

The Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health is part of the Georgia Health Policy Center, housed within Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. The center was created in partnership with the Office of Children, Young Adults and Families at the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

The Center of Excellence employs a three-pronged focus on research, policy, and practice. The center is engaged in providing:

- workforce development through technical assistance and training to build the capacity of the state's behavioral health workforce
- research and evaluation to monitor and assess behavioral health services for providers and state agencies to measure program effectiveness
- consultative policy analysis services for local, state, and national partners focusing on financing structures and service delivery opportunities for improving behavioral health systems of care

The Center of Excellence identifies specific vulnerable populations who may have unique or significant behavioral health needs, as well as evidence-based or promising practices that can support their mental health wellness.

The Center of Excellence works extensively throughout the state of Georgia and is developing relationships with other centers of excellence and behavioral health organizations around the country. With a skilled team, working in tandem with a broad array of partners, the Center of Excellence supports the development and implementation of a sustainable System of Care that is individualized, comprehensive, coordinated, culturally competent, and driven by child and family needs.

TOPICAL AREAS

- System of Care for children's behavioral health
- School-based mental health
- Wraparound services for children with serious emotional disorders
- Transition-aged youth
- Substance use disorder
- Attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorder
- Suicide prevention
- Promoting socioemotional well-being
- Mental Health First Aid
- Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

VISION

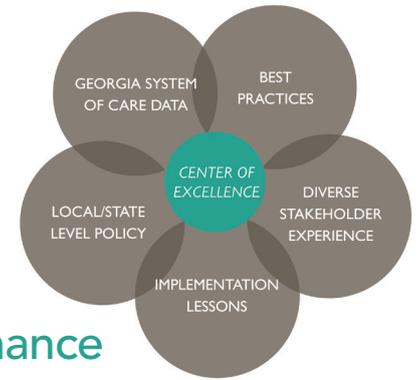
Children, young adults, and families will have improved quality of life and a productive future as a result of systems that promote optimum behavioral health.

CORE FUNCTIONS

- Creating an integrated data hub
- Conducting objective research and evaluation
- Translating evidence-driven models into practice
- Providing thought leadership with a systems perspective
- Developing community-based workforce capacity
- Providing program implementation support

OUR WORK

Translating Evidence into Policy and Practice



Workforce Development

The Center of Excellence provides training, technical assistance, and programmatic implementation for local and state partners. Current work to build capacity within the behavioral health workforce includes:

- Providing training in High Fidelity Wraparound, Trauma-Informed Systems, Transition to Independence Process, and Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Designing curricula to ensure ongoing quality improvement and post-training sustainability
- Providing technical assistance to provider groups and behavioral health agencies to enhance peer-to-peer coaching to ensure capacity development throughout the behavioral health system

Research and Evaluation

The Center of Excellence provides fidelity monitoring, process and outcomes evaluation, and data-informed technical assistance for public and private behavioral health service providers and state agencies. We help to translate qualitative and quantitative data to support policy and program implementation, management, and practice. Our research and evaluation services include:

- Conducting environmental scans and literature reviews
- Monitoring program and model fidelity
- Supporting program implementation and continuous quality-improvement activities
- Engaging in cross-agency Systems of Care service costs, utilization, and outcome analyses
- Designing, administering, and analyzing surveys
- Conducting implementation, operations, and outcomes research
- Developing dissemination products that support knowledge sharing

Policy and Finance

The Center of Excellence conducts unbiased research on financing structures and service delivery opportunities to inform behavioral health practice and policy. We provide oversight, strategic meeting facilitation, and data support to the Interagency Directors Team, a collaborative of multiple child-serving agencies in Georgia, and public and private partners. Project examples include:

- Research on finance structures and delivery system opportunities for behavioral health
- Facilitation and support for collaborative policy workgroups
- Trusted data compilation, analysis, and dissemination relevant to implementation of a sustainable behavioral health System of Care

Special Projects

The Center of Excellence's special projects focus on the behavioral health needs of vulnerable populations. This complements the systemwide work of the workforce development, research and evaluation, and policy and finance teams. Current special projects focus on building capacity within the behavioral health workforce in the areas of prevention, intervention, and treatment for:

- Suicide prevention and intervention with students
- Youth and emerging adults experiencing first-episode psychosis (Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Behavioral Therapy)
- Youth exposed to sexual exploitation or human trafficking

Other projects focus on promoting behavioral health and well-being among youth and emerging adults involved in the justice system; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, and two-spirit youth and emerging adults; and youth involved in the foster care system.

CONTACT US

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