



**GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARDS  
CLINICAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
June 5, 2025 VIRTUAL  
MEETING MINUTES**



<b>MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE: X - Denotes Attendance</b>					
x	Chair- Jennifer Hibbard- View Point Health	x	Highland Rivers- Cheryl Lewis		
x	Vice Chair- Lisa Oosterven – Aspire		Legacy – Mallory Sims		
	Advantage- Dr. Shannon Kelly (Jill Stuart)		McIntosh Trail- Lenora Allen, MD		
	Aspire- Malcolm Bynum	x	Middle Flint- Willie Greene		
x	Avita- Lori Holbrook		New Horizons-Karen Cotton-Everett		
x	Bridge Health- Michael Free		Oconee-		
x	Claratel- Jennifer Haines		Pathways- Jade Benefield		
x	CSB of Middle Georgia- Lisa Montford		Pineland- June DiPolito		
x	Clayton Center – Lanell Johnson	x	River Edge- Frederica McClary-Myers		
	Douglas County – Sandra Williams		Serenity- John Moore		
x	Gateway – Ralph Menard		Unison- Viva Steed		
x	Georgia Pines- Nicole Cromer	x	View Point Health- Makini Corlette		
<b>GUESTS: Vanessa Cameron- GACSB Association</b>					
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b> Clinical Ops 6/5 /2025 Agenda; Clinical Ops 2/ 6/2024 Minutes					

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action/Resolution</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Welcome/Call To Order</b>	Jennifer Hibbard called the meeting to order at <u>2:02</u> .			
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	Lori Holbrook motioned to approve the Agenda with Nicole Cromer providing the needed second. Motion carried with no opposition.			
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Willie Green motioned to approve the Minutes of 4/6/2025 with Nicole Cromer providing the needed second. Motion carried with no opposition.			
<b>Jennifer Hibbard Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Mary Star Hannify</li> <li>- Jennifer reports continued questions about DBHDD's Suicide Prevention Policy. Several CSBs have raised questions around implementation dates as well as training offered by DBHDD. Many are waiting for SafeT training to be announced State wide</li> <li>- Cheryl Lewis states that DBHDD has sent announcements out and that Region 1 has had one training. The training was 1 hour long (Monday June</li> </ul>			

	<p>2) and discussed how SafeT can fit into current suicide prevention screening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DBHDD will be releasing SafeT training that can be embedded in Relias for all staff to be trained.</li> <li>- Cheryl is waiting for this training for all staff to be trained and to have the documentation of compliance with training</li> <li>- Rachel Holloman stated in the training that all questions must go through PIMS so that everyone is receiving the same information</li> <li>- Cynthia Cone- Delky; (Pineland) – reports a staff member attended and it was not as expected</li> <li>- Denise Wade asked if the belief is that DBHDD will go live in July based on trainings being scheduled in July and August</li> <li>- Cheryl responded that it is not her plan to go live</li> <li>- Jennifer will speak with Brenda to verify the go live date</li> </ul>			
<b>State Plan Ammendment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer Hibbard reports that Dbhdd in partnership with DCA has announced that the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) benefit has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Georgia</li> </ul> <p>January 1, 2026 is Go Live Date Advantage ,River Edge, and New Horizons – congratulations and that you for leading the way</p> <p>Denise Wade McLoed and Fredricka McClary have offered support to anyone who is still on this journey and willing to share any information they learn in process.</p> <p>Jennifer reports that we are the first state to have successfully added the service to Medicaid</p>			
<b>Clinical Director Open Forum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makini Corlette- raises questions and concerns around DATEP credentialing being required for all programs, particularly specialty programs that do not operate as traditional SUD programs (such as Clubhouses). Has anyone had any success with workarounds/ feedback</li> </ul>			

Lori has responded that their clubhouse has not received a DATEP license ( a stand alone site )

Denise Wade McLeod verified that there have been inconsistencies

Tochuku Ikendionwu (Advantage) reports that DATEP experiences are reviewer specific

Makini confirms that rules change based on site. Different iterations of interpretations of the rules

Lori reports that Dante McCay states that there may be updates when DATEP comes under DBHDD

- Jennifer Hibberd reports that across the board CSBs are not meeting their maximum reimbursement limits – broken into mental health and substance abuse

Each CSB can log into accumulator to see how close

Brenda's report across the board is that some CSBs aren't even meeting half their required amount Which makes this look that CSBs are not providing the care and they don't need the funds With new rates we will meet the MRLs faster,

- Jennifer's question is why are we not meeting our MRLs- are clinical directors reviewing this- may want to find the person in your organization ot monitor and begin reporting back to DBHDD what the causes/ issues are to be able to increase billing and identify issues

Nicole Cromer reports that Ambetter has significantly impacted MRL- many people report not having insurance – but actually being enrolled in Ambetter

Denise Wade McLeod reports many of the same concerns with Ambetter

Dr. Martinez reports staffing issues are part of the problem and write ups as well as requirements of clinical providers- a lot of time being spent on issues that are not clinically related, significant training that is required for medical providers

Jennifer reports a concern that individuals are being signed up for a service they are unaware of. Nicole and Dr. Martinez reports that there are deceptive ways that individuals are being enrolled.

Jennifer has asked if any CSB is taking Ambetter- Cheryl Lewis reports yes, but that it is not going well, Douglas CSB also reports yes. Both confirm that the rates are not good at all and that meetings are set up to address this. CSB Middle Georgia also confirm the same issues.

Denise Forbes reports an enormous number of Audits related to Ambetter – a form of risk assessments to catch up from being behind during COVID. Quarterly calls with CSB Middle Ga persistent to have a new contract signed. CSBMG is stalling because they are not satisfied with services. Middle Georgia does review MRLs weekly in comparison to last year. They have had this practice in place for quite some time.

Lori Holbrook reports that they opted not to pursue any of these providers because the deductibles are so high and do not pay for services – recommend sharing this information with Brenda Ciboulus at DBHDD – these are high risk clients that still need our services but cannot access our services- and these individuals are also having difficulty finding an in network provider.

- Denise Wade McLeod reports that the agency ends up serving individuals at their cost because they have been clients of their for quite some time. Now individuals cannot benefit from all of our great wrap around services.
- Jennifer voices concern of liability of staff suggesting

that individuals drop insurance- a great conversation  
. Jennifer will make sure that she and Vanessa bring  
this to DBHDD>

- Dr. Martinez reports that she believes it is very  
important to provide patient education – being  
enrolled for some creates a stressor to patients.  
Claratel reports not accepting Ambetter.

<b>Medical Director Focus Group Report Out</b>	<p>Dr. Martinez-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lot of focus on CCBHC implementation- on medical side, there is an emphasis on long acting injectables.</li> <li>• Dr. Martinez will be providing a training around the benefits of the use of long acting medications for recidivism</li> <li>• Encouraging providers to submit applications opened May 19, closes June 18<sup>th</sup>- encouraging providers to propose funding for meds for opioids, including sublocade, vivitrol etc.</li> <li>• A tracking of protocols submitted Payments are waived – payments are still being paid through mail for licensing.</li> <li>• No updates to DEA for telehealth guidelines regarding providers ability to tele prescribe controlled substances. A proposal was submitted but no comment on it.</li> <li>• Advocating to address the intensive level of trainings required for providers and will keep us posted.</li> </ul>			
<b>I/DD Ops Committee Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer Hibbard reports there was no May meeting.</li> <li>• Next meeting June 23</li> </ul>			
<b>Other</b>				
<b>Next Meeting</b>	August 7th			
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 ____ PM			
<b>Chair</b>	Jennifer Hibbard	Recorded By: Lisa Oosterveen		