



Governor's Office of Health Strategy and Coordination

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Voices Georgia Child and Adolescent Health Coalition (CAHC)

November 7, 2022



Creation of OHSC

- The Office of Health Strategy and Coordination (OHSC) was established after passage of House Bill 186 (2019 Session)
- OHSC operates as a division of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- Governor Kemp appointed a Director in June 2021 and OHSC now consists of four full time staff
- **Mission:** To break down the silos between government agencies, health care providers, and health care consumers and to promote health care policies that increase access and quality



Powers and Duties

- Strengthen and support the health care infrastructure of the state through interconnecting health functions and sharing resources across multiple state agencies and overcoming barriers to the coordination of health functions
- Facilitate collaboration and coordination between state agencies, coordinating state health functions and programs, serving as a forum for identifying Georgia's specific health issues of greatest concern, and promoting cooperation from both public and private agencies to test new and innovative ideas
- Advise the Governor's Office on all healthcare policy issues



Mental Health Parity Act (HB 1013)/Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission (BHRIC)

- *HB 1013 codifies the recommendations from the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission (BHRIC) as part of the effort to overhaul current behavioral and mental health processes in the State of Georgia and create alignment with federal mental health parity laws.*
- *Revamps multiple aspects of the mental and behavioral health continuum of care and create much needed parity in state mental health care.*
- **Workforce Specific:**
 - Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce tasked with the creation of a behavioral health care workforce database – this will help inform policy decisions that could address the shortage in rural and underserved areas
 - Loan repayment options for licensed professionals are currently being explored



HB 1013 – OHSC Duties

HB 1013 assigned OHSC with overseeing the coordination of mental health policy and behavioral health services, including those for children, across state agencies by:

- Developing solutions to the systemic barriers or problems impeding the delivery of behavioral health services by making recommendations that address funding, policy changes, practice changes; establish specific goals designed to improve the delivery of behavioral health services, increase behavioral health access and outcome for individuals, including children, adolescents, and adults served by various state agencies;
- Establishing common outcome measures that are to be utilized for and represented in evaluation and progress of various state agencies that manage and oversee mental health services;
- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of established goals and recommendations to improve behavioral health access across prevention, intervention, and treatment; and
- Focusing on specific goals designed to resolve issues relative to the provision of behavioral health services that negatively impact individuals, including children, adolescents, and adults served by various state agencies



HB 1013 – OHSC Duties Continued

HB 1013 further expanded on OHSC's in statute with the following changes and charges:

- Adds DECAL, DJJ, GDC, and DCS to the list of state agencies with which we are to facilitate collaboration and coordination.
- Creating a comprehensive unified formulary for mental health and substance use disorder prescriptions under Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, and the SHBP by December 1, 2022.
- Conducting a transport study of individuals to and from emergency receiving, evaluation, and treatment facilities and report its findings by January 1, 2023.
- Partnering with GDC and DJJ to provide ongoing evaluation of mental health wraparound services and connectivity to local mental health resources to meet the needs of clients in the state reentry plan.
- Partnering with DCS to evaluate the ability to share mental health data between state and local agencies, such as community service boards DCS to assist state and local agencies in identifying and treating those under community supervision who are also receiving community based mental health services;
- Partnering with community service boards to ensure that behavioral health services are made available and provided to children, adolescents, and adults through direct services, contracted services, or collaboration with state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and colleges and universities.
- Centralizing the ongoing and comprehensive planning, policy, and strategy development across state agencies, Medicaid CMOs and fee for service providers, and private insurance partners.
- Examining methods to increase access to certified peer specialists in rural and other underserved or unserved communities and identifying any impediments to such access.



HB 1013 – ERET Transport Study

- HB 1013 required OHSC to conduct a study of emergency transport to and from Emergency Receiving, Evaluation, and Treatment (ERET) facilities
 - Over facilities across the state including healthcare facilities such as crisis stabilization units, acute care hospitals, and psychiatric hospitals
 - OHSC has partnered with the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) to facilitate this study, and CVIOG conducting a 6-week voluntary survey of all ERET facilities to collect transport data
 - Data collected from participating facilities including length of stay, originating county of transport, transportation method for intake and discharge, and whether the patient is a minor. This data will give policymakers a clearer picture of the state's mental health crisis transport system with respect to ERET facilities when presented in the final report.
 - Stakeholder groups include groups such as local law enforcement, national medical transportation associations, and more



CMO Contracts

- Per O.C.G.A. § 31-53-3(b)(6), OHSC is responsible for reviewing the Medicaid care management organization (CMO) contracts and making recommendations to the Department of Community Health (DCH) prior to the next procurement cycle
- Over the last several months, we conducted our review of the current CMO contract provisions, including a survey of current topics, programs, policies, and innovations in other states
- Submitted a report to DCH last month of recommendations spanning several topic areas for consideration as they work to draft the RFP for the new Medicaid CMO procurement cycle and solicit feedback from stakeholders



CMO Contracts– Contract Review Findings

- Programmatic considerations and opportunities:
 - Connect some of the broader aims of quality-based supplemental payment programs to value-based initiatives
 - Reduce administrative burden
 - Improve care coordination
 - Incentivize social determinants of health, implement health equity related goals
 - Adopt more prescriptive contract language that clearly lays out expectations in detail to support oversight of the Medicaid program as a whole



Public Health Emergency Unwinding

- During the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), Georgia received an enhanced FMAP rate under the condition of not terminating coverage for individuals enrolled as of or after March 18, 2020
- Georgia is preparing for the PHE unwinding and the impending redeterminations that will begin once the PHE expires



PHE Timeline

- **PHE timeline**

- Renewed on October 13, 2022
- In effect since January 31, 2020
- Provides states an additional 6.2% FMAP
- Most recent extension will last at least through January 11, 2023
- HHS will issue a 60-day notice prior to the end of the PHE



PHE Unwinding - Waivers and Flexibilities Approved for Georgia

- 1902(e)(14)(A) Waivers
 - Targeted SNAP Strategy
 - Targeted TANF Strategy
 - Beneficiaries with No Income Renewal
 - Streamlining Asset Verification
 - CMO Beneficiary Contact Updates
 - NCOA and/or USPS Contact Updates



PHE Unwinding – Community Outreach

DHS created a website to ensure individuals are aware of the PHE and ensuring their information is up to date: <https://staycovered.ga.gov/>



English ▾

Current Georgia Medicaid Members

Follow the instructions below to update your contact information.

Update your current account or create an account at gateway.ga.gov to stay in the know about your Medicaid status.

When you visit, please complete all required fields.

You have the option to choose how you would like to receive notifications. Select “email” to get convenient updates online. More instructions are [here](#).

If you select “email”, please enter the **primary email address** where you regularly access your email online to receive timely notifications. Note: If your immediate family members/children are covered by Medicaid and have an account on Georgia Gateway, please make sure you list **the same primary email address** for each member of your family.

When you visit Georgia Gateway, please scroll to find the following options:

- Click on **“Manage My Account/Login”** if you have used gateway.ga.gov to manage Medicaid benefits before. (You may have already used gateway.ga.gov to apply for or manage Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, MA, CAPS, or WIC benefits.)
- Click on **“Create an Account”** if you have not used gateway.ga.gov before.



ps://gateway.ga.gov/access/



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Big changes may be coming to your Medicaid coverage.

When the federal government ends the COVID public health emergency, Georgia, and all other states, will be required to check who is still eligible to receive Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® coverage.

Take action to stay in charge of your coverage. Update your contact information today to receive important updates, resources, and alerts!





OHSC received funding in the FY2023 budget to support a project related to hospital price transparency as well as the collection of nursing data that will help address workforce issues

- Nursing Data - working with the Board of Nursing and the Secretary of State's Office to determine what data is already collected through surveys administered as part of the licensing process
- Hospital Transparency - GDAC is assisting OHSC in creating a data dashboard that will display survey findings in a comparative, useful format
 - Hospital price transparency and legislation passed in 2019 that increased reporting requirements for hospitals to increase public transparency of their financial and operational information through DCH's Hospital Financial Survey



Data Sharing

- Examined the practice of data sharing in state government and approaches taken by other states to optimize interagency data sharing in Georgia
- Identified the benefits and need for state agencies with shared clients spanning multiple programs and delivery systems to be able to share data
- Barriers:
 - State's health agencies are organized in silos that allow for specialization in different areas of health care but are considered separate entities for data sharing purposes
 - In Georgia, there is not a uniform statewide process or system by which interagency data sharing occurs. In terms of process, this means there is no statewide protocol for agencies to submit requests for data from another agency



Data Sharing, Continued

- Key Findings/Ongoing Work
 - Legal framework of information sharing is an important piece of responsible data sharing; state and federal laws must be considered regardless of whether a data use agreement or MOU is utilized
 - States have had success in balancing privacy laws and optimizing data exchanges, effecting a cultural shift in attitudes around interagency data sharing
 - The Georgia Data Analytic Center (GDAC) created by HB 197 in 2019 has established an integrated data system with the authority to seek out data from state agencies to further research and inform policy decisions to support the health, safety, and security of Georgia citizens
 - Revisiting SB 374 (2022) authored by Senator Blake Tillery, which would have made GDAC an agent of all executive state agencies for sharing government information
 - Working closely with BHRIC



Thank You!

Questions & Discussion

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