

# Board Meeting

---

**BE D·B·H·D·D**

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental  
Disabilities

April 10, 2025



# Agenda

## Roll Call

---

## Call to Order

---

## Introduction of Guest Speaker

---

## Action Items

- Board Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2025
- Consideration of State Property Short Term Lease

## Commissioner's Report

- Community Residential Alternative Transitional Homes Update
  - Office of Prevention Update
  - FY 2026 Budget Update
- 

## Chair's Report

---

## Public Comment

# Roll Call

Chelsea Nabritt

*Board and Special Project Manager*

# Call to Order

Lasa Joiner

*Chair*

# Introduction of Guest Speaker

Jen Banathy

*Respect Institute of Georgia*

# Action Item

- Board Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2025

# Action Item

- Consideration of State Property Short Term Lease

# Commissioner's Report

Kevin Tanner  
*Commissioner*

---

# BE D·B·H·D·D

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Ansley Poythress, LCSW

*Transitional Services Manager*

April 10, 2025

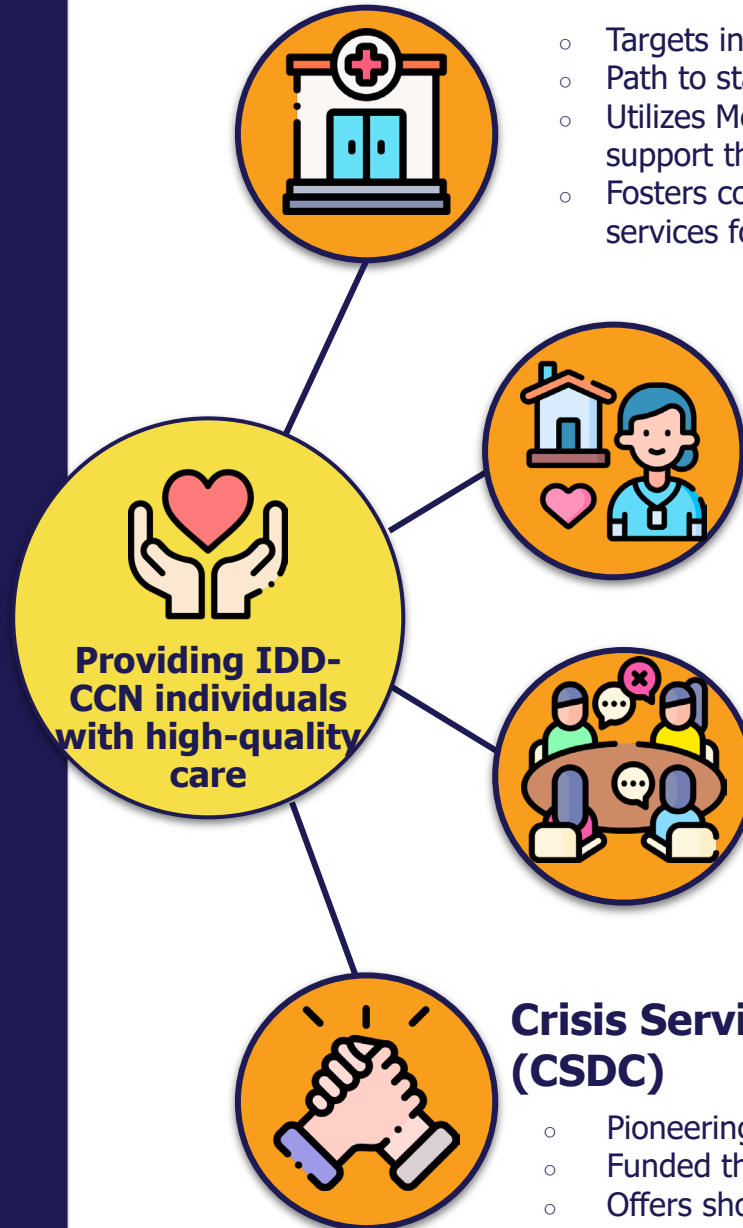


D·B·H·D·D

## Investing in the Highest-End Needs *of the* IDD Service Continuum

**DBHDD comprehensive strategy to support the Complex Care Need (CCN) individuals within the intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) service continuum.**

*These behavioral focused and specialized transitional settings are not intended as permanent residential placements but services that are offered to be the least restrictive environment to meet the person's needs.*



### Behavior-Focused CRA

- Targets individuals with severe behavioral challenges.
- Path to stability and improved quality of life.
- Utilizes Medicaid under NOW/COMP waivers; state funds support those without Medicaid.
- Fosters collaboration with universities and community services for advanced treatment and development.

### Intensive CRA Services

- For those requiring long-term, high-intensity support.
- Funded through Medicaid and a Tier 2 CRA rate structure.
- Ensures permanent, stable housing with comprehensive care.
- Represents a commitment to the most challenging needs.

### Specialized Transitional CRA

- Aids in transitioning from crisis to community living.
- Plans to expand across Georgia, increasing capacity.
- Serves as a model for effective care transitions.
- Aims to reduce the burden on emergency departments and hospitals.

### Crisis Service and Diagnostic Center (CSDC)

- Pioneering approach to crisis intervention.
- Funded through legislative appropriations.
- Offers short-term, intensive support to prevent hospitalization and legal issues.
- Beacon of hope for those facing acute crises.

# Standard CRA

---

Identical to  
current  
structure for  
CRA service  
provision

Will continue to  
serve all COMP  
Waiver  
participants  
assessed to  
require CRA  
services

COMP Waiver  
funded

# Behavior Focused CRA

---

- Temporary placement for complex individuals – up to 180 days.
- Offers opportunity for comprehensive evaluation of individual's support needs.
- Individuals may be discharging from the CSDC, jail, ED, long-term or out-of-state PRTFs or may be youth in DFCS custody
- Will be offered statewide.

Individuals will be ready to transition to another level of service when:

- The targeted behaviors have reduced in frequency and intensity
- They engage in replacement behaviors more often than targeted challenging behaviors
- They are assessed to need a different service.

# Intensive CRA

---

Modeled after the  
Behavior Focused CRA  
service

Difference: these  
individuals are  
anticipated to require that  
level of care on  
permanent basis

Annual (or more frequent  
if deemed necessary)  
assessment to determine  
if person continues to  
require this level of  
service or if they can  
transition to Standard  
CRA services

Homes may be diagnosis  
specific  
Ex. ASD, Polydipsia,  
PICA, ASL Fluent Homes

# Specialized Transitional CRA

---

An extension of a two-home pilot program that began in Augusta March 2024.

Meet the identified need of serving individuals that have been abandoned in community EDs

Relieve some pressure from the community hospital care system

Designed to meet complex medical needs

Plan to add 2 homes in Macon to support CSDC. Identified other areas most in need.

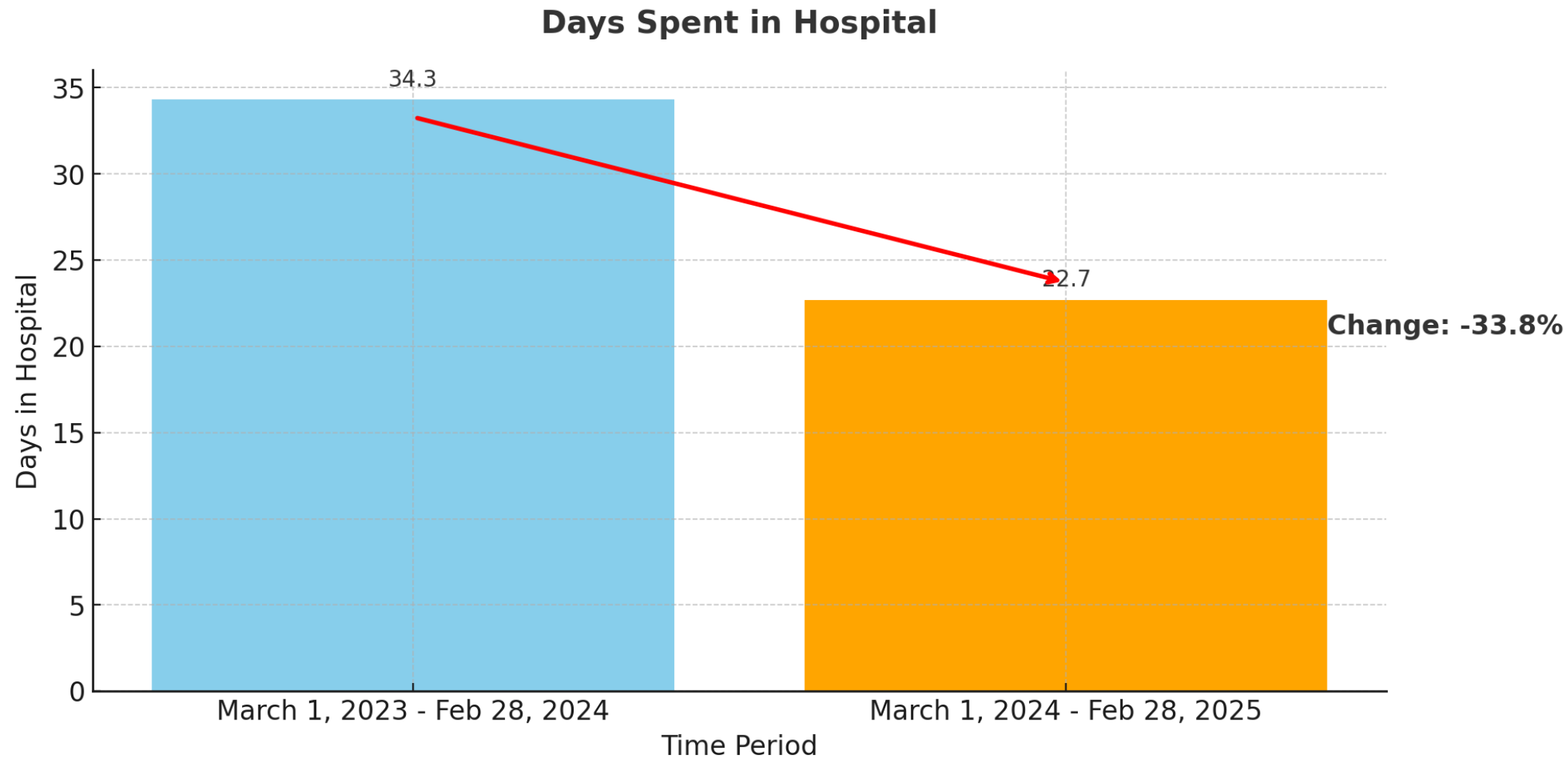
Ability for step-down utilization from the CSDC for people who require additional transition planning

**26 people have been served in the 2 pilot homes located in Augusta (March 2024 – Current).**

Length of Stay up to 180 days

Avg Length of Stay in pilot: 113 days

# Effectiveness of Specialized Transitional Homes





# Conclusion

DBHDD remains committed to providing high quality, accessible services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including those with clinically assessed complex behavioral support needs.

These new, behaviorally focused service lines will provide those individuals with a community residence while maintaining access to the behavior, medical, and/or psychiatric care they need.

---

---

# BE D·B·H·D·D

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Rachael Holloman, MA, LPC

*Director, Office of Federal Grant Programs & Suicide Prevention*

Alesha Cooke Henderson, MPH

*Youth Suicide Prevention Specialist, Office of Federal Grant  
Programs & Suicide Prevention*



# Today's agenda

Pediatric Mental Health

---

Capitol Days

---

MHFA Overview



# Pediatric Mental Health

# Pediatric Suicide Prevention Virtual Summit

The *2024 Pediatric Suicide Prevention Virtual Summit*, targeted Georgia's pediatric primary care providers, pediatric nurses and other clinical and non-clinical staff. This virtual summit offered education and discussion that helped to uncover and care for the mental health needs of youth as well as support parents and guardians.

## RAISING GLOBAL TEENS

A Practical Handbook For  
Parenting in the 21st Century



Dr. Anisha Abraham

## Pediatric Mental Health for Primary Care Providers

A Clinician's Guide

Sarah Y. Vinson  
Ebony S. Vinson  
Editors

Springer



# Pediatric Suicide Prevention Virtual Summit

---

- ❑ Hosted on September 19, 2024, via WebEx platform
- ❑ 140 attendees representing all six DBHDD regions.
- ❑ Each of the three sessions focused on enhancing the suicide specific continuum of care, with the goal of reducing the number and rate of suicide deaths and number of non-fatal suicide attempts among children and adolescents.
- ❑ Attendees represented several professions including but not limited to medical doctors, registered nurses, pediatric primary care staff, licensed mental health professionals (i.e., LPC, LCSW) school counselors, case managers, substance abuse counselors, certified peer specialists, program managers, grant managers and state employees.

# Pediatric Zero Suicide Webinar Series

- ❑ A series of virtual training sessions held June-August 2023 presented by experts from Emory University, Children's Hospital of Atlanta and DBHDD Regional Offices.
- ❑ Sessions: *Suicide in Youth and How to Screen For It, How to Communicate with Patients and Caregivers about Suicide and Georgia Mental Health Resources*



**D·B·H·D·D**

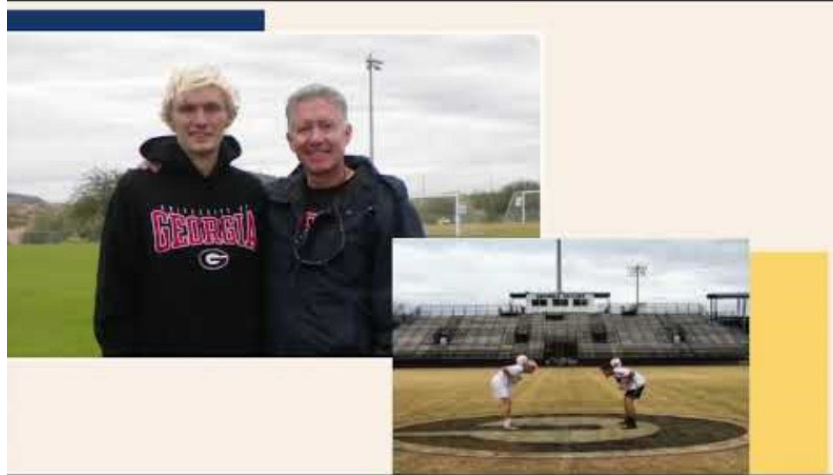


– These Trainings Will Be Held Virtually Using the Webex platform

Cisco  
**webex**

# Pediatric Zero Suicide Webinar Series

**Risk/Protective  
Factors &  
Warning Signs**



## Georgia APEX Program

The Georgia APEX program provides school-based mental health services for Prek-12<sup>th</sup> grade students through collaboration between community mental health providers and schools.

There are APEX providers located in all 6 DBHDD regions.



*The Pediatric Zero Suicide Webinar Series can be viewed on the DBHDD YouTube Page: [Pediatric Zero Suicide Webinar Series – YouTube](#) or on our website Prevent Suicide GA: [Initiatives – Prevent Suicide GA](#).*

# Capitol Days

# Suicide Prevention Day 2025

- Over 400 in attendance
- Keynote by Drew Robinson
- Highlighted youth advocates

Nadia's Truth

Resilient Hearts

- **Schools**

Hancock Central Middle School

Hancock Central High School

Alcove High School

South Atlanta High School

Crawford Long Middle School

Memorial Middle School

Frederick Douglass 9th Grade Academy

Salem High School

Seeds of Excellence Christian Academy



# MHFA Overview



## Mental Health First Aid (Adult & Youth)

# Mental Health First Aid (Adult & Youth)

Mental Health First Aid teaches individuals how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use. The training provides the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be experiencing mental health or substance use challenges or in crisis.

- There are many trainers within DBHDD.
- We offer adult and youth training, planning to introduce teen mental health first aid training in 2025.

Questions?



---

# BE D·B·H·D·D

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Kevin Tanner  
*Commissioner*

April 10, 2025



# **FY 2026 Budget Adjustments**



**D·B·H·D·D**

# FY 2026 Budget Adjustments

---

The budget adjustments and changes on the following slides represent the Conference Committee version of the FY 2026 Appropriations Bill which was released on Friday, April 4, 2025.

This represents the most current version of the FY 2026 Appropriations Bill and of DBHDD's FY 2026 available.

However, since the bill is yet to be signed by the Governor, the budgetary changes and adjustments listed here are not final and remain subject to change.

The adjustments and changes listed include only those specific to DBHDD, therefore statewide adjustments are not included, and represent only state funds adjustments.

# FY 2026 Budget Adjustments

Adult Addictive Diseases Services	Line #	Conference Committee
Replace state general funds with other funds for the expansion of Hepatitis C screening services at core behavioral health provider sites [TOTAL FUNDS CHANGE: \$0]	62.1	(\$232,081)
Increase funds for alcohol use disorder peer support	62.2	\$1,000,000
Increase funds for one-time funding for Hope House	62.3	\$50,000

# FY 2026 Budget Adjustments

Adult Developmental Disabilities Services	Line #	Conference Committee
Increase funds to annualize the provider rate increases recommended by the New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) provider rate study [TOTAL FUNDS CHANGE: \$236,560,895]	64.4	\$26,714,565
Annualize 100 New Options Waivers (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waivers	64.5	\$2,331,025
Increase funds for 150 additional New Options Waivers (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waivers	64.6	\$3,496,538
Increase funds to annualize the operations of the Macon Crisis Stabilization and Diagnostic Center	64.7	\$3,141,942

# FY 2026 Budget Adjustments

<b>Adult Forensic Services</b>	<b>Line #</b>	<b>Conference Committee</b>
Increase funds to annualize the operations of a 30-bed jail-based competency restoration program pilot in Dodge County	<b>65.1</b>	<b>\$1,055,621</b>
Increase funds to operationalize a new 20-bed forensic unit at the Skilled Nursing Facility Georgia Regional Hospital in Atlanta.	<b>65.2</b>	<b>\$2,331,025</b>
Increase funds to operationalize a new 30-bed Project New Hope forensic step-down unit at the West Central Georgia Regional Hospital in Columbus	<b>65.3</b>	<b>\$1,618,742</b>
Increase funds to operationalize a new 17-bed forensic unit at the Central State Hospital Allen Building in Milledgeville	<b>65.4</b>	<b>\$1,953,245</b>
Increase funds for a jail diversion pilot	<b>65.5</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
Reduce funds for jail-based competency restoration in Cobb County Jail	<b>65.6</b>	<b>(\$500,000)</b>

# FY 2026 Budget Adjustments

<b>Adult Mental Health Services</b>	<b>Line #</b>	<b>Conference Committee</b>
Increase funds to annualize the provider rate increases recommended by the Community Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (CBHRS) provider rate study [TOTAL FUNDS CHANGE: \$45,509,162]	<b>66.4</b>	<b>\$12,528,923</b>
Transfer funds from the Department of Community Health to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for four licensure programs to match agency roles and responsibilities	<b>66.5</b>	<b>\$1,126,455</b>
Increase funds to coordinate outreach to address homelessness in the Atlanta area	<b>66.7</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>
Increase funds for the Georgia Housing Voucher program to support the requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement	<b>66.9</b>	<b>\$1,701,600</b>
Increase funds for a North Fulton behavioral health crisis center	<b>66.10</b>	<b>\$9,481,532</b>
Reduce funds for state contracted psychiatric beds.	<b>66.13</b>	<b>(\$4,033,053)</b>

# FY 2026 Budget Adjustments

Child and Adolescent Developmental Disabilities Services	Line #	Conference Committee
Increase funds for autism centers	68.1	\$600,000

# FY 2026 Budget Adjustments

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	Line #	Conference Committee
Increase funds to annualize the operations of the new Gateway child and adolescent crisis stabilization unit in Savannah.	70.1	\$1,444,308

# FY 2026 Budget Adjustments

Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC)	Line #	Conference Committee
Increase funds for one-time funding to address Regional State Hospitals' significant capital needs according to the 2023 Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) campus survey partially funded in HB915 (2024 Session), statewide. [Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities]	380.41	\$10,000,000

# FY 2026 Budget Adjustments

---

The Conference Committee version of the FY 2026 Appropriations Bill includes several significant budget enhancements.

These support and augment DBHDD's priorities of enhancing Forensic Service capacity and availability, developing Mental Health crisis service capacity, implementing the results of the provider rate study, and adding waiver capacity for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

As an agency we are grateful for the support we have received throughout the legislative process from the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, and our partners in the community.

# Chair's Report

Lasa Joiner

*Chair*

# Public Comment



# BE D·B·H·D·D

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

