

# **Agenda**

#### Roll Call

Call to Order

Introduction of Guest Speaker

#### **Action Items**

- Board Meeting Minutes April 10, 2025
- Breakthru House Resolution

### Commissioner's Report

- Recruitment Update
- Co-Responder Budget Presentation
- Legislative & Budget Update
- Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust Update
- Board Engagement

#### Chair's Report

**Public Comment** 

# Roll Call

Chelsee Nabritt

Board and Special Project Manager

# Call to Order

Lasa Joiner
Chair

# Introduction of Guest Speaker

BreNita Jackson

Executive Director, Breakthru House Inc.

# Action Item

Board Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2025

# Action Item

Breakthru House Inc. Resolution

# Commissioner's Report

Kevin Tanner Commissioner

# **DBHDD Recruitment Video**





# **Co-Response in Georgia**



# Co-Responder Programs

Senate Bill 403 defines a co-responder program as a program established through a partnership between a **Community Service Board (CSB)** and a law enforcement agency, to utilize the combined expertise of peace officers and behavioral health professionals on emergency calls involving behavioral health crises, to de-escalate situations and help link individuals with behavioral health issues to appropriate services.



## State Funded Co-Responder Programs

Advantage

Loganville/Monroe

Clayton Center
Clayton County

Georgia Pines\*

Mitchell County Colquitt County

Highland Rivers

Floyd County

McIntosh Trail

Stockbridge

Middle Flint

Perry

New Horizons

Harris County

Pineland

**Bulloch County** 

Unison
Ware County

<sup>\*</sup>Submitted 2 programs and both were awarded.

## **Co-Responder Models**



## **Annual Report and Provider Manual**

 SB 403 requires that an annual report be completed to talk about the work that is being done by co-responder programs across the state, this includes data from the programs funded by DBHDD and those who receive funding from other sources. These are due in January.

 DBHDD publishes its expectations, requirements, and standards for community providers via policies and the respective Behavioral Health or Developmental Disabilities Provider Manuals. The manuals are updated quarterly throughout each fiscal year (July – June) and are posted one month prior to the effective date. Co responder Report Codes

Provider Manual Codes





## Co-Responder Budget Workbook

- In collaboration with the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards, a budget template was created and shared with all CSB's to submit their budgets in the same format.
- Individual program budgets are based on community needs and the program model that was implemented. Some programs are with one county or city partner while other programs are taking a multijurisdictional approach.
- The budgets presented are based on the needs of each CSB, to fulfill the requirements of Senate Bill 403.



# Co-Responder Team vs Co-Responder Program

- Senate Bill 403 provides requirements for a co-responder program.
- Funding received for 10 new co-responder programs is \$897,060. Each program receives \$89,706 each.
- The funding set aside allows funding for a behavioral health professional to participate as a team member on the co-responder team but not the development of a co-responder program.
- A team can meet the following elements of Senate Bill 403 given the resources available:
  - Establish a co-responder program to offer assistance or consultation to a partnering law enforcement agency responding to emergency calls involving an individual experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
  - Behavioral health profession available to accompany law enforcement in person or via virtual means or be available for consultation via telephone or telehealth
  - Facilitate training for the behavioral health professional to learn the operations, policies, and procedures of partnering law enforcement agencies.
  - Establish a co-responder protocol committee
  - o Contact an individual who has had a response from a co-responder team within 2 business days
  - o Transfer cases to appropriate CSB area if individual does not live in service area
  - Collect and report data to DBHDD

# **Budget Summary**

#### **Summary Budget Justification**

	Personnel		
Total:		\$	8,851,326
	General Supplies		
Total:		\$	297,843
Transportation - Specific to cost	s incurred by CSB - does not include LEA co-respon	se vehicle	
Total:		\$	234,513
	Technology		
Total:		\$	325,007
	Training		
Total:		\$	166,195
Total Direct Costs:		\$	9,874,885
	Administrative		
Total:		\$	962,063
	Total		
Funding Request:		\$	10,836,948

<sup>\*</sup>This does not include submissions from Avita Community Partners, New Horizons and Serenity.

# **Funding and Sustainability Highlights**

- There are 4 co-responder programs that receive funding outside of DBHDD that will no longer continue to have the funding in FY 2026. There are co-responder programs that have been funded through grants that are coming to an end.
- Two co-responder programs will be partially funded in FY2026 with federal funding.

#### Plan for sustainability:

- A full comprehensive evaluation of co-responder programs can generate evidence of cost-savings by law enforcement, criminal justice, and mental health systems would inform future investments of state and local funds.
- Incident Level Data Collection is soon to come.

# Areas of Progress – Co-Responder Day

The Georgia House of Representatives and Georgia Senate recognized DBHDD and Georgia's Co-Responder programs during Georgia Co-Responder Day at the Capitol on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Legislators took a moment to officially recognize the vital role Co-Responder teams play in connecting individuals in crisis to the care they need with House and Senate Resolutions.





**Areas of Progress – Georgia Co-Responder Conference** 

DBHDD hosted its inaugural Co-Responder Professional Development Conference in February 2025.

Co-Responder teams from across the state had the opportunity to participate in workshops, network with other co-responder teams, brainstorm, and attend interactive sessions.

Plans for a 2<sup>nd</sup> conference February 2026 – Peachtree City, Georgia.



# **Areas of Progress - GPACT**

### Georgia Partnership in Action Co-Responder Training

- Georgia DBHDD received an award to develop a curriculum for statewide coresponder training.
- Specialized training targeting first responders and behavioral health professionals; including effective techniques, language, and sensitivities to the first responder and behavioral health cultures to improve connection and partnership.
- Education on navigating a crisis effectively while in the community (rural and urban) while promoting access to behavioral health treatment and diverting away from the criminal justice system when appropriate.

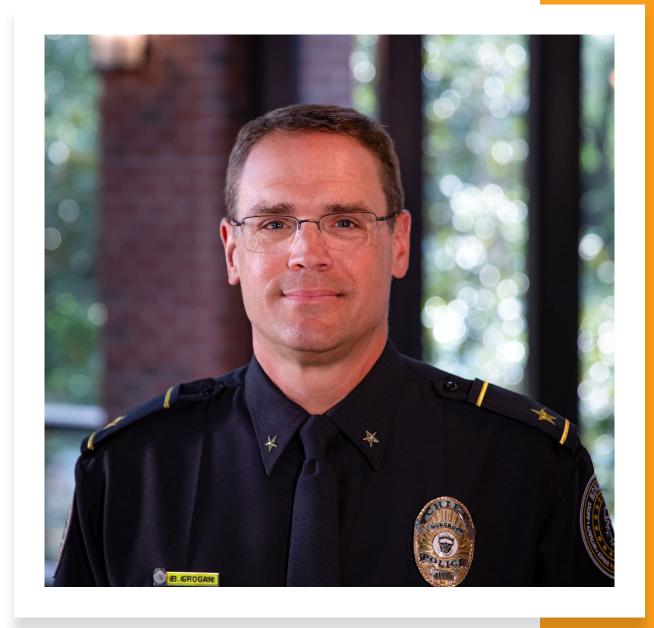


#### Areas of Progress – National Co-Responder Conference

- This year's National Co-Responder Conference took place in Atlanta, GA June 1 – 4, 2025.
- There were over 1200 attendees with 12% of attendees being from Georgia.
- The Conference was hosted by Highland Rivers Behavioral Health and ViewPoint Health.
- Presentations were completed by coresponder teams in Georgia, including a presentation from DBHDD and statewide implementation of co-response.

## Law Enforcement – Impact of Co-Response

Chief Bill Grogan
Chief of Police, Norcross









### **HB 268 | OUR ROLE IN SCHOOL SAFETY**

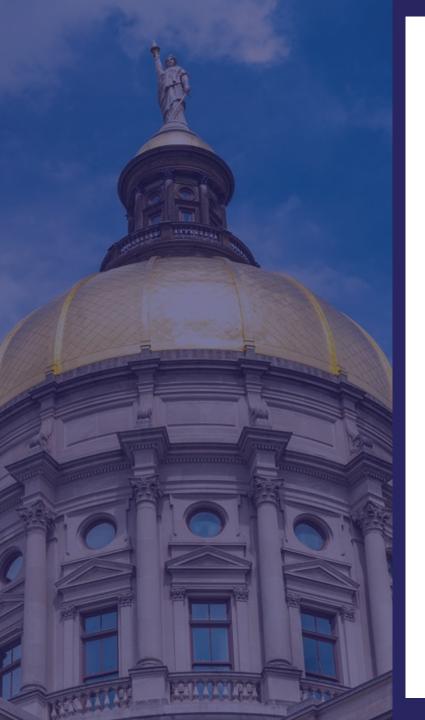
### What is HB 268?

HB 268 aims to enhance the safety, health, and well-being of students and school communities across Georgia. The bill includes new mandates around student records, mental health support, behavioral threat management, school safety infrastructure, and interagency collaboration.

### DBHDD's Role

Subject matter expertise regarding qualifications and training for school-based mental health professionals

Reviewing and providing input on school safety plans and direct assessment/management plans



### House Bill 584

Transfers oversight and licensing authority for several behavioral health-related programs from the Department of Community Health (DCH) to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).

#### **Programs impacted:**

- Drug abuse treatment and education programs
- Narcotic treatment programs
- Community living arrangements
- Adult residential mental health programs

**New governing bodies:** Community Service Boards (CSBs) will serve as the governing bodies for these programs.

Licensing continuity: Rules and regulations created by DCH before December 31, 2025, will remain in effect until formally changed. Existing and provisional licenses issued by DCH will remain valid until they are revoked, renewed, surrendered, or terminated.

#### **Effective date:**

The transition becomes official on January 1, 2026.



### Senate Bill 233

**Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission Updates** 

**Expands the Commission:** Increases membership from 24 to 30 members, adding voices from law enforcement, clinical professionals, advocacy groups, and individuals with lived experience. The bill updates the chair's authority and creates two new workgroups:

- 1. IDD Workgroup
- 2. Addictive Diseases Workgroup

**Extends the Commission's Work:** Pushes the sunset date for the commission from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2026.



### Senate Bill 132

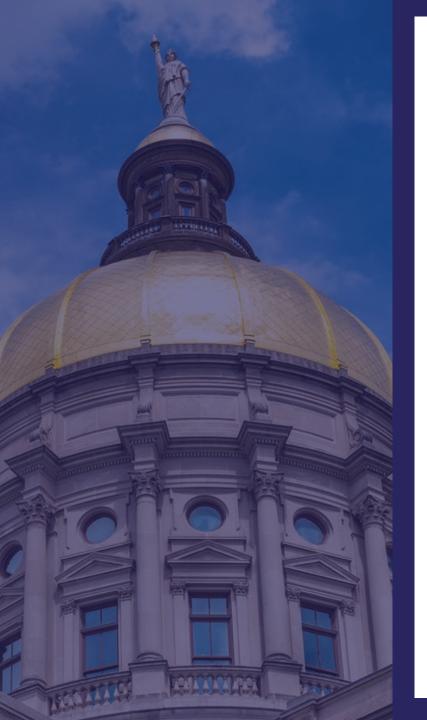
# Improving Georgia's Competency Evaluation Process

#### 1. Hearing Before Evaluation

• A court hearing is now required before ordering a mental competency evaluation if the concern is raised by the defense (accused or their attorney).

#### 2. Confidentiality and Access to Competency Reports

- Competency evaluations must be shared with:
  - The defense attorney (or the accused if representing themselves)
  - The prosecuting attorney
- These reports remain sealed unless a court order allows additional disclosure.



## Senate Bill 132

Specific Rules for *only* Nonviolent Misdemeanor Offenses (not including DUI or domestic violence)

- **1. Faster Evaluation Timeline:** DBHDD must complete a mental competency evaluation **within 45 days** of receiving custody or a court order.
- **2.Shorter Treatment Period:** If the person is found **incompetent but restorable**, DBHDD can provide restoration for up to **120 days**.
- **3.Automatic Dismissal:** If the person is **still incompetent** after the 120-day treatment period, the charges will be dismissed as a matter of law—unless the prosecutor convinces the court there's a legitimate interest in maintaining the charges.
- **4. Referral for Services:** The person will be referred to a **community** service board for services, unless the court orders otherwise.

## Looking Ahead: 2025 Legislation Eligible for Consideration

#### House Bill 612 (Did Not Pass)

House Bill 612 aims to enhance Georgia's Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (BHCC) by adding the Insurance Commissioner as a member and creating a new Parity Compliance Review Panel. This panel would review provider complaints, oversee mental health parity compliance, and recommend actions against insurers not meeting federal and state parity laws. The bill did not receive final passage during the 2025 legislative session.

#### Senate Bill 269 (Did Not Pass)

Senate Bill 269 seeks to modernize and clarify Georgia's legal process for involuntary outpatient commitment under the state's mental health code. The bill would have expanded the authority to initiate outpatient commitments to DBHDD-approved Nurse Examiners, streamlined notification procedures, and added a new code section to support evaluations conducted outside Emergency Receiving, Evaluating, and Treatment (ERET) facilities. The bill did not pass during the 2025 legislative session.

- **Governor Kemp signs 2026 budget with major DBHDD priorities**
- **Reinforces provider rate increases**
- Enhances access to services across divisions
- Supports DOJ compliance
- ✓ Invests in hospital infrastructure
- Reflects trust in DBHDD's direction and mission

FISCAL YEAR 2026 Adult Addictive Diseases Services	Line #	Conference Committee
Increase funds for alcohol use disorder peer support	62.2	\$1,000,000
FISCAL YEAR 2026 Adult Mental Health Services	Line #	Conference Committee
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]	66.4	\$12,528,923
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 (HB 584)	<b>66.5</b>	\$1,126,455
Increase funds for the Georgia Housing Voucher program to support the requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement	66.9	\$1,701,600
Increase funds for a North Fulton behavioral health crisis center	66.10	\$9,481,532

FISCAL YEAR 2026 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		\$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
FISCAL YEAR 2026 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

FISCAL YEAR 2026 Adult Forensic Services	Line #	Conference Committee
Increase funds to annualize the operations of a 30-bed jail-based competency restoration program pilot in Dodge County.	65.1	\$1,055,621
Increase funds to operationalize a new 20-bed forensic unit at the Skilled Nursing Facility Georgia Regional Hospital in Atlanta.	65.2	\$1,185,089
Increase funds to operationalize a new 30-bed Operation New Hope forensic step-down unit at the West Central Georgia Regional Hospital in Columbus.	65.3	\$1,618,742
Increase funds to operationalize a new 17-bed forensic unit at the Central State Hospital Allen Building in Milledgeville.	65.4	\$1,953,245
FISCAL YEAR 2026 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.	380.41	\$10,000,000

# Litigation Update - Lawsuit Dismissed

Belton v. Georgia – Consent Decree Entered Into 2014 Dismissed in Its Entirety – 2025



#### DBHDD has met the terms of the federal consent decree.

- Improved statewide mental health services for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals
- Built lasting infrastructure: Deaf Services Office, qualified ASL-fluent providers, and crisis access



# **2025 Opioid Grant Applications**

#### As of June 12

- 48 applications submissions
  - 20 state
  - 28 regional
- 261 draft applications

# **2025 Opioid Grant Workshops**

- May 2: Savannah
- May 2: Tifton
- May 5: Atlanta (in person & virtual)
- May 6: Dalton





\$30 MILLION IN OPIOID TRUST FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE

The Trust will accept 2025 grant applications from May 19 - June 18.



Georgia's Trust. Georgia's Fight.

Every County. Every Dollar. Every Life.







# Board Engagement Highlights





**Breakthru House** 

**Break the Stigma – Atlanta Braves Game** 

**Journey of Hope Documentary** 









Crisis Services
Diagnostic
Center Grand
Opening







# Chair's Report

Lasa Joiner Chair

# Public Comment



