



GACSB
GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARDS

Stronger Boards.
Stronger Communities.
Better Together.

News from Georgia's Community Service Boards

AUGUST 2026

COVER STORY

Board Retreat Fuels Our Future

CSB leaders gathered to strategize, collaborate, and strengthen the path ahead for GACSB.

PAGE 5



GACSB Gets A New LOOK!

GACSB is evolving,
and our brand is
evolving with us.
New look. Same
mission

PAGE 7



**Around the
Network:
Committee Updates**
A quick look at what
a few of our GACSB
committees are
working on.

PAGE 12



**Recognizing our
Board Mmbers**
Our Board members
play an essential role
in the strength and
success of GACSB and
the CSB Network.

PAGE 13



ABOUT GACSB

The Georgia Association of Community Service Boards (GACSB) is the statewide association representing Georgia's Community Service Boards (CSBs), the public safety-net providers delivering behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disability, and substance use services in communities across Georgia. At GACSB, our strength comes from our Network. We bring CSB leaders together to share knowledge, address common challenges, identify opportunities, and advance solutions that strengthen Georgia's public behavioral health system. ONE NETWORK. ONE VOICE. SHARED IMPACT.

GACSB serves as a unified voice for Georgia's CSBs, connecting our members with state leaders, policymakers, partners, and one another. Through advocacy, collaboration, strategic partnerships, and shared resources, we work to ensure our CSBs have the support and visibility they need to continue serving their communities.

Our work is centered on strengthening the entire CSB Network. When our members collaborate, we can elevate what is working, address system-wide challenges, advocate more effectively, and demonstrate the collective impact CSBs make across Georgia.

OUR MISSION

To promote a strong network of CSBs as the public safety net, delivering the highest quality of care in order to enhance the life for consumers of mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases services.

OUR VISION

Healthy communities in which CSBs assure the highest potential quality of life for consumers of mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases services..

WHAT WE DO

Advocate. Elevate the collective voice of CSBs

Connect. Create opportunities for CSB leaders, board members, professionals, state partners, and stakeholders to collaborate and learn from one another.

Educate. Provide conferences, committee engagement, and resources that strengthen our members and their workforce.

Partner. Build meaningful relationships with organizations that share our commitment

STRONGER TOGETHER

Across Georgia, CSBs are meeting people where they are and providing critical services that support individuals, families, and communities. GACSB exists to strengthen that Network, amplify its voice, and ensure the impact of our CSBs is seen, understood, and supported.

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A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



There is a renewed sense of energy and excitement coming out of the 2026 GACSB Annual Board Retreat! Our time together reinforced the strength of our network and the incredible impact Georgia's Community Service Boards are making every day in communities across the state. As we move forward, GACSB is excited to work even more closely with our CSB leaders and Board members to tell our story, increase visibility, and elevate the important work happening throughout our system. This next chapter is about making sure the impact of our CSBs is seen, understood, and celebrated. We look forward to sharing more of the stories, successes, partnerships, and people that demonstrate the essential role CSBs play in strengthening Georgia's behavioral health system.

There is a lot ahead for GACSB and we are excited about where we are going together!

A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

"After a robust and constructive Strategic Planning event last week, I believe the GACSB has, going forward, a well thought out template to direct our association's priorities for the coming year as we all adjust to the new realities under Senate Bill 535 and to insure that we will be able to inform and support all the CSB's and their boards across our state."





MEET THE 26/27 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



VANESSA CAMERON
GACSB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO



DAVID KIDD
BOARD PRESIDENT/
ADVANTAGE BOARD CHAIR



ALECEA QUINTYNE
IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT / CLARATEL
BOARD MEMBER



CATHY GANTER
BOARD TREASURER/ AVITA CEO



HEATHER ROESNER
BOARD SECRETARY/ BRIDGE HEALTH CEO

Officer Spotlight

"I am honored and excited to serve as Vice-President for the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards for FY27. This new role gives me an opportunity to advocate for the vital services that support individuals, families, and communities across Georgia. I look forward to working with our CEOs and other leaders, sharing ideas, and helping to strengthen the important work of our community service boards. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the people we serve."

Samantha Turner



SAMANTHA TURNER
BOARD VICE
PRESIDENT/ AVITA
BOARD MEMBER



Board Retreat Fuels Our Future

CSB leaders gathered to strategize, collaborate, and strengthen the path ahead for Georgia.

From July 16–18, CSB CEOs and board leaders gathered at Chateau Elan in Braselton, Georgia, for the GACSB Annual Board Retreat.

The retreat created an important opportunity to step away from the day-to-day and focus on the future. Through meaningful conversations, collaboration, and strategic planning, leaders explored the opportunities and challenges facing Georgia’s behavioral health system and how we can continue working together to strengthen our CSB network and the communities we serve. Through these conversations, four key pillars emerged as GACSB’s priorities as we move into the new year. These priorities, highlighted below, will help guide our collective efforts, strengthen our advocacy, and keep us focused on the areas where GACSB and our members can make the greatest impact.

Thank you to everyone who brought their perspectives, ideas, and commitment to the table. We are excited to carry this momentum forward and turn the priorities identified at the retreat into meaningful action across our network.



GACSB Strategic Priorities



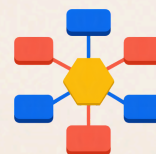
Relationship & Partnership



Public Image and Marketing



Board Engagement



Professional Development Hub

Stay Tuned



CHECK OUT THE NEW LOOK!!!!!!



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ACCENT COLORS



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YOUR CONTENT



*like
& follow*



Legislative updates

In Washington DC

*The House and Senate remain on recess through the end of August, and will return to a busy agenda when they reconvene. The first order of business will be passing a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government beyond the current funding expiration date of Sept. 30 and into December. The Senate passed a CR before adjourning for recess which some House Republicans and Democrats have indicated may pass quickly upon their return so that members can spend more time in their districts before the November midterm elections. The CR would keep funding for federal programs, including Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and other behavioral health programs, level for the next several months. National Council has been holding meetings with appropriations staff in both chambers of Congress to advocate for robust funding levels for these programs, including those funding Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) and Mental Health First Aid programs among others, and will continue those meetings when Congress returns. “**Source: National Council for Mental Wellbeing.**”*



From the H.R.1 Resource Hub

Medicaid Redeterminations Will Become More Frequent Under H.R.1. H.R.1 requires states to reassess Medicaid eligibility every six months for certain adult beneficiaries beginning in 2027, doubling the current frequency of renewals for the Medicaid expansion population. The law also adds new verification and reporting requirements, creating more opportunities for eligible individuals to lose coverage because of missed paperwork, outdated contact information, or other administrative barriers. Behavioral health providers should be prepared for these challenges and the potential impact on access to care.

H.R.1

[Read National Council's full explainer on H.R.1 eligibility redeterminations](#)

CSBs in the News....

Georgia's New Mental Health Law Reshapes Community Clinics, Expands Crisis Response Statewide

WJBF recently highlighted changes to Georgia's behavioral health system, including Community Service Boards and the continued expansion of crisis response services across the state.

Source: WJBF NewsChannel 6





What's happening at the CSBs

OVER AT AVITA

On May 8th the University of North Georgia Mural class unveiled their mural in Avita's Behavioral Health Crisis Center Temporary Observation room at Avita Community Partners. This specific collaboration project is the 3rd one in 4 years to bring color to our BHCC walls that opened in 2021. The nearly 400 sq. ft. elevated mural of a mama duck, her ducklings, and lily pads provides a relaxing atmosphere to the clients and staff.



RIVER EDGE IN THE NEWS



CSBs MAKING AN IMPACT

River Edge Expands Behavioral Health Services at Bibb County Jail

The important work of Georgia's Community Service Boards is happening every day, including within our local criminal justice systems. A recent Macon Telegraph feature highlights the work of River Edge Behavioral Health and its growing partnership with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office to provide behavioral health services to individuals incarcerated at the Bibb County Law Enforcement Center. The impact is significant. River Edge has recorded 9,574 contacts with Bibb County inmates during the 2025-2026

fiscal year, up from 7,603 the previous year. These contacts include behavioral health assessments, individual and group therapy, and discharge planning designed to help connect individuals with appropriate services and supports. As part of the jail's ongoing expansion, new dedicated behavioral health units for both men and women are being developed, along with additional consultation rooms, group spaces and offices. The improvements will provide River Edge staff with an environment better suited for behavioral health treatment while expanded funding will allow for increased evening and weekend coverage.

The story also highlights the power of peer support. River Edge forensic peer mentor Michelle Jackson draws from her own lived experience with incarceration to help individuals navigate mental health court and move toward recovery. "There's a great person on the other side of all that pain and hurt that people are carrying."

— Michelle Jackson, Forensic Peer Mentor, River Edge Behavioral Health

This is another example of how Georgia's CSBs are meeting people where they are and building connections to treatment, recovery and support throughout their communities.

[READ THE FULL STORY →](#)

Article credit: Katharine Tucker, The Macon Telegraph

"People on top of each other': Bibb jail expands psychiatric treatment space"

Updated August 12, 2026



VIEW POINT HEALTH CSB

Out in the Community. Supporting Kids and Families.

At View Point Health, they believe supporting children and families starts with showing up, and they've been out in the community doing just that! From Children's Mental Health Day at the Capitol to the Annual System of Care Academy (SOCA) Conference and a host of fun back-to-school events, their team has been connecting with families, sharing resources, and helping kids get the support they need to thrive.





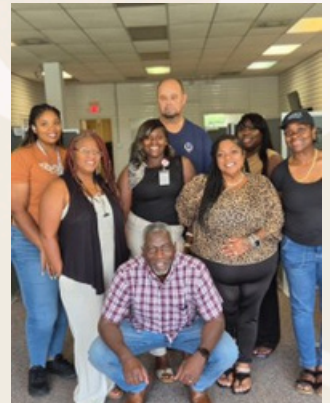
LEGACY CSB

Under the leadership of Jeff Hall, Latonya Kelly, and Carlos Baker, the Legacy Behavioral Health Housing Support Teams for Regions 4 and 5 achieved outstanding results during DBHDD's Housing Support Program Fidelity Monitoring Review.

Region 4 earned its highest score to date, receiving 111 out of 120, with four perfect fidelity categories and multiple staff members achieving 100% compliance.

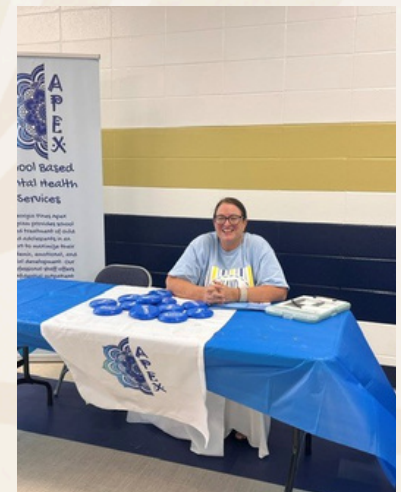
Region 5 successfully completed its first official review, earning 100 out of 120 (83%), including two perfect and two near-perfect categories.

These accomplishments highlight the teams' dedication to quality documentation, evidence-based practices, collaboration, and exceptional service delivery. Congratulations to the entire Legacy Housing Support Team on this outstanding achievement!



GEORGIA PINES CSB

Georgia Pines CSB staff recently attended open house events at local schools, connecting with students, families, and school staff while sharing information about available behavioral health services and community resources.





Around The Network : Committee



IDD COMMITTEE

DSP Workforce Development & Engaged Georgia Update

The University of Georgia's Ralston Institute is rolling out its Direct Support Professional (DSP) curriculum for Cohorts 1 and 2. Staff interested in becoming credentialed can enroll now, with testing opportunities planned for November.

Staff who are new to the program will begin with DSP 1, with the opportunity to advance to DSP 2 coursework in January 2027. Those who have already completed DSP 1 are eligible to enroll directly in DSP 2. The training is asynchronous and offered at no cost to employees or employers. While there is currently no pay incentive associated with the credential, discussions continue around the potential for future reimbursement rates to recognize DSP credentialing, which could help providers better compensate staff who obtain additional training and expertise. DBHDD is also moving forward with Engaged Georgia, an initiative focused on expanding capacity for employment and community life engagement. Regional town halls are underway, with Regions 1 and 3 recently completing meetings. CSBs may attend sessions outside of their assigned region, providing additional flexibility to participate. A representative from the IDD Committee will participate in upcoming session and share feedback with the group next month.

CLINICAL OPERATIONS

The Clinical Operations Committee recently welcomed a representative from the DBHDD Office of Investigations to provide guidance and discussion around critical incident reporting, investigations, and corrective action plans.

Looking ahead, Brenda Cibulas and Rachel Holloman will join the next committee meeting to discuss the suicide policy and SAFE-T, providing an opportunity for members to ask questions and gain additional clarity around these important clinical practices.

The committee will also welcome Benchmark Mobile Crisis at the upcoming meeting to provide an overview of its services and discuss how those services support Georgia's behavioral health crisis response system. These conversations continue to provide Clinical Operations Committee members with opportunities to engage directly with partners, strengthen understanding of key clinical requirements, and share information across the CSB network.

EDUCATION & INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY

Education & Individual Advocacy planning is well underway for the upcoming Leadership Exchange. The Logo Contest has officially closed, and we look forward to announcing the winning design soon! The Call for Presentations has also concluded, with selected presenters now being contacted. As we continue planning, we are also seeking our Premier Corporate Partner. If you know of a company or organization whose values and work closely align with GACSB's mission and the communities our CSBs serve, we would love an introduction. Help us connect with organizations that share our commitment to strengthening behavioral health services across Georgia.

Stay tuned for more Leadership Exchange updates!



Recognizing our CSB Board Members



Our Board members play an essential role in strengthening behavioral health across Georgia. They bring leadership, community perspective, professional expertise, and a deep understanding of the needs of the individuals and families served by our Community Service Boards. As GACSB moves forward with renewed priorities and a stronger focus on visibility, collaboration, and advocacy, we also see an important opportunity to reinvigorate engagement through our Boards. Our Board members are more than organizational leaders,

they are ambassadors for our behavioral health system and advocates for the communities they represent. Their voices help us tell the story of our CSBs, elevate the challenges and successes happening across the state, and ensure that Georgia's public behavioral health system remains part of important conversations. When our Board members are engaged, informed, and visible, our collective voice becomes stronger. We look forward to increasing Board participation in advocacy, Association initiatives, and opportunities to bring greater visibility to the important work of our CSBs. As part of this renewed focus, we are excited to introduce our Board Member Spotlight, highlighting the leaders who help advocate for behavioral health in communities across Georgia.

This issue, we are proud to spotlight Dr. Anise Mabry, Board Member with View Point Health. Dr. Mabry has taken an active role in helping define what it means to serve as an engaged and effective Board member. Her leadership highlights the importance of understanding Board expectations, staying connected to the work of the organization, and recognizing the impact Board members can have beyond the Board Meetings.

Board members play an important role not only in supporting the success of their CSBs, but also in advocating for the individuals, families, and communities their CSBs serve. Dr. Mabry's commitment is a great example of the leadership and engagement we hope to continue strengthening across the Network.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

“My commitment to mental health advocacy began as a parent, navigating systems of care on behalf of my own child. That experience allowed me to see firsthand how difficult and fragmented those systems can be for families. I made a decision that rather than simply stand outside the system and talk about what was broken, I would position myself in the rooms where decisions are made and help change it. Serving on the ViewPoint CSB Board is one of the ways I can turn advocacy into meaningful systems change for families across our community.”



DR. ANNISE MABRY
VIEW POINT HEALTH
BOARD MEMBER



Upcoming Events

Community Service Board of Middle Georgia is excited to invite you to save the date for a very special milestone—the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Quentin's Place Behavioral Health Crisis Center.

Please join us as we celebrate the opening of this important new resource and the continued expansion of behavioral health services for individuals and families throughout our communities.

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 11:00 AM
Quentin's Place Behavioral Health Crisis Center
326 Johnson Drive
Dublin, Georgia 31021

This occasion represents more than the opening of a new facility. It marks another step forward in ensuring that individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis have access to compassionate, timely, and appropriate care when they need it most.

We look forward to celebrating this milestone alongside our community partners, local leaders, staff, and friends who continue to support our mission.



2028 Annual GACSB LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



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across Georgia's CSB network.

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