



2019 Legislative Agenda 2019/2020 Legislative Term

1. Funding

Governor Deal's budget instructions for FY 2020 instructs agencies to examine current business processes to determine where the agencies could deliver better service to customers, address an unmet need, or expand a successful program to provide a larger impact. To support those initiatives agencies may request up to 2% enhancement in their current FY2020 budget. This 2% enhancement breakdown for the [following DBHDD Budget Priorities](#); Crisis Bed Infrastructure, \$11,670,021; AD Residential Beds, \$5,662,118; MH Supportive Housing Vouchers, \$2,468,254; Hospital Operations Support Staff Pay Package, \$2,017,170; Forensic Coordinator Positions (8 total), \$631,219; and finally Forensic Integration Home, \$433,080.

DBHDD Budget request to annualize the following funds for FY2020; Forensic Services Inpatient Unit, \$7,579,124; BHCC Funding, \$6,000,000; 125 FY 2019 Waivers, \$3,666,672; Supported Employment for Commission on Children's Mental Health, \$1,530,000. There is a workload adjustment request for FY2020 for Medicaid Replacement, \$7,000,000; FMAP Rate Changes, \$4,786,000; 125 New NOW & COMP Waivers (6mo. funding), \$4,255,824; Core BH Services, \$15,000,000.

Link:

https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/sites/dbhdd.georgia.gov/files/imported/DBHDD/About/Boards/DBHDD_Minutes/Board%20Meeting%20Presentation%202018-08.16.pdf

GACSB position: While we are grateful for the Governor's budget, we also support the DBHDD's budget request to support core funding in an underfunded system.

2. State Opioid Plan

The Georgia Statewide Opioid Strategic Planning Summit is a jointly hosted meeting between the Office of the Attorney General, DBHDD, DCH, and DPH. The goals are to expand the dialogue and collaboration that has led to the development of a statewide strategy to address Georgia's growing opioid crisis; and discuss the implementation of the [strategic plan recommendations](#) in Georgia's many communities. Roughly 200 strategic planning stakeholders that represent over 100 agencies collaborate to provide recommendations on how to address the epidemic. The 6 priority areas are: 1) Prevention and Education, 2) Maternal Substance Use, 3) Data and Surveillance, 4) Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), 5) Treatment and recovery, and 6) Control and Enforcement.

Link: <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/response-opioid-crisis>

GACSB position: Monitor the Georgia Statewide Opioid Strategic Planning Summit meetings through the Legislative session and beyond.

3. Psychiatric Advanced Directive

To provide for a competent adult to express his or her mental health care treatment preferences and desires directly through instructions written in advance and indirectly through appointing an agent to make mental health care decisions on behalf of that person; to provide for construction of such form; to amend [Code Section 16-5-5 and Title 31 of the O.C.G.A.](#), relating to assisted suicide and notification of licensing board regarding violation and health, respectively, so as to include cross-references to the psychiatric advance directive and provide for consistent terminology.

GACSB position: Support as long as there is no restriction to CSB team's ability to provide psychiatric care. We anticipate action on this issue in the 2019 legislative session.

4. Governor's Commission on Children's Mental Health (Deal Administration)

The recommendations outlined in the [report](#) include:

1. Increasing access to behavioral health services for Georgia's school-aged children by sustaining and expanding the Georgia Apex Program for school-based mental health.
2. Fund Supported Employment/Supported Education programs for youth and emerging adults with severe mental illness
3. Providing support for the development and implementation of additional levels of support within the behavioral health continuum of care for youth with the highest levels of need.
4. Strategically increasing telemedicine infrastructure capacity for child-serving, community based, behavioral health provider organizations in order to improve access to children's behavioral health services.
5. Investing in coordinated training for priority areas of interest and concern for the child-serving workforce, including clinical training in evidence-based practices, trauma-informed care and administrative practices that support the delivery of high-quality behavioral health services across service settings.
6. Funding expanded provider training, fidelity monitoring, technical assistance and evaluation for evidence-based High Fidelity Wraparound.
7. Supporting multi-pronged early intervention and prevention approaches to combat the opioid crisis among Georgia's youth and emerging adults.
8. Supporting a multi-pronged suicide prevention approach, including the expansion of prevention programming and expansion of Georgia Crisis and Access Line hours, to reduce rising suicide rates among Georgia's youth and emerging adults.

Link:

https://gov.georgia.gov/sites/gov.georgia.gov/files/related_files/document/The%20Commission%20on%20Children%27s%20Mental%20Health%20FINAL%20120717.pdf

GACSB position: Support – GACSB will monitor the findings and execution with the incoming Administration.

5. Medicaid / Suspension of Benefits for Prisoners (House Study Committee 240 – 2018)

- a. In keeping with Georgia's criminal justice reform, propose policy that postpones the termination of Medicaid benefits, moving towards suspension rather than termination, especially in county jail systems. DCH is working towards a solution on the prisoners in the state prison system. Significant progress was made in 2018.
- b. Continuing Medicaid benefits, provide a framework for continuity of care and improve inmate transitional plans.

Link: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HR/240>

GACSB position: Supportive of findings. GACSB will continue to work towards a suspension status for Medicaid prisoners.

6. HB 178 Mental health; provide for Assisted Outpatient Treatment

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 3 of Title 37 of the O.C.G.A., relating to examination and treatment for mental illness, so as to provide for assisted outpatient treatment programs; to create a unit within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability to provide support and coordination; to provide for an advisory council; to provide for applicability; to provide for a pilot program; to provide for procedures, standards, and criteria; to provide for due process; to provide for services and treatment plans; to provide for evaluative information and reports; to provide for training; to provide for patient's right to refuse medication; to provide for an annual report; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Link: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20192020/HB/178>

GACSB position: As the CSBs have not been consulted in regards to this particular Bill and we have not had a chance to study the item, we do not currently have an official position at this time, however we continue to stand for access to care.

7. The Senate Study Committee on The Excessive and Duplicative Regulatory Oversight of Community Based Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services

The Senate Study Committee on the Excessive and Duplicative Regulatory Oversight of Community Based Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services (Committee) was created pursuant to the adoption of Senate Resolution 506 during the 2018 Legislative Session. The Committee was charged with the undertaking to study the oversight, regulations, and the problems that arise with multiple levels of oversight within the industry.

Committee recommendation included:

- Move oversight of NOW/COMP HCBS Medicaid waivers from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to the Department of Community Health (DCH).

GACSB position: CSBs are aligned with DBHDD's stance on the matter.