judicial Council Technology Committee. He is past president of the Georgia District Attorney's Association, the Brunswick Exchange Club, the Jesup Bar Association, and has served in other leadership roles in judicial and legal organizations throughout his career.