

# 2019 – 2020 House Rural Developmental Council

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**BE D·B·H·D·D**

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

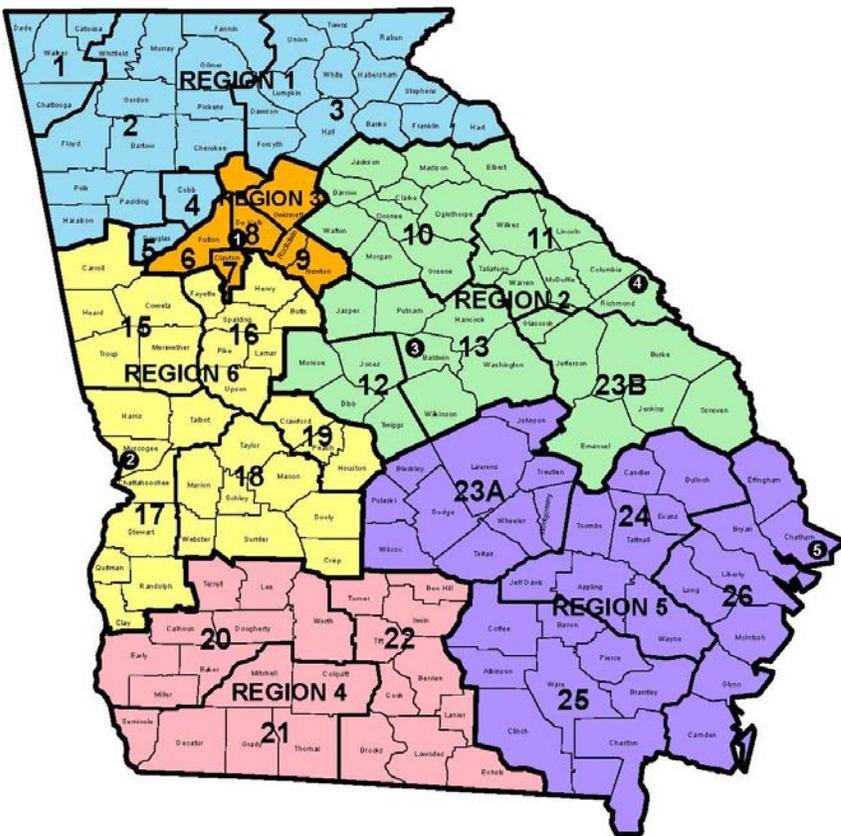
Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald  
August 21, 2019



# DBHDD: Georgia's Public Safety Net

- State agency created in 2009
- Serves more than **180,000** people across Georgia each year
- Provides treatment and support services for most-in-need individuals with
  - ✓ Mental Illness
  - ✓ Substance Use Disorders
  - ✓ Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)
- Priority Population: Individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, or receiving Medicaid

# Public Safety Net



**STATE OFFICE**  
2 Peachtree St, Atlanta

**24 Community Service Boards**

**6 REGIONS**

Regions contain field offices with resources serving the community (i.e., integration homes and providers)

**REGIONAL HOSPITALS**



# DBHDD is a Healthcare Agency with:

**\$1.3 Billion  
Budget  
(FY 2020)**

**Approximately  
5,300  
Employees**

**Six  
Field Offices**

**Approximately  
255  
Behavioral Health  
Providers**

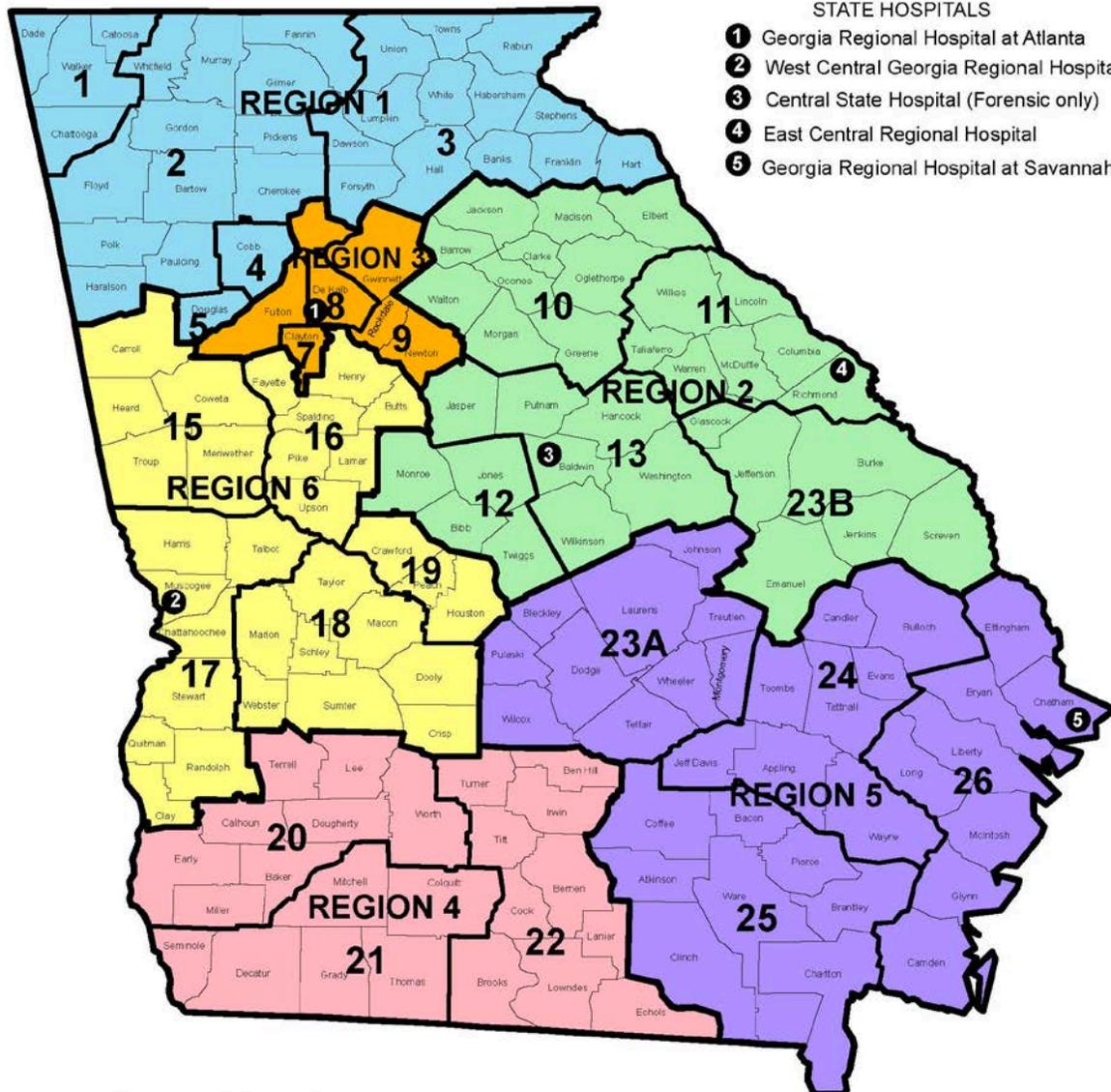
**Five  
State Hospitals**

**24 Community  
Service Boards  
(Public  
Safety Net)**

**Georgia Crisis  
and Access Line  
(GCAL)  
1-800-715-4225**

**423  
Intellectual and  
Developmental  
Disabilities Providers**

# Community Service Board (CSB) Catchment Areas



- STATE HOSPITALS**
- 1 Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta
  - 2 West Central Georgia Regional Hospital
  - 3 Central State Hospital (Forensic only)
  - 4 East Central Regional Hospital
  - 5 Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah

- 1. Lookout Mountain Community Services
- 2. Highland Rivers CSB
- 3. Avita Community Partners
- 4. Cobb CSB
- 5. Douglas CSB
- 7. Clayton CSB
- 8. DeKalb CSB
- 9. View Point Health
- 10. Advantage Behavioral Health Systems
- 11. Serenity Behavioral Health (CSB of East Central Georgia)
- 12. River Edge Behavioral Health Center
- 13. Oconee CSB
- 15. Pathways Center for BH and Developmental Growth
- 16. McIntosh Trail CSB
- 17. New Horizons CSB
- 18. Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare
- 19. Phoenix Center BH Services
- 20. Aspire BH and DD Services (formerly Albany CSB)
- 21. Georgia Pines Community MHMRSA Services
- 22. Legacy Behavioral Health (formerly BHS of South Georgia)
- 23. (A) CSB of Middle Georgia
- 23. (B) CSB of Middle Georgia (Ogeechee Division)
- 24. Pineland Area CSB
- 25. Unison BH (formerly Satila CSB)
- 26. Gateway CSB

# Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL)

- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Statewide (**159 counties**)
- Connects callers with a trained, professional
- Deploy mobile crisis response
- Manage entry into crisis services
- For individuals with I/DD and/or Behavioral Health
- Provider referrals
- Free and confidential
- Mobile application and texting capability



Georgia Crisis  
& Access Line

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1-800-715-4225  
mygcal.com

Sponsored by the  Department of Behavioral  
Health and Developmental  
Disabilities  
DBHDD

# Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL)

- Atlanta-based call center receives 650 –1,000 contacts on most business days
  - ✓ Nearly 40% are individuals calling for themselves
  - ✓ 6% are calling for their friends or family
  - ✓ 46% are professionals seeking support for an individual under their care or in their services
- Professionals call GCAL from emergency rooms, community mental health centers, private psychiatric hospitals, family and children services, courts, schools, law enforcement, probation and parole, and juvenile justice

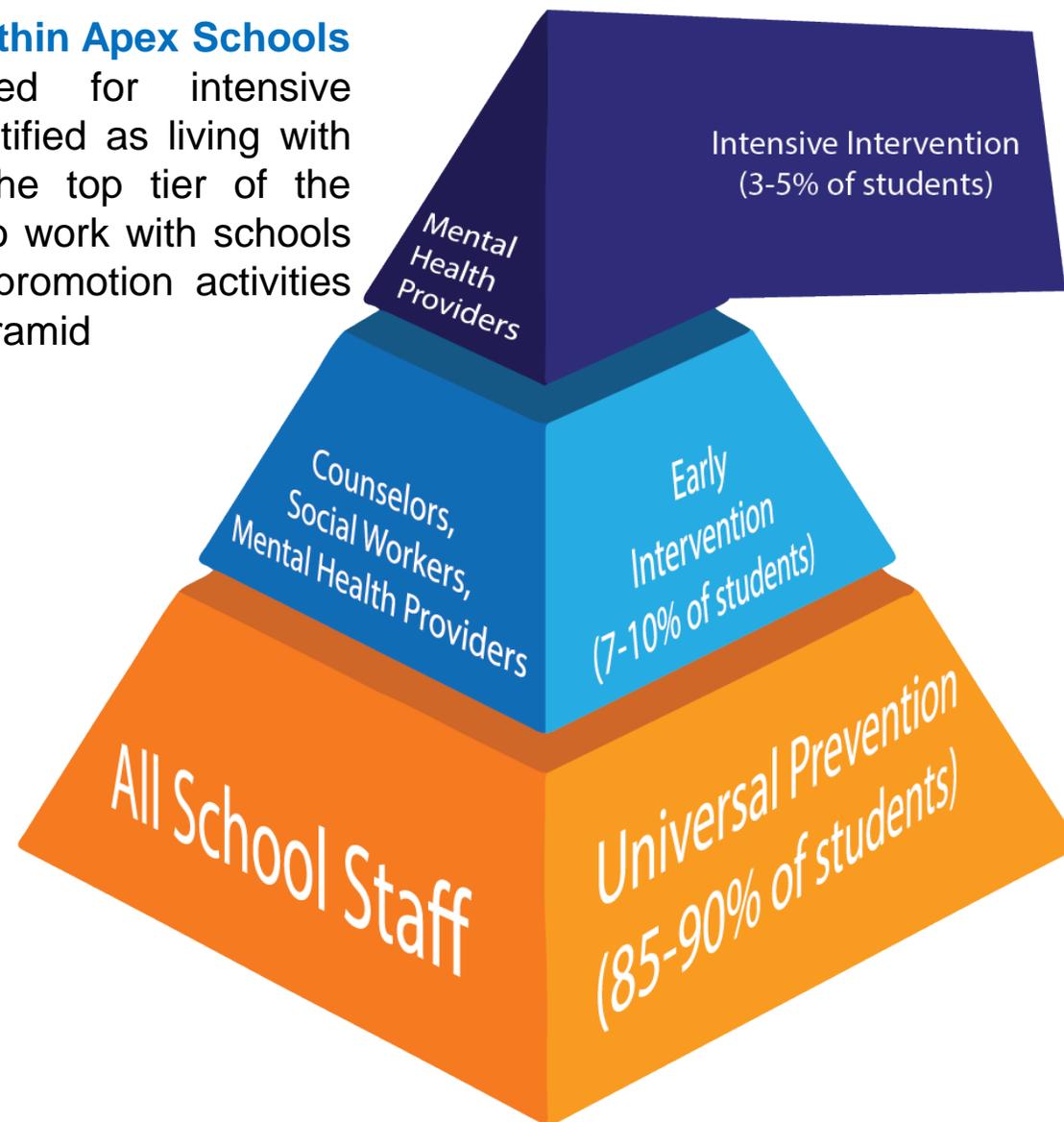
# Georgia Apex Program

- DBHDD funded program that creates partnerships between community-based mental health providers and local schools to provide school-based mental health services
  - ✓ Increasing access to mental health services for children and youth
  - ✓ Providing early detection of child and adolescent mental health needs
  - ✓ Strengthening coordination between community-based mental health providers and local schools

# Mental Health Promotion in Schools

## Mental Health Promotion Within Apex Schools

Apex addresses the need for intensive intervention for students identified as living with mental health concerns – the top tier of the pyramid. Apex providers also work with schools on additional mental health promotion activities across Tiers 1 and 2 of the pyramid



### Tier 3: 100% of schools

- Individual therapy for indicated students: 95%
- Behavior assessment: 88%
- Crisis management services: 64%
- Group therapy for indicated students: 41%

### Tier 2: 97% of schools

- Individual therapy for at-risk students: 89%
- Group therapy for at-risk students: 34%
- Targeted screening: 23.3%

### Tier 1: 88%

- School events: 66%
- Parent education: 50%
- Mental health awareness events: 43%
- Classroom observation: 40%
- Youth Mental Health First Aid training: 23%

# Three Phases of Apex

## Apex 1.0

State-Funded  
Pilot Program

## Apex 2.0

Governor Deal's  
Children's  
Mental Health  
Commission  
Funds

## Apex 3.0

Governor Kemp  
Allocation

- Close partnership with schools and Department of Education
- Enhanced data collection and sustainability

# Georgia Apex Year 3 By the Numbers

**78% in Rural Area (321 out of 411 schools )**

**29** funded providers

**396** schools involved

**27** average number of students served per school

**288** average number of first-time students served per month

**3,464** students received mental health services for the first time

**14,615** referrals made for school-based mental health services

**60,318** services provided in schools

**95.9%** of parents surveyed reported satisfaction

# Urgent Priorities and Unmet Needs

Urgent and critical priorities warrant additional focus and development



## Outpatient “Core” Funding

Increasing demand; Growing population; Treating before crisis



## Opioid Crisis

Increasing access; Reduce overdose deaths; Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery



## Crisis Support

Integrating, enhancing, and expanding crisis services; Meeting current and addressing forecasted need



## Children and Youth Services

Implementing Children’s MH Commission report; Developing innovative programming; Collaborating with child-serving partners



## Prevention

Establishing sustainable prevention programs across the lifespan (Suicide Prevention, SU Prevention, MH Promotion)



## I/DD Transitions: Planning List and Hospitals

Implementing 5-year plan: Addressing current needs and anticipating future demand; Continue hospital transitions



## Whole Health for BH and I/DD Population

Coordinating BH and I/DD services within health care system; Promoting the overall well-being of the individual



## Value-Based Purchasing

Preparing the network for alternative payment mechanisms; Rewarding positive outcomes



## Forensic Population

Ensuring viable facilities and workforce; Addressing growing population of individuals involved with court systems



## Aging Population

Facing clinical and fiscal challenges resulting from aging individuals and caregivers



## National Workforce Shortage

Developing short- and long-term strategies; Address impact on Georgia with particular attention to rural areas

# Workforce Challenges and Updates

- Rural Outreach
- National crisis across all levels of service (frontline to Psychiatry)
- Psychiatric Residency Partnership
- Partnership with Voices for Georgia's Children





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