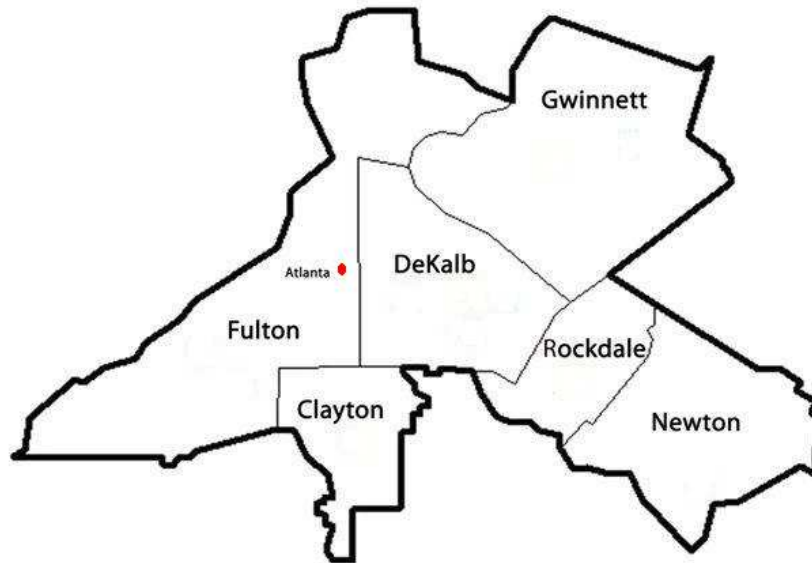




Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Region Three Planning Board 2016 Annual Plan



Elizabeth Beskin, Board Vice-Chair

2016 Annual Plan Contents

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1. Executive Summary

The Region Three Planning Board shares the state's obligation along with The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to plan a service delivery system that is recovery based and person-centered. The Region Three Planning Board facilitates coordinated and comprehensive planning for mental health, addictive disease, and developmental disability services for citizens of the region who rely on state supported services to live a successful life in the community.

The mission of the DBHDD provides guidance for the Planning Board. This mission is to provide high-quality, health care opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities or behavioral health challenges close to their homes, so they can live a life of independence and recovery and create a sustainable, self-sufficient and resilient life in their community.

Region 3 is comprised of 6 counties: Clayton, Dekalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale. Region 3 includes the capital city of Atlanta. The six counties in Region 3 have a total population of 2,980,121. This represents almost 30% of Georgia's total population.

Region 3 is home to three Community Service Boards (CSB's), 175 behavioral health and addictive disease providers for adults and children and adolescents, and over 200 developmental disability providers.

In Region 3, it is estimated, using prevalence data, that 42,000 adults with serious mental illness are in need of state supported services, over 13,000 youth with serious emotional disorders need services from the public system and 64,982 adults are struggling with an addictive disease disorder.

Currently the Region 3 office oversees services to 3,028 individuals with developmental disabilities living in the community through the NOW and COMP Medicaid waivers and 200 individuals receiving state funded services. In addition, Region 3 has 2,241 individuals on the NOW/COMP waiver planning lists, (1,300 individuals on long term planning list and 941 on short term planning list).

The priority needs, identified later in this plan, for the six counties were identified based upon informal feedback received by persons and/or family participating in DBHDD services, information gathered at public meetings/community forums and review of regional data.

2. Region Three DBHDD Planning Board Membership

Clayton County:

Brent Benedetti, Deborah Lazarus Brenda Roberts

Dekalb County:

Walter Bradley, Vivica Brown, John Caruso, Phyllis Cole, Barbara Crawford, Dr. Rosa Fitzhugh, Ellen Garlin, Freda Hammonds, Jean Logan, Rosa McPherson-Greene, Christopher Valley

Fulton County:

Dr. Patricia Benton, Cecelia Muhammad, Joseph E. Sanders, Charles Schoen, Nancy Sellers

Gwinnett County:

Solomon Alexander, Gina Callicotte, Dinah Gerone, Rogenia Griffin, Jackie McNair,

Newton County:

Rockdale County:

Stephanie Thomas

3. Description of the Region

Region 3 includes six counties: Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale. Region 3 is largely urban and includes the city of Atlanta. According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2013 County Population Estimates, these six counties have a **total population of 2,980,121** or roughly 30% of the state's total population. Populations for the six counties are as follows:

- Clayton **265,888**
- DeKalb **707,089**
- Fulton **977,773**
- Gwinnett **842,046**
- Newton **101,505**
- Rockdale **85,820**

The population is made up of **51.5%** female and **48.5%** male. African Americans make up **43.6%** of the population, Caucasians make up **46.8%** and the Hispanic/Latino population equals **12.4%** of the region's population. Seven percent (**7%**) of the population are Asian. Region 3 is diverse culturally with over 60 languages spoken.

Region Three is diverse geographically. There are large metropolitan areas with major economic development and smaller more rural communities with fewer resources.

The region is diverse economically with **35.5%** of its residents below 200% of poverty as compared with statewide totals of **37.7%**. The Per Capita Income for Georgia is **\$37,449** whereas for Region Three it is **\$42,830**. The region is home to twenty-eight (28) institutions of higher education.

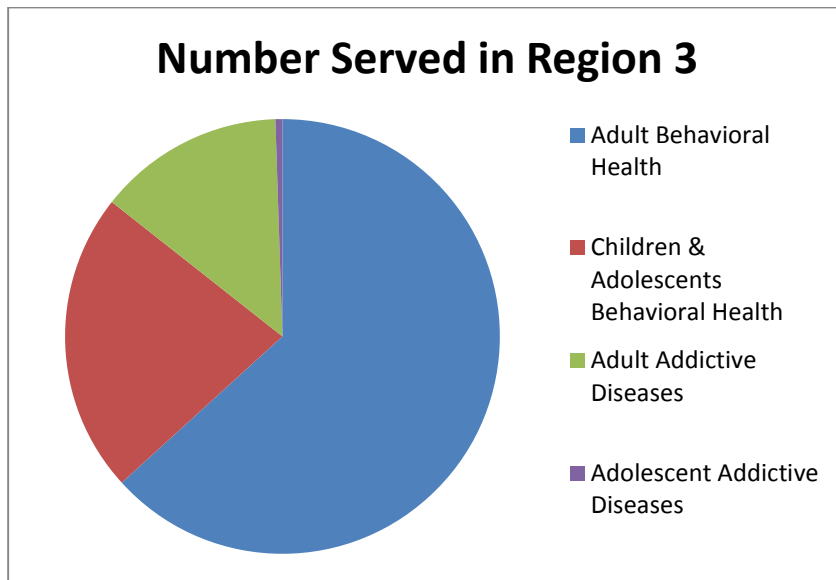
Region 3 is home to Grady Memorial Hospital. The psychiatric emergency services at Grady treats over 15,000 crisis episodes in a year.

Region 3 is also home to Hartsfield/Jackson International airport, the busiest airport in the world.

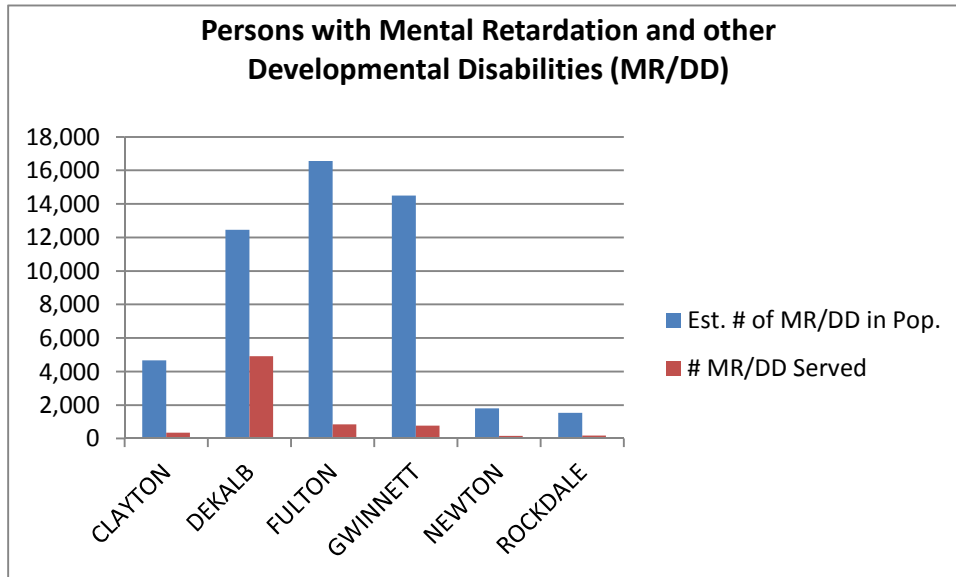
4. Assessment of Regional Needs

Below is a chart representing the number of people who received **Behavioral Health** services in Region 3 during fiscal year 2013.

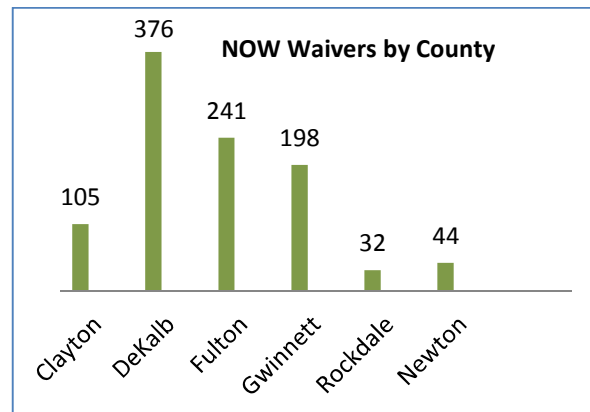
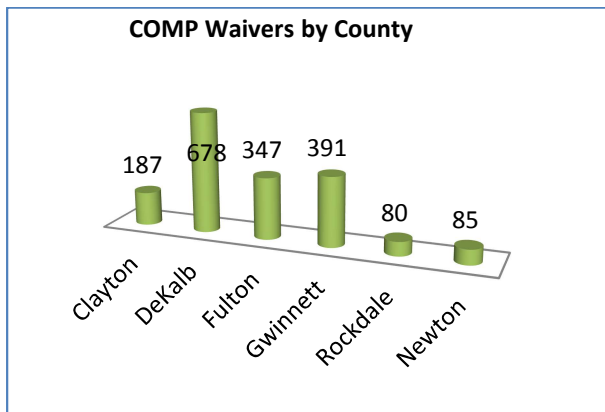
| Behavioral Health Services | Number of people needing public services in Region 3 | Number Served in Region 3 | Percent of Need Met in Region 3 | Percent of Need Met Statewide |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Adult Behavioral Health | 41,283 | 28,851 | 69.9 | 81.8 |
| Children & Adolescents Behavioral Health | 13,502 | 6,516 | 48.3 | 44.5 |
| Adult Addictive Diseases | 64,982 | 5,730 | 8.8 | 13.0 |
| Adolescent Addictive Diseases | 9,270 | 156 | 1.7 | 2.3 |



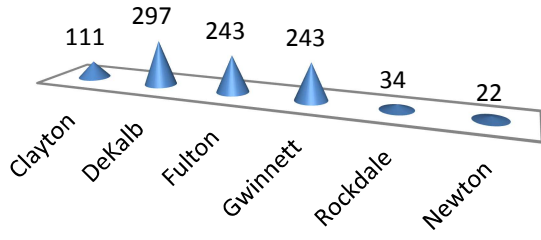
Below is a chart demonstrating the number of individuals receiving **developmental disability** services, compared with the estimated need, by county in Region 3 during fiscal year 2013.



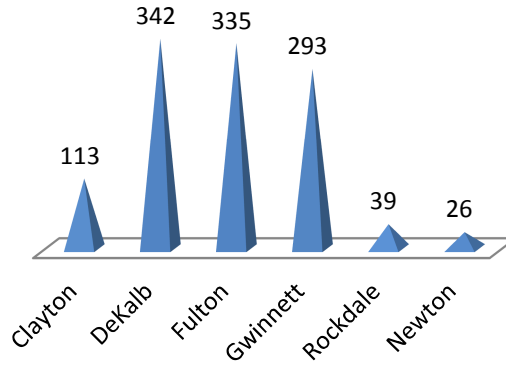
The estimated need in Region 3 for individuals with developmental disability service is 53,643. The number of individuals who received a developmental disability service in Region 3 last year is 6,018. This number includes individuals on the NOW/COMP Medicaid waivers and individuals and families who received a state funded service. This number represents 11.2% of the need for DD services in Region 3. Across the state, 12.7% of the DD need was met.



Short Term Planning List by County



Long Term Planning List by County



5. Regional Planning Board Priorities

The Region Three Planning Board has identified the 2016 priorities through informal feedback received from persons and/or families participating in DBHDD services, information gathered at public meetings/community forums and review of regional data.

The Region Three Planning Board would first like to acknowledge and support the most recent priorities of the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network. These 5 priorities are:

Affordable, accessible housing

Access to affordable medical, dental, eye care, including medications

Education Opportunities/Supported Education/Job Training

Higher wages for Peer staff including CPS's

Jobs/Employment/Supported Employment

In addition, the following information represents **Adult Behavioral Health** priorities for Region 3 .

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) is a short-term residential program operated for the purpose of providing psychiatric stabilization and detoxification services in a community based setting rather than inpatient hospitalization. This brief, intensive crisis service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Region 3 has 2 crisis stabilization units (CSU) for adults and 1 CSU for children and adolescents. Dekalb Community Service Board operates one of the adult CSU's. Viewpoint Health operates the second adult CSU as well as the child and the adolescent CSU. The adult CSU operated by Dekalb CSB has 36 beds and the adult CSU operated by Viewpoint has 16 beds. Utilization of these beds average 100%. Approximately 20 % of all admissions have a diagnosis of substance abuse only, approximately 50 percent are diagnosed co-occurring and 30 percent have a diagnosis of mental illness only.

The CSU for children and adolescents operated by Viewpoint Health has 27 beds and also operates at an average of 90 - 95% of capacity.

It should be noted that CSU services are "shared statewide" in that if all beds in Region 3 are full and another bed is needed, the referral could go to the nearest CSU outside the region. Region 3 needs an adequate number of CSU beds given the population to fulfill the mission of providing services in a person's home community

Additional CSU beds for adults are needed in region 3.

Supportive Housing services are currently defined by 3 levels; intensive, semi-independent and independent. An intensive service provides individuals with 24/7 staff supervision. Semi-independent is defined as individuals having their own apartment with staff on-site for at least 36 hours per week. Independent residential service provides residential assistance to individuals who require a low level of residential structure. Region 3 has 7 state funded providers of supportive housing to either people with a mental health issue and/or people with addiction.

As a result of the ADA settlement and in an effort to expand supportive housing throughout the state, the Department began administering the Georgia Housing Voucher Program (GHVP). This program supplies 12-month state funded housing vouchers to those meeting criteria. At the end of the GHV, the individual would transition to their own tenant based section 8, a shelter plus care placement or other residential options that may better meet their needs. In addition the GHVP voucher, the Department is making available **Bridge Funding** of up to \$3000.00 for each signed lease.

Currently region 3 leads the state in number of vouchers/signed leases at 344 with an additional 79 having been approved and are awaiting the individual and his/her provider to locate, secure and set up the apartment. Region 3 has approved bridge funding for 412 individuals enrolled in GHVP.

Additional intensive and semi independent supportive housing services and better access housing resources are needed in region 3.

Supportive Employment assists individuals with job development, placement, training and support to get and keep jobs. Having a job creates a sense of hope and opportunity which is a vital part of one's recovery. Region 3 provides state funded supported employment services to 272 individuals through 4 different providers.

Increased access to supportive employment services is needed in Region 3.

Peer Support programs provide day services which include structured activities to promote socialization, recovery, wellness, self-advocacy, development of natural supports and maintenance of community living skills. These programs occur within a peer support center. Region 3 is home to 4 peer support centers.

Additional Peer Support services are needed in Region 3.

Detoxification Services and specifically ambulatory detox is a best practice in addictive disease treatment.

Increased access to detoxification services including service for people for whom English is not their primary language is needed in Region 3.

The following are the **developmental disabilities** priorities in Region 3.

Additional NOW and COMP waiver funding was, hands down, the need identified and vocalized the most, and the loudest, at every public meeting. The data clearly illustrates the need. Region 3 has 941 individuals on the short-term planning list and 1,300 individuals on the long-term planning list. The waivers are necessary for these individuals to be able to live successfully in the community and gain the skills of independence. Not only is this funding critical to older adults now living with elderly parents but is also necessary for young adults who are at that critical transition in life, graduating from school.

Increased access to transportation services.

Increase in the quality of the provider pool to include specialized providers for those individuals with medical complexities (those individuals transitioning from hospitals).