COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Board of Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Commissioner Horgan
Meeting Date:	Thursday, February 23, 2012	Type of Request:	New Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of the appointment of Ms. Jackie Begg to the Region Six Mental Health Regional Planning Board for a three-year term to commence on March 1, 2012, and end on February 28, 2015.

Background/History/Details:

The Board of Commissioners is required to make appointments to two boards related to the delivery of Mental Health Services. There is the McIntosh Trail Community Services Board which is more involved with the direct delivery of local mental health services, and the Region Six Regional Mental Health Planning Board which evaluates and plans services for a 31 county area from a regional perspective, with the ability to influence funding. Mental Health services in Georgia underwent sweeping changes in 2010. The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities was created and mental health services were moved from underneath the Department of Human Resources to the new agency. Fayette County was moved out of Region 3 (same counties as ARC) to Region Six which is headquartered in Columbus. This Board meets every other month in Thomaston. Each county is allotted seats on the Regional Board based on population. Fayette County has three seats. Currently only Ms. Leslie Edwards has been appointed to sit on the Board which leaves two vacancies. Previous member Harriett Steele died last fall. Mr. John Lane resigned because of scheduling conflicts.
Regional Board members should have some background and knowledge of mental health issues, either via education, advocacy or as a consumer of services or a close relationship with a consumer of services. Ms. Begg has an educational background and experience in special education.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Consideration of the appointment of Ms. Jackie Begg to the Region Six Mental Health Regional Planning Board for a three-year term to commence on March 1, 2012, and end on February 28, 2015.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

N/A

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	Yes
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

The two previous members of this Board were John Lane and Harriett Steele. Mr. Lane can no longer serve because of scheduling conflicts. Ms. Steele recently passed away. In addition to the seat under consideration at this time, the Board will need to fill the two remaining seats on this Board. There have been no changes in the process for making appointments, thus staff has processed this request in accordance with established practice.

January 16, 2012

Regarding Region 6 Mental Health Board

Fayette County Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

I am very interested in representing Region 6 as a member of the Mental Health Board.

My undergraduate and graduate degrees are in the area of Special Education. My experience includes teaching the Developmentally Disabled (Mentally Impaired, Learning Disabled and Emotionally Impaired), being a patient advocate for the Kent County Community Mental Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and most recently acting as Director of Special Education for the Michigan Department of Corrections and Director of Special Education for the Michigan Department of Education. Although I have not been directly involved in the Mental Health system for several years, my background and experience has kept me interested and I would very much like to, again, be involved.

Our move from Michigan brought us to Fayette County in September, 1997, where we continue to reside. In addition to volunteering in the community, I am currently an active Realtor and have just completed a term as 2011 President of the Fayette County Board of Realtors.

Please consider me for this position.

Jackie Begg