



NEWS RELEASE

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CSB of Middle Georgia receives Certified Community Behavioral Health Center Grant award from SAMHSA

Denise Forbes, MS LPC, CEO of Community Service Board of Middle Georgia, is pleased to announce that the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) notified the CSB of Middle Georgia Friday, September 23, 2022, of a *Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) grant award*, one of four (4) CSBs in Georgia bestowed a CCBHC-PDI grant during this cycle for \$1 million dollars per year covering a four (4) year span beginning September 30, 2022.

Forbes added, “This award will soon make us one of eight (8) Community Service Board safety net CCBHCs in Georgia! With the additional funding, the CSB of Middle Georgia hopes to expand programming in the rural areas served through hiring additional practitioners able to provide more wholistic care to individuals served, including integrated physical health care for those in need. The grant funding will allow the CSB of Middle Georgia an opportunity to help transform our community behavioral health system and move toward providing even more comprehensive, coordinated behavioral health care by providing person-centered and family-centered integrated healthcare services. Additionally, SAMHSA expects that awardees will include a focus on groups facing health disparities, as identified through a community needs assessment in the population of focus.”

According to SAMHSA, “the intent of the CCBHC-PDI grant program is to (a) assist organizations in the planning for and development and implementation of a CCBHC that meets the [CCBHC Certification Criteria \(PDF | 755 KB\)](#), (b) provide a comprehensive range of outreach, screening, assessment, treatment, care coordination, and recovery supports based on a needs assessment that aligns with the CCBHC Certification Criteria, and (c) support recovery from mental illness and/or substance use disorders (SUD) by providing access to high-quality mental health and SUD services, regardless of an individual’s ability to pay. This includes any individual with a mental or substance use disorder who seeks care, including those with serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorder (SUD) including opioid use; children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbance (SED); individuals with co-occurring mental and substance disorders (COD); individuals with co-occurring mental health, substance use disorders and intellectual/developmental disabilities; and individuals experiencing a behavioral health related crisis.”

The CSB of Middle Georgia expects to greatly improve access to care and services to children and youth, emerging adults, and adulthood through senior years. Funding will also be used to enhance linkage and coordination of services, including overcoming barriers to service, for individuals in our recovery

communities, our Hispanic communities, and those dealing with co-occurring behavioral health, substance use, and/or intellectual/developmental disabilities. The CSB of Middle Georgia believes wholeheartedly in the power of peers supporting peers in recovery. Individuals can and do recover. Individuals lead productive lives, no matter what their challenges may be. CSB of Middle Georgia celebrates the success stories of individuals served and is excited to bring further resources to continue this important work for the communities we serve.

Congratulations to our behavioral health teams in helping to make this possible. More information will be coming out periodically to keep everyone informed.