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.
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;  
*Amy Griffin RN, Vice President for Patient Care*

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?

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)

Council discussion and questions for presenters

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