Snapshot of Child and Adolescent Behavioral Services in Georgia

- Telehealth Behavioral Health Pilot in Lamar County Schools (DPH lead, interagency participation)
- County with schools trained in PBIS (DOE)
- Child Advocacy Center of Georgia (CACG)
- SBHCs with behavioral health services
- County with Project APEX (DBHDD); school-based behavioral health services
- County with DBHDD Mental Health Clubhouse locations
- School districts using the Georgia Partnership for Telehealth network

- 2 Behavioral Health Pilots
- PBIS
- CACGA
- Project LAUNCH
- Project AWARE
- PBIS
- CACGA location
- DBHDD Substance Abuse and Mental Health Clubhouses
CURRENT CHILD & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROJECTS IN GEORGIA

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**

**DECAL’s Inclusion and Behavior Support Unit**
Promotes healthy social-emotional development in young children with disabilities or challenging behaviors through supports to early childhood professionals, families, and children.

**CHRIS180’s New Generation**
Equips parents and caregivers of children 0-12 with strategies to strengthen familial relationships and improve responses to challenging behaviors.

**SCHOOL-BASED ACCESS**

**Project APEX**
Increases school-based behavioral health capacity through Community Service Boards (CSBs) and several private providers. They both develop partnerships with local schools to provide behavioral health services. Funding: DBHDD State Funds.

**Project AWARE**
Built capacity of state and local educational agencies to increase awareness of mental and substance abuse issues through student screenings and school staff trainings. Grant funding ended September 2019, but to sustain project goals, several school districts have been trained in, and are implementing frameworks, tools and strategies (e.g., Youth Mental Health First Aid, Sources of Strength, Suicide Prevention) to improve mental health outcomes among Georgia’s youth.

**SBHCs**
School-Based Health Centers: Improve children’s access to health services. 10 SBHCs provide mental and behavioral health services through on-site services in partnership with community providers. Funding: Foundation grants for start-up costs, insurance billing for sustainability.

**PBIS**
Positive Behavior Intervention Supports in schools: Facilitates positive school climate and timely identification of behavioral health needs for students. A network of 1100+ schools and programs representing 50% of Georgia local educational agencies continue implementation with fidelity. Funding: DOE state funds PBIS specialists in each Regional Educational Service Agency.

**TELEMEDICINE & TELEHEALTH**

**DPH**
Department of Public Health: Identified need for mental and behavioral health telehealth services. DPH is leading an interagency pilot to augment on-site school-based health services with behavioral health via telehealth. Funding: DPH state funds provided equipment.

**GPTH**
Georgia Partnership for Telehealth: 49 schools have telehealth equipment to be used for behavioral health services through the GPTH network. Funding: GPTH grant; school budget for staff time; Medicaid.

**OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME**

**Club Houses**
Mental Health Resiliency Club Houses: DBHDD supports six clubhouses statewide to provide supportive services, e.g., educational, social, and employment support geared to engage youth and assist them in managing behaviors and symptoms.

**ASYD**
After School and Youth Development Quality Standards: A tool designed to help ensure afterschool and youth development programs and provide environments that benefit youth socially, emotionally, and academically. Funding: DFCS, DOE, DECAL

**PEER SUPPORT**

**Specialists**
Parent and Youth Certified Peer Specialists: Parent and Youth Certified Peer Specialists (CPS’s) assist parent and youth with mental health and substance use conditions by providing direct peer support from a foundation of lived experience. Funding: DBHDD state budget for the training and certification of Peer Specialists; Service interventions reimbursed through DBHDD and DCH (Medicaid).

Sources: https://tinyurl.com/BHSnapshot2019

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