



2023 Legislative Term Agenda

1. Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission

Governor Kemp announced the 24-person commission under the guidelines of House Bill 514 passed in 2019. Kemp named nine appointees to the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission along with Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan and Speaker David Ralston, who each named six appointees, and Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Harold Melton, who announced three appointees.

GACSB Position: Support - GACSB will monitor the findings with GACSB members and other key stakeholders appointed to commission and execute action items as they come. Additionally, with the passing of Speaker Ralston and change in leadership at the Lieutenant Governor's office, we anticipate some appointment changes.

2. Engage Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Community Health, Office of Planning and Budget and Administration on budget process.

GACSB Position: Maintain a strong working relationship with key appropriators, Administration officials, and department leadership as budget process progresses. New House Appropriations Chairman, Matt Hatchett will be a crucial partner to have moving forward.

3. Department of Justice Settlement Agreement

GACSB Position: Monitor the state's engagement with the DOJ.

4. Medicaid Managed Care Re-Procurement

As the Department of Community Health (DCH) considers the implementation of a competitive managed care procurement and transitioning Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) population to managed care, GACSB and its members have developed recommendations based on the collective experience with the current managed care system in place since 2006. These recommendations were submitted in response to DCH's eRFI and have been shared with legislators and stakeholders across Georgia.

GACSB Position: Continue to advocate according to recommendations provided to DCH, legislators and other stakeholders found in the [GACSB Medicaid Redesign White Paper](#) and monitor DCH's RFP release.

5. Behavioral Rate Study

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and the Department of Community Health (DCH) have engaged Deloitte to conduct a rate study of community-based rehabilitation services. The study aims to address the following items:

1. Address requirements set forth in Georgia Legislative Act No. 865, House Bill 911 to conduct a behavioral health rate study.
2. Meet CMS expectations related to rate study and methodology as defined in the Georgia Department of Community Health American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Initial Spending Plan Conditional Approval Memorandum, General Conditions.

3. Meet the obligation to the federal Medicaid authority for periodic service cost analysis for rate setting.

DBHDD and DCH invite providers and agencies to submit the information requested in a newly developed **cost reporting tool**. Submissions will be used as part of a rate study for Community Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (CBHRS).

GACSB Position: Support - GACSB will monitor the rate study as it continues to move through the process and respond to the rate study tool by January 20, 2023. Additionally, work to prioritize funding allocations that allow for the increase in Medicaid rates, thus increasing the average wage of behavioral care professionals and staff.

6. IDD Waiver Rate Study

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is in the process of reviewing payment rates and policies for services provided through the New Options and Comprehensive Supports Waivers. Burns & Associates, a division of Health Management Associates (HMA-Burns), has been contracted to assist with the rate study and has developed draft recommendations. DBHDD and HMA-Burns are seeking comment on these draft recommendations.

GACSB Position: Support - GACSB will respond to the public comment period by January 13, 2023 and monitor the rate study as it continues to move through the process. This includes support of an increase in the average hourly wage for Direct Support Professionals (DSP).

7. Senate Study Committee on People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Waiver Plan Access

Senate Resolution 770 created this study committee to address the conditions, needs, and issues related to the waiver process and recommend any action or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. Duties also included comprehensive reports by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) on the progress of provider rate studies and updates on connection to services of new waiver recipients.

GACSB Position: Support – GACSB also requests careful attention and action to the following:

- DBHDD rate study which is currently under review and prioritize funding allocations that allow for the increase in Medicaid rates, and supporting the increase of average hourly wage of DSPs.
- Managed Care Pilot for I/DD, which includes a representative sample size of HCBS to allow for scalable development and implementation.
- Increase in waiver slots - Workforce and capacity building with community providers is necessary to accomplish this recommendation.
- Employment First – encourage policy makers to hold GVRA accountable in the process to further the efforts of ensuring that "competitive, integrated employment is the first and preferred option in the provision of publicly funded services for all working age citizens with disabilities".

8. Open Meetings Act regarding CSB Board Meetings

As it stands currently, the National Public Health Emergency allows for the continuation of virtual meetings. Moreover, considering the issues concerning vaccine hesitancy and opposition, and the emergence of COVID-19 variants, this may serve as justification for continuing virtual and/or hybrid meetings.

GACSB Position: GACSB will continue to look for clarification from the Georgia AG's office and potentially pursue legislative regulatory change depending on outcome.