

Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

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Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

June 9, 2022



Agenda

Roll Call / Call to Order

Introduction of Speaker

Action Items

Commissioner's Report

- NOW Waiver Renewal
- 9-8-8 Update
- General Assembly

Highlights

Chair's Report

Public Comment

Next Meeting Date

Roll Call

David Sofferin

Director, Office of Public Affairs

Call to Order

David Glass

Chair

Introduction of Speaker

Molly Tucker, MSW

My Voice, My Participation, My Board

Action Item:

- Board Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2022

Commissioner's Report

Judy Fitzgerald
Commissioner

Division of Developmental Disabilities

2022 NOW Waiver Renewal Updates

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Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Ashleigh Caseman
Director of Waiver Services
Office of Waiver Services

June 9, 2022



DBHDD MISSION

The mission of DBHDD:
Leading an accountable and effective
continuum of care to support
Georgians with behavioral health
challenges, and intellectual and
developmental disabilities in a dynamic
health care environment.

Today's Discussion

- Discuss upcoming proposed changes to NOW Waiver program renewal
- NOW Services that are planned to continue
- New NOW services bring proposed
- Enhancements and modifications to existing NOW services
- Sunsetting NOW services with low utilization
- NOW Payment Rate Increases
- NOW Renewal Timeline



New Options (NOW) Waiver Program

The NOW waiver program offers services and supports to individuals to enable them to remain living in their own or family home and participate or live independently in the community. Individuals receiving services in the NOW program have **less** intensive needs than those in the COMP program.

Note: The NOW waiver has an annual individual cost limit of \$40,000.

Current NOW Waiver Services and Supports

NOW Services currently proposed to continue in the NOW 2022 renewal....

- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Behavioral Support Services
- Community Access
- Community Living Supports
- In Home and Out of Home Respite
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptation
- Interpreter Services
- Individual Directed Goods and Services
- Financial Support Services
- Prevocational Services
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Support Coordination
- Supported Employment
- Transportation
- Vehicle Adaptation
- Skilled Nursing Services
- Nutrition Services

2022 NOW RENEWAL- Telehealth Proposed Changes

Telehealth Option for Adult Speech & Language Therapy (some exceptions)

Telehealth Option for Adult Occupational Therapy

Telehealth Option for Adult Physical Therapy

Telehealth Option for Adult Nutrition Services

Telehealth Option for Behavior Support Services (some exceptions)

Telehealth Option for Interpreter Services

Telehealth Option for Supported Employment Services (some exceptions)

Note: These are proposed changes by DBHDD&DCH that require approval by CMS

New Proposed Service- Assistive Technology

Assistive technology* consists of any technology, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to maintain or improve functional capabilities of Individuals with disabilities by augmenting the Individual's strengths and/or providing an alternative mode of performing a task.

- The need for Assistive Technology must be an identifiable assessed need in the ISP and directly related to the disability.
- The need for adaptive equipment and assistive technology must be identified in the Individual Service Plan and approved by a qualified professional.

**Note this service definition is pending CMS approval and is subject to change*



Service Modifications

Community Guide

With the NOW waiver renewal Community Guide Service will no longer be available for use upon CMS approval of the proposed changes

Natural Supports Training

With the NOW waiver renewal Natural Support Training will no longer be available for use upon CMS approval of the proposed changes

Service Modifications Continued- Participant Directed

PD Supported Employment

With the NOW waiver renewal Supported Employment remains a service available to individuals, but individuals will no longer be able to PD this service.

PD Behavioral Support Services

With the NOW waiver renewal, individuals will no longer be able to self-direct this service.

This service must be provided by licensed and certified staff

Payment Rate Increases for NOW Waiver Services

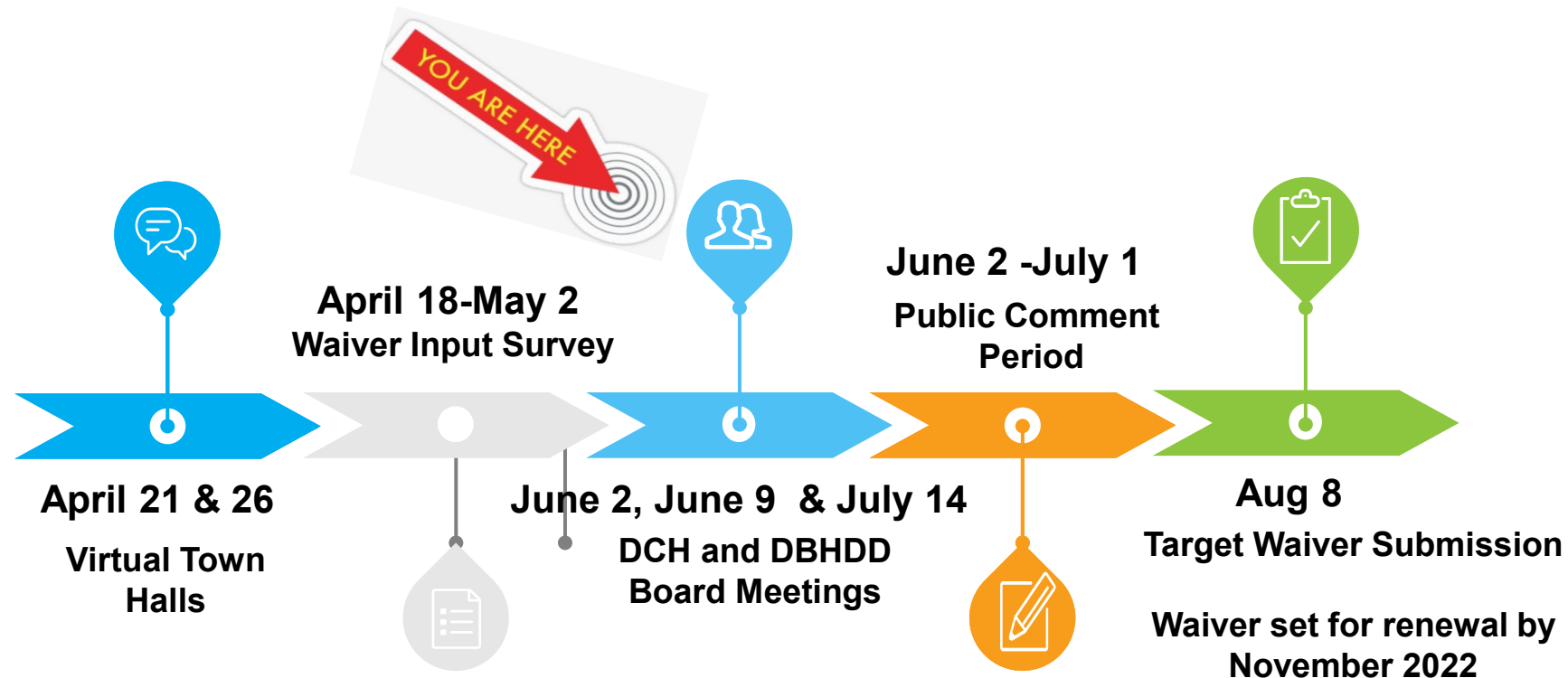
HB 81- FY 2022 Appropriations Bill

- Increase funds for a 5% rate increase for intellectual and developmental disability providers (including NOW waiver services) with approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

HB 911 FY2023 Appropriations Bill

- Increase funds for a 2% rate increase for intellectual and developmental disability providers (including NOW waiver services) with approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Timeline – 2022 NOW Waiver Renewal

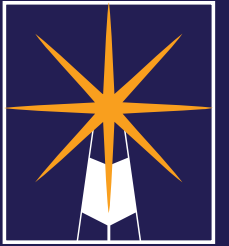


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Beginning 9-8-8 Rollout in Georgia



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Dawn Peel LPC CPCS
Director, Office of Crisis Coordination



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9-8-8 is a direct, national three-digit dialing code that will connect individuals with suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis resources.

Starting July 16, 2022, anyone will be able to call 9-8-8.

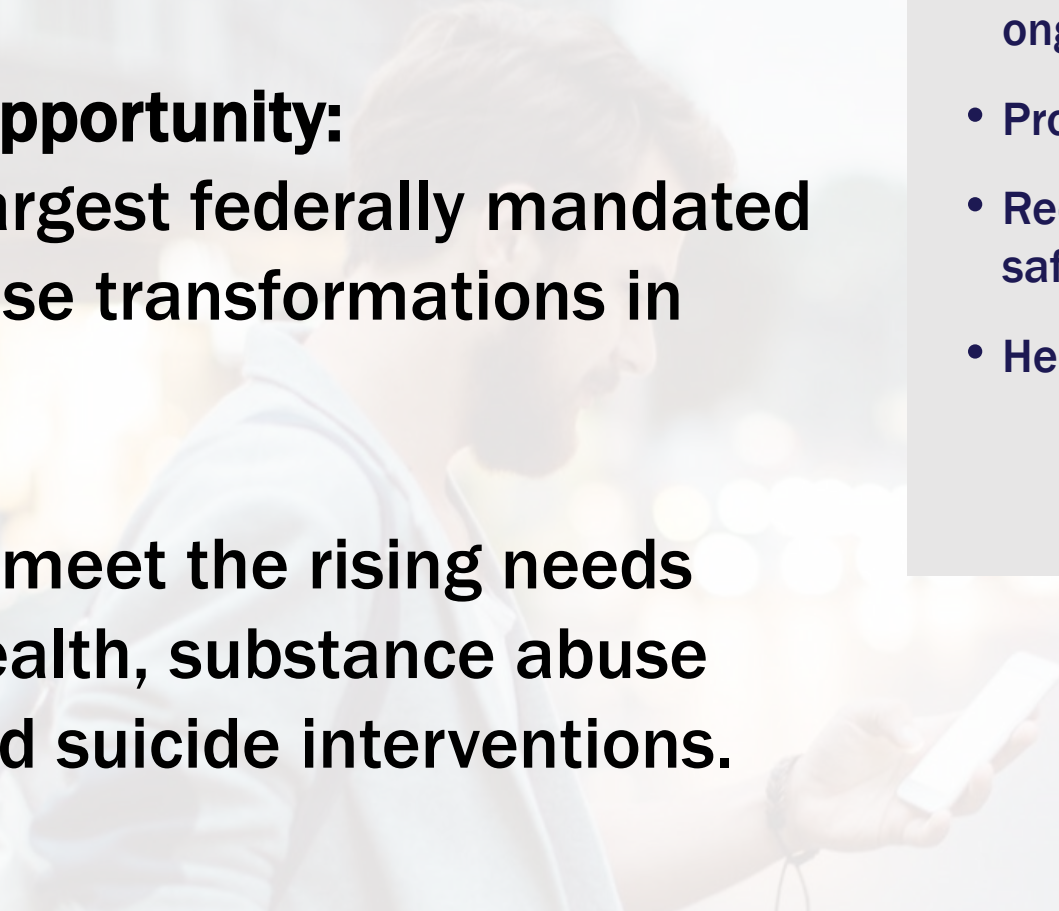
Callers will be connected to a trained staff member who can help address immediate needs and connect the callers to care resources, **24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.**



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9-8-8 is an opportunity:
One of the largest federally mandated crisis response transformations in decades.



Designed to meet the rising needs of mental health, substance abuse disorders and suicide interventions.

Some of 9-8-8's key features include:

- Connect a person with immediate and ongoing resources
- Promote cost efficiency
- Reduce impact on law enforcement and safety resources
- Help end stigma of seeking care



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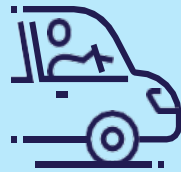
9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Overview

The 9-8-8 law requires Georgia to enhance the current system's ability to respond to those experiencing a behavioral health crisis by providing:



Someone to talk to

- Available 24/7 for calls, text and chat
- Peer-run warm lines offering callers emotional support, staffed by individuals who are in recovery themselves



Someone to respond

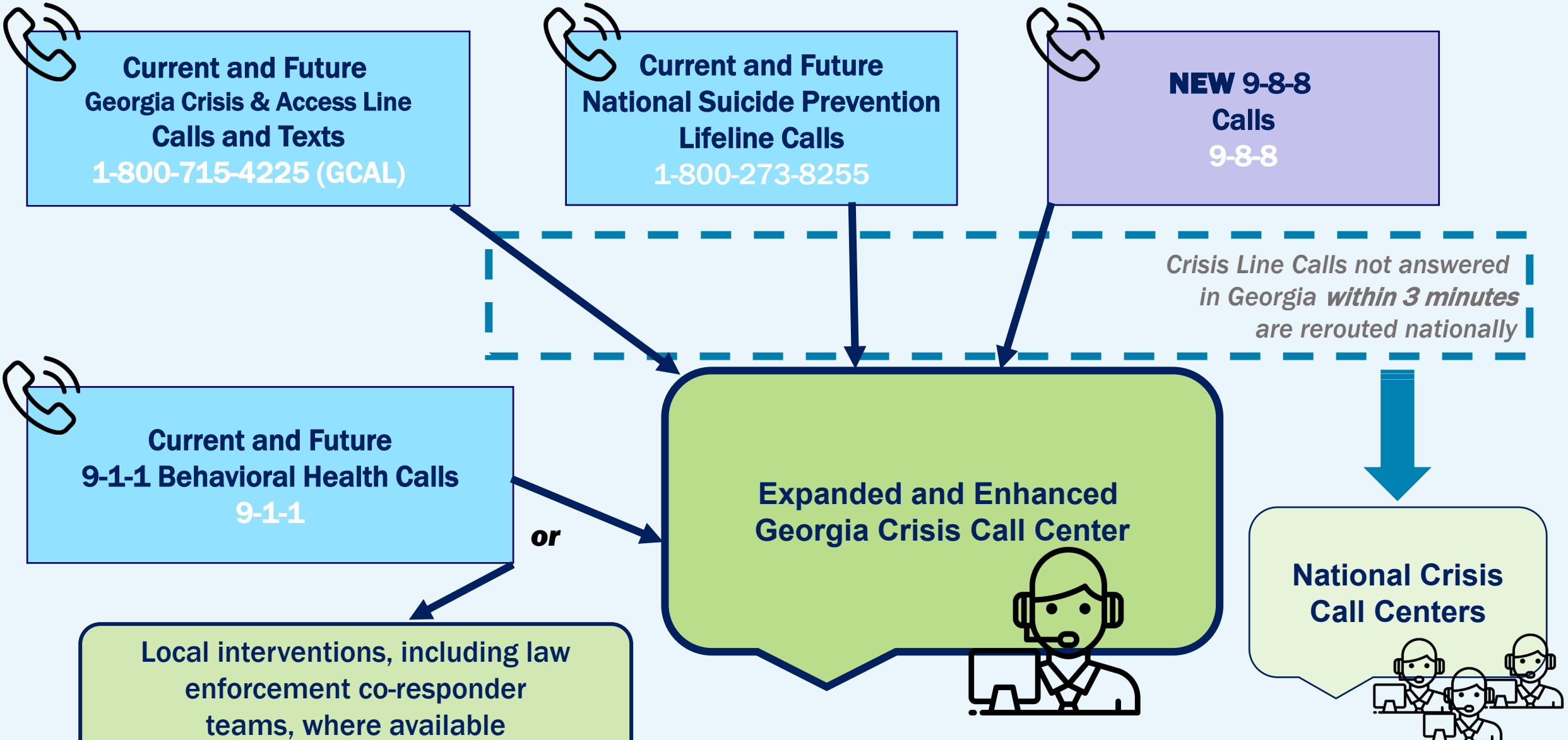
- Mobile crisis available statewide
- Coordinate with 9-1-1/EMS as appropriate
- Outpatient community provider response



A safe place for help

- Crisis stabilization units
- Crisis service center
- Peer wellness respite
- Detox and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment
- Inpatient beds
- Outpatient crisis

Someone to Call: Georgia Behavioral Health Crisis Call System



9-8-8: an initial step to a long-term transition



Building out the system nationally and in Georgia

The 9-8-8 dialing code will be available on July 16, 2022.

Eventually, 9-8-8 will become as commonly used as 9-1-1, providing appropriate behavioral health crisis responses for all Georgians.

9-1-1 began in the 1960's and took thirty years to cover 93% of the U.S. population. 9-1-1 continues to evolve today.

We will take lessons learned from 9-1-1 implementation:

- build capacity and staffing over time
- focus on technology and infrastructure

SAMHSA – Five-year Vision for 9-8-8



Horizon 1: Crisis Contact Centers

"Someone to talk to"

90%+ of all 9-8-8 contacts answered in-state by 2023.

Horizon 2: Mobile Crisis Services

"Someone to respond"

80%+ of individuals have access to rapid crisis response by 2025.

Horizon 3: Stabilization Services

"A safe place for help"

80%+ of individuals have access to community-based crisis care by 2027.

Georgia's Response



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In Georgia, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is the state behavioral health authority as designated in O.C.G.A. § 37-1-20 and, as such, is the lead agency for the 9-8-8 implementation.

9-8-8 planning efforts and implementation activities are led by DBHDD with input from additional stakeholders:

DBHDD Steering Committee

9-8-8 Planning Coalition



Coalition Representation

- 9-1-1
- Behavioral Health Link (BHL)
- Benchmark
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- CSU and BHCC providers
- DBHDD Suicide Prevention
- Georgia Collaborative ASO
- Grady Memorial Hospital
- Sheriffs
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Georgia (AFSP)
- Community Service Boards (CSBs)
- Georgia Council on Substance Abuse (GCSA)
- Department of Public Health EMS
- Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL)
- Veteran's Administration
- Georgia Emergency Communication Authority (GECA)
- Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network (GMHCN)
- Georgia Parent Support Network (GPSN)
- Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- Mental Health America of Georgia
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Georgia (NAMI)
- Police Departments

Georgia's Response



In our ongoing coalition meetings, key themes have emerged as either gaps in our current crisis system or important considerations when planning for 9-8-8:

1. Workforce shortages
2. Need for better coordination among stakeholders
3. Standardized policies, processes and protocols
4. Training on services/protocols/ recovery-focused language
5. Public awareness about crisis services and success stories

275,000

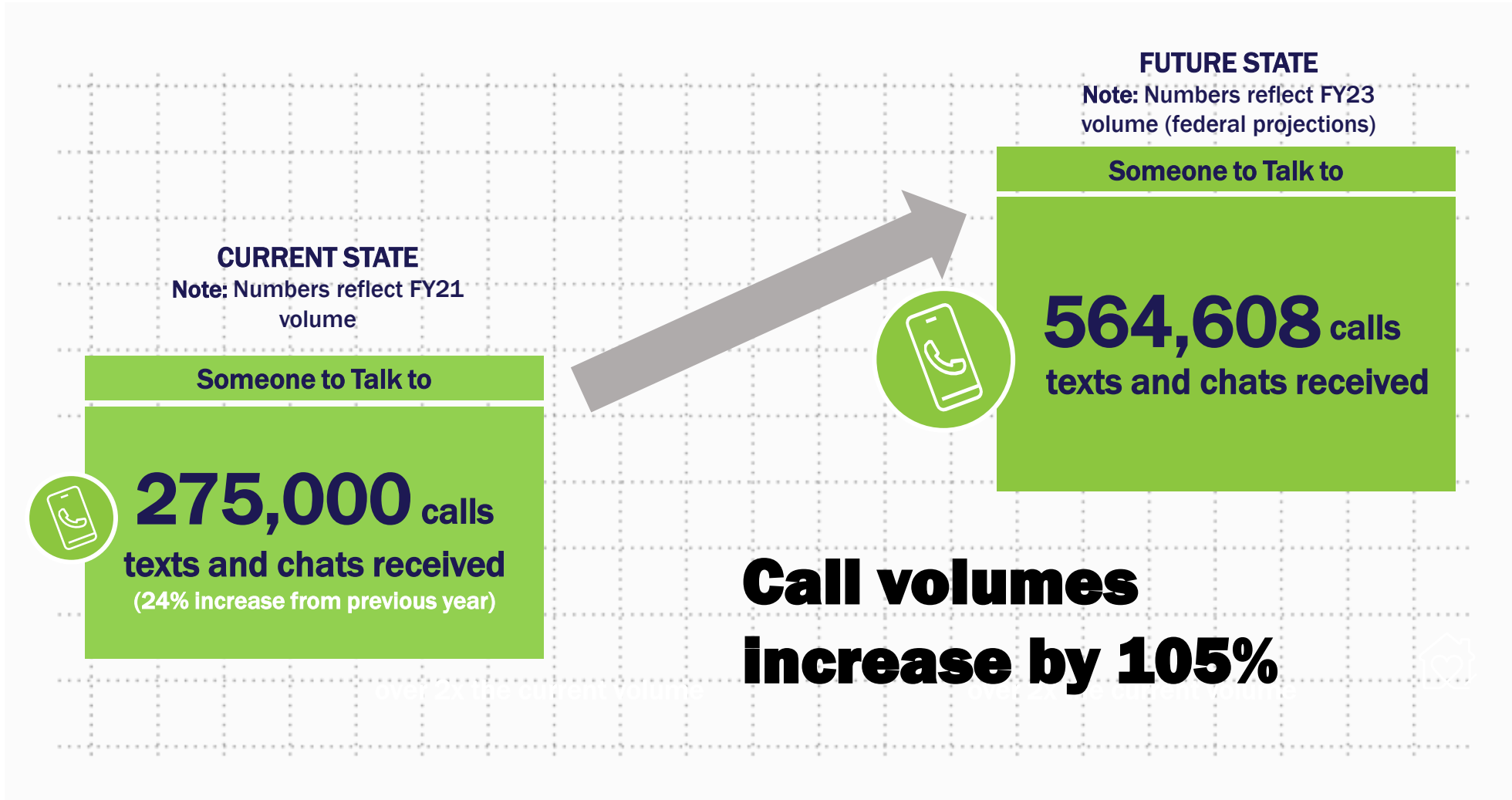
total calls, texts and chats to the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) in FY21 – *highest volume since inception*

+24% increase

Georgia's Crisis System: Current and Future State



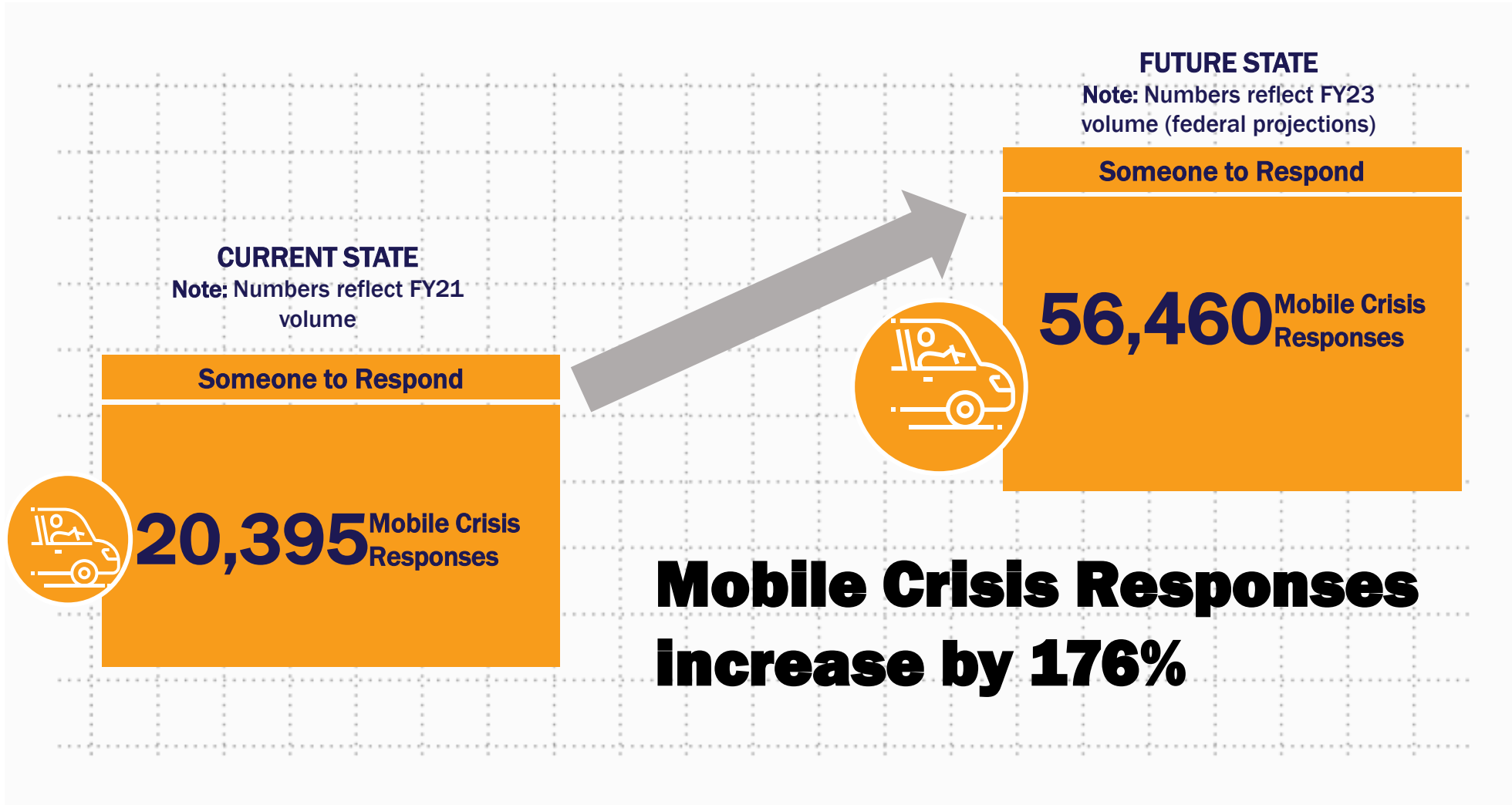
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Georgia's Crisis System: Current and Future State



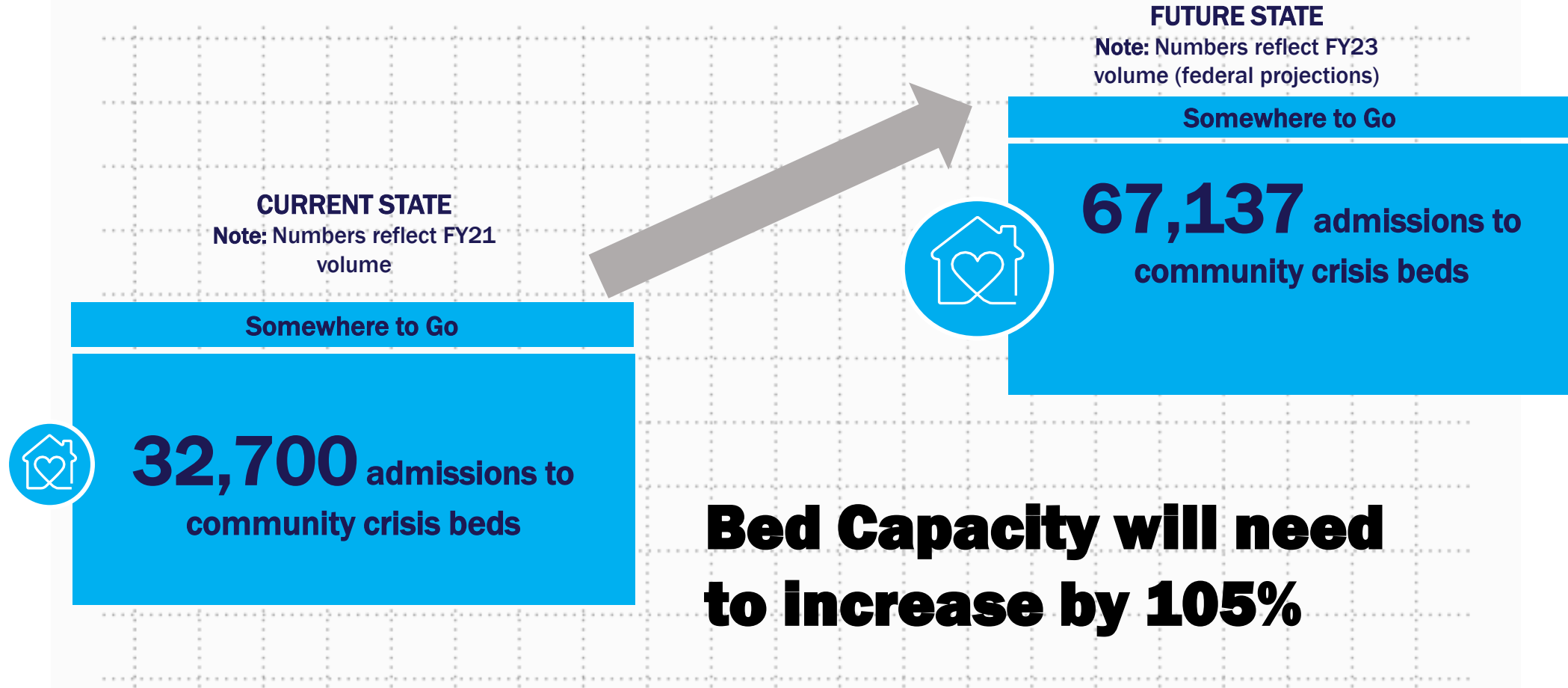
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Georgia's Crisis System: Current and Future State

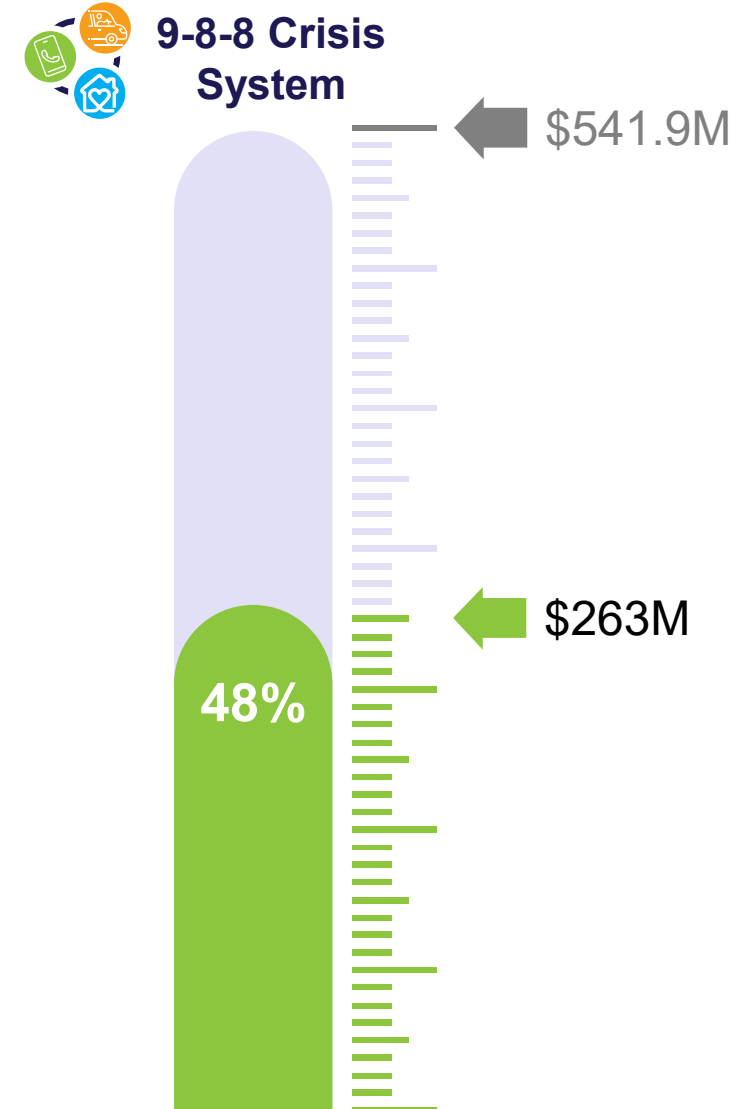
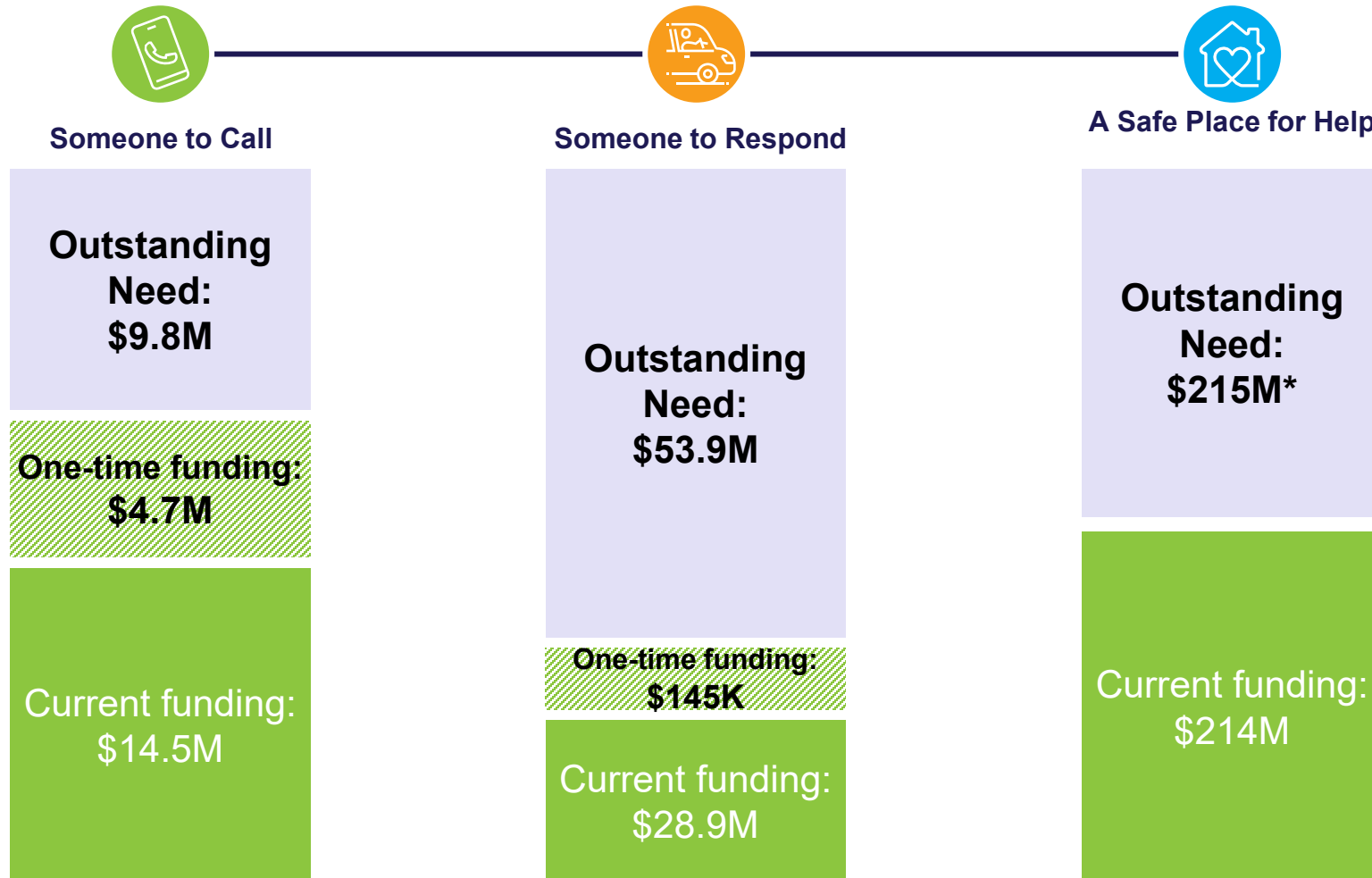


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Current and Projected Expenditures

Projected Annual 9-8-8 Operating Costs



Note: One-time funding includes temporary funding and GA state appropriations for FY23; Graphic does not include funding needed for 9-8-8 administrative costs.
 *Outstanding need does not include one-time capital investments needed for construction.

Increasing Funding: Rollout of 9-8-8 in Georgia



STATE FUNDING

- **FY 22 Budget**
 - Planning (\$114K)
 - IT Upgrades (\$302K)
- **FY 23 Budget**
 - Conversion of an existing Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) into a Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) in Augusta (\$3.8M)
 - 17 additional BHCC beds in Columbus (\$3.1M)
 - Additional Call Center staff (\$1.5M)
 - Grady psychiatric crisis beds (\$6M)



FEDERAL FUNDING

- **ARPA federal funds: (\$2M)**
 - GPS for Mobile Crisis FY 24
 - + 25 Call Center staff
 - + 7 Mobile Crisis Response Dispatchers FY 22
 - Call Center dashboard enhancements (\$639K)
- **SAMHSA Grant**
 - \$3M awarded in April





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Next Steps

- Consideration of implementing a 9-8-8 telecommunications fee.
- Per guidance from SAMHSA, large-scale marketing will not begin until mid-2023 and we need your help reaching at-risk individuals and their loved ones.
- Continue engaging community partners to increase accessibility, equity, inclusiveness, and culturally appropriate services.
- Dual focus on encouraging early intervention while strengthening our crisis system.

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FAQs, One-Sheets, Logos, Assets:

988ga.org

Contact Us:

questions@988ga.org

Right now, in Georgia, anyone experiencing a suicidal crisis or emotional distress should **call GCAL at 1-800-715-4225** or **download the My GCAL app**, available on both iOS and Android devices, to access GCAL via text and chat.

*GCAL is available 24 hours a day,
7 days a week.*

General Assembly Highlights

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Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Michael Polacek

Director of Legislative Affairs

June 9, 2022



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2022 DBHDD Legislative Update

The “Year of Mental Health” in Georgia

100+ behavioral health bills introduced during the 2021-2022 legislative sessions

Major themes – Workforce, Parity, and Public Safety

Historic year for DBHDD budget

Legislative Overview

HB 1013 - Mental Health Parity Act (Mental Health Omnibus Bill)

HB 752 - Psychiatric Advance Directive Act

SB 403 - Georgia Behavioral Health and Peace Officer Co-Responder Act

SB 500 – Establishes a litigation bar on governmental entities regarding certain statewide opioid litigation

SB 610 - Requires DCH to conduct a provider rate study for home and community based services and submit a waiver request to allow private mental health institutions to be Medicaid reimbursable

SR 659 - Senate Study Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness; create

SR 770 - Senate Study Committee on People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Waiver Plan Access

HB 1013 – “Mental Health Parity Act”

Overview

1. Hospital and Short-Term Care Facilities
2. Workforce and System Development
3. Involuntary Commitment
4. Mental Health Courts and Corrections
5. Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health



FY2023 Budget

As Passed

Mary Price
Chief Financial Officer

June 9, 2022



Statewide & Agencywide Changes

	STATE FUNDS CHANGES	FY2023
1	\$5,000 Cost of Living Adjustment	\$72,651,976
2	Psychiatric Nurses and Health Aides	\$15,169,998
3	40 Hour Annual Leave Withdrawal	\$1,832,346
4	ERS Enhancements	\$10,848,901
5	TRS Rate Change	\$7,961
6	DOAS Insurance Premiums	(\$926,650)
7	TeamWorks Billing Adjustment	(\$67,503)
8	FMAP Rate Change	\$6,003,869
	TOTAL	\$105,520,898



FY2023 Appropriations Bill: DBHDD

	STATE FUNDS CHANGES	FY2023
1	Addictive Diseases & Adult Mental Health: 10% increase for Core Services	\$7,807,113
2	Addictive Diseases: Hope House	\$50,000
3	Adult Developmental Disabilities (ADD): Annualize funds for 100 NOW & COMP Waivers	\$1,960,937
4	ADD: 513 New NOW & COMP Waivers	\$10,328,856
5	ADD: 2% rate increase for intellectual and developmental disability providers	\$4,900,000
6	ADD: 5% increase for non-waiver family support	\$667,840
7	ADD: Respite services for individuals with IDD	\$500,000
	TOTAL	\$26,214,746



FY2023 Appropriations Bill: DBHDD

	STATE FUNDS CHANGES	FY2023
1	Adult Forensic Services (AFS): Jail-Based Competency Restoration Pilot	\$2,500,000
2	AFS: 15 Forensic Peer Mentors	\$1,175,000
3	Adult Mental Health (AMH): Convert an existing Crisis Stabilization Unit into a Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) in Augusta	\$3,792,613
4	AMH: 17 Additional BHCC Beds in Columbus	\$3,117,423
5	AMH: Three Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Programs	\$2,204,712
6	AMH: Co-responder expansion to ten new sites.	\$897,060
	TOTAL	\$13,686,808



FY2023 Appropriations Bill: DBHDD

	STATE FUNDS CHANGES	FY2023
1	AMH: Provide for five additional community service board caseworkers for five new mental health accountability courts	\$281,995
2	AMH: 5% salary supplement for 12 employees who work with mental health accountability courts	\$33,839
3	AMH: Establish a technical assistance coordination center for accountability courts	\$220,050
4	AMH: Medicaid Reimbursement of Psychiatric & Behavioral Health Care Management Services	\$1,154,101
5	AMH: Georgia Housing Voucher Program (GHVP)	\$3,381,854
6	AMH: Network manager for the GHVP	\$144,237
	TOTAL	\$5,216,076



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FY2023 Appropriations Bill: DBHDD

	STATE FUNDS CHANGES	FY2023
1	AMH: Increase funds for additional GCAL support staff to manage the national '988' hotline expansion.	\$1,454,035
2	AMH: 18-bed adult medical psychiatric unit at Grady Memorial Hospital.	\$6,300,000
3	AMH: One-time funds for a behavioral health provider rate study	\$932,324
4	AMH: Transition two additional CSB's to the CCBHC model	\$4,000,000
5	Child & Adolescent Developmental Disabilities (C&A DD): Provide funds to Extra Special People (ESP) to expand services	\$600,000
6	C&A DD: Provide funds for Matthew Reardon Center for Autism	\$200,000
	TOTAL	\$13,486,359



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FY2023 Appropriations Bill: DBHDD

	STATE FUNDS CHANGES	FY2023
1	C&A Mental Health (C&A MH): Annualize funds to maintain the Georgia Apex Program.	\$5,600,000
2	C&A MH: Increase funds for children and teen social and emotional learning	\$100,000
3	Dept Admin: Increase to adjust special assistant attorneys general (SAAGs) and SAAG paralegal hourly rates	\$28,217
4	Dept Admin: Implement the terms of the National Prescription Opiate Litigation settlement*	\$261,823
5	Direct Care & Support Services (DCSS): Capital maintenance and repairs	\$3,000,000
6	DCSS: Bring beds online at state facilities by November 15, 2022	\$9,559,426
	TOTAL	\$18,549,986

DBHDD FY23 GRAND TOTAL:

\$182,674,873





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Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities



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Chair's Report

David Glass

Chair

Public Comment

Next Board Meeting

August 11, 2022