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7-25-2016

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Health Policy Center, "Policy and Finance at the Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health" (2016). *GHPC Materials*. 107.

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Policy and Finance at the Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health

The Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health relies on a three-pronged approach integrating research, policy, and practice. Our areas of focus are complementary in promoting effective behavioral health systems in Georgia.

The Center of Excellence's policy and finance team provides consultative research and analysis services for local, state, and national partners, as well as facilitation and support for collaborative policy workgroups.

Translating Evidence into Policy and Practice

The Center of Excellence conducts policy analysis on financing structures and service delivery opportunities to support the development and implementation of a sustainable behavioral health System of Care. Current topics of analysis include: Medicaid financing opportunities for behavioral health, human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder policy, and school-based mental health services.

The Center of Excellence's Approach

Gathering Credible Evidence:

Literature reviews; scans of the legislative environment; local, statewide, or national surveys; and key stakeholder and focus group interviews can all be conducted to inform analysis and policy.

Data-Informed Analysis:

In addition to comprehensive policy assessments of a single topic, comparative analysis or modeling can enable objective assessment of multiple options and the expected impact of each, given other system-wide factors.

Translation of Evidence:

By fostering the right environment and informing discussions with evidence-based information and objective analysis, policymakers are enabled to approach complex problems from a knowledgeable, systems-informed perspective.

Reporting of Findings:

Dissemination of policy findings through reports, briefs, toolkits, blueprints, and presentations can inform the financing strategies and service design for children and emerging adults with behavioral health issues.



**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR
CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
integrating research, policy, and practice

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Our Standards

The Center of Excellence holds itself to rigorous standards, making it a trusted third-party, capable of producing impartial and meticulous policy analysis. These standards ensure that the analysis is tailored to the partner's needs, yet methodically produced to support decision-making associated with improving the effectiveness of Georgia's behavioral health systems.

Guiding Principles

Systematic Inquiry:	Conducts systematic reviews of the literature, environmental, and legislative landscape
Competence:	Provides rigorous and comprehensive deliverables to our partnering stakeholders
Integrity:	Displays honesty, integrity, and objectiveness in all work and research
Respect:	Respects the security, dignity, and privacy of program participants, clients, respondents, and all stakeholders
Responsibility for Public Welfare:	Supports development and implementation of a sustainable System of Care that is individualized, comprehensive, coordinated, culturally competent, and driven by child and family needs

Project Example

GEORGIA'S INTERAGENCY DIRECTORS TEAM

Georgia's Interagency Directors Team (IDT), a multi-agency, public-private collaborative, works to promote better child and adolescent behavioral health in the state. The IDT was created by Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities in order to implement an integrated approach to achieve collective impact in the child and adolescent System of Care. This approach informs policy and practice, and allows for shared resources and funding. IDT consists of more than 20 representatives from state agencies and non-governmental organizations that serve children with behavioral health needs.

The Center of Excellence provides comprehensive strategic research and backbone support services to IDT. These services include:

- Facilitation of an interagency framework with memorandum of understanding and operating guidelines for collaborative development and sustainability
- Strategic planning and facilitation of monthly meetings and progress toward System of Care goals
- Promotion of and support for interagency data sharing
- Qualitative and quantitative data compilation and analysis relevant to yearly strategic System of Care goals in areas such as: juvenile justice reform; services and supports for emerging adults; and appropriate diagnosis and treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder among young children.
- Dissemination of annual report and informational materials related to strategic Georgia System of Care topics and collaborative work.

