

# 2017-2018 REGION 3 TOP PRIORITIES WITH KEY STRATEGIES

Below are the three top priorities for **Region 3** for 2017-18

## **Priority 1: Community Awareness**

### **Increase community awareness of DBHDD diagnosis and treatment services**

Key Strategies:

1. Develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Department of Labor, and Georgia Department of Rehabilitative Services (GDHS) and the university system of Georgia to address all the issues of transitional school-age individuals with developmental disabilities.
2. Establish a single point of access for handling all waiver requests statewide.
3. Manage resources appropriately.  
(1) Support coordinators need to educate consumers and their caregivers about available community resources provided by volunteer groups, peer support programs, and faith-based groups. (2) DBHDD managers need to keep support coordinators timely informed about changes in program and funding availability. (3) Consumers and their caregivers need to receive timely information about the status of their requests for services and changes in available funding that affect that status.
4. Support individuals who qualify for the Developmental Disability Exceptional Rate especially when they have complicated medical issues.
5. Request carve-out funds from the HOPE Scholarship to fund waivers for young adults leaving school at graduation. Also cover tuition for young adults with developmental disabilities to attend specialized programs developing at some colleges across the state (e.g., Kennesaw State, Georgia Southern)
6. A regional SPLOST is needed to fully fund needed services for all disability groups served in Region 3.
7. In order to identify children and adolescents in need of services from DBHDD, place a mental health professional in all county and city schools in Region 3.

## **Priority 2: Justice System**

### **Improve collaboration, communication, and education among all facets of the Criminal Justice System(s)**

Key Strategy:

Place two professionals in Gwinnett, DeKalb, and Fulton counties to work with judges, jails, police officers, and mental health courts. This would be six new staff for Region 3.

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## **Priority 3: Children and Adolescents**

**Develop services that address the needs of children and adolescents with behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases.**

Key Strategies:

1. Develop more in-school counseling for behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases.
2. Develop step-down treatment programs which are therapeutic but less intensive than a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) and a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU).
3. Develop providers who deliver more quality and creative programming and care.
4. Start an adolescent substance abuse residential treatment program in Region 3.
5. Secure funding to provide different levels of housing to offer intensive, independent and semi-independent, supervised, permanent, transitional, and respite options.