

# Georgia Mental Health Recommendations Matrix



Policies to Address Barriers and Increase Collaboration				
Mental health service or policy recommendation	Governor's Mental Health Commission <sup>i</sup>	Chief Justice-Led Task Force on CJ/MH <sup>ii</sup>	Chiefs of Police Report <sup>iii</sup>	Notes/Opportunities
<b>Criminal Justice</b>				
Require mandatory reporting by MH professionals when patient expresses feelings or thoughts of harming others or in committing actions opposed to public safety.			X	Note: This recommendation may result in significant opposition by disability rights advocates. An alternative to achieving the presumed goal of increasing safety may be a requirement to use a tested risk assessment instrument and develop a treatment plan that mitigates risks.
Establish an online complaint mechanism to provide DHR information on delays in the placement of mentally ill in law enforcement custody for review and feedback.			X	
Propose legislation that allows law enforcement to obtain mental health records, including voluntary and involuntary committals, for the investigation of criminal or suspected criminal activity.			X	As noted in the Chiefs of Police Report, review of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regarding permissible dissemination of mental health information should precede drafting of any proposed legislation.  Note: This recommendation may result in significant opposition by disability rights advocates.
Implement a Mental Health Administrator position to serve as a liaison with all pertinent state agencies, local community agencies, courts and the juvenile justice system.		X		This position would work with agencies and systems to develop, implement and coordinate statewide programs for at-risk and /or adjudicated youth with mental health treatment needs.

## Policies to Address Barriers and Increase Efficiency Continued

Mental health service or policy recommendation	Governor's Mental Health Commission	Chief Justice-Led Task Force on CJ/MH	Chiefs of Police Report	Notes/Opportunities
<b>System Collaboration</b>				
Create partnerships among crisis stabilization programs, substance abuse triage and detoxification centers, Mobile Crisis teams, state hospitals, emergency rooms, law enforcement and local jails and the Georgia crisis and access line.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>Chief of Police Report:</b> Create an ongoing committee or partnership with representation from DHR and professional law enforcement organizations for the purpose of increasing awareness of incidents, joint problem-solving of issues as they arise, review of policy violations, exchange of information and building relationships between agencies.
Create a Behavioral Health Collaborative to coordinate services between agencies that deliver or fund behavioral health services	<b>X</b>			The Collaborative would make recommendations to solve specifically targeted systemic barriers. Its recommendations, which would be presented to the boards of each department for approval, would include funding strategies, policy changes, practice changes and evaluation.
Develop Local Community Resource Directories		<b>X</b>		Community mapping could be used to identify resources and gaps in resources.
<b>Housing</b>				
Develop an on-going Housing Workgroup to create partnerships between service providers and housing providers (private not-for-profit, for-profit and public housing authorities) to increase and improve supported housing availability. Develop a coordinated funding strategy among all departments that serve individuals with mental illness.	<b>X</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a strategy to fund operating costs of supported housing</li> </ul>
Support the DCA statewide affordable housing locator system to identify affordable rental units by community.	<b>X</b>			

## Policies to Address Barriers and Increase Efficiency Continued

Mental health service or policy recommendation	Governor's Mental Health Commission	Chief Justice-Led Task Force on CJ/MH	Chiefs of Police Report	Notes/Opportunities
<b>Statutory Reviews</b>				
Explore legislation to provide immunity to hospitals when a family or another responsible adult agrees to transport a mentally ill patient when the patient and family agree on the transportation arrangement and are fully informed of the risk.	<b>X</b>			
Convene a stakeholder committee to review Georgia's involuntary outpatient treatment statute and recommend any needed revisions.		<b>X</b>		The work group finds that the states which have had the most success and impact in implementing revised outpatient treatment statutes established an effective, accountable system of community resources and allocated additional resources into outpatient treatment services.
<b>Children and Youth</b>				
Establish a common provider network for children with serious emotional disturbances across all state departments providing or contracting for mental health services.	<b>X</b>			

## Treatment and Recovery Support Services

Mental health service or policy recommendation	Governor's Mental Health Commission	Chief Justice-Led Task Force on CJ/MH	Chiefs of Police Report	Notes/Opportunities
<b>Criminal Justice</b>				
Provide an array of diversion alternatives to incarceration for the courts, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• care management</li> <li>• boundary spanners</li> </ul>		<b>X</b>		Note: Diversion includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Interception:</b> Identification of mental health needs of individuals involved with the justice system as early as possible.</li> <li>• <b>Alternatives:</b> Negotiating individualized community-based treatment alternatives to incarceration.</li> <li>• <b>Linkages:</b> Implementing linkages to comprehensive systems of mental and behavioral health care and community supervision.</li> </ul>
Pilot a diversion model, Judge Appointed Mental Health Advocate (JAMHA).		<b>X</b>		Courtroom team approach to arrive at recommended treatment and supervision plans with a person specifically designated as a "boundary spanner" (the JAMHA) to ensure actual linkage.
Expand Mental Health Courts into all geographical locations of the state.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	Mental health courts are specialized "problem-solving" courts designed to serve the needs of mentally ill defendants by working to decriminalize mental illness while ensuring accountability and protecting the public safety.
<b>Continuum of Care</b>				
Appropriate funds to state hospitals to improve quality of care, including improving primary healthcare.	<b>X</b>			
Implement statewide Mobile Crisis Stabilization (MCS), including mobile crisis teams and substance abuse triage and detoxification centers	<b>X</b>			For persons with mental illness who are in crisis, MCS could serve as the central point where immediate needs are assessed and available community services are identified. Crisis teams can use these assessments to work with such individuals and develop a plan.

## Treatment and Recovery Support Services

Mental health service or policy recommendation	Governor's Mental Health Commission	Chief Justice-Led Task Force on CJ/MH	Chiefs of Police Report	Notes/Opportunities
<b>Continuum of Care Continued</b>				
Ensure a statewide continuum of case management services	<b>X</b>			The continuum of case management services should range from intensive case management offered through Assertive Community Treatment teams to traditional case management services to peer specialist programs and Crisis Intervention Teams in law enforcement.
Develop a comprehensive, statewide supported housing program	<b>X</b>			Supported housing has three components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Available housing integrated into the community</li> <li>2. Rental assistance to make the housing affordable</li> <li>3. Supported community mental health services</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a strategy to support individuals without Medicaid and to cover non-Medicaid reimbursable services</li> <li>• Develop a strategy to increase housing options for mentally ill felons</li> <li>• Identify the housing needs of individuals with mental illness</li> <li>• Develop and implement an anti-stigma campaign and educate local government officials to reduce resistance in local communities to the development of housing for individuals with mental illness</li> </ul>
Develop Supported Employment programs statewide to work jointly with case management services, housing and treatment services	<b>X</b>			
Establish an electronic medication exchange that includes a common, preferred medication list and prior authorization processes between departments	<b>X</b>			A process to “grandfather” in prior authorizations approved by another state department should be developed.

## Treatment and Recovery Support Services

Mental health service or policy recommendation	Governor's Mental Health Commission	Chief Justice-Led Task Force on CJ/MH	Chiefs of Police Report	Notes/Opportunities
<b>Continuum of Care Continued</b>				
Develop a coordinated transportation plan for individuals with mental illness that includes adoption of SAMHSA Transportation recommendations	X			Eliminate the need for duplicate trips based upon payor source and multiple providers for individual consumers. Coordinate existing transportation services available through various departments, agencies, and community providers.
Expand use of innovative technology such as telepsychiatry	X			
<b>Children and Youth</b>				
Implement KidsNet System of Care Model Statewide	X	X		<p><b>Chief Justice Report:</b> KidsNet is an integrated service delivery model at the local level.</p> <p><b>Governor's MH Commission:</b> KidsNet Georgia has been promising in providing case management services that meet individualized needs.</p>
Establish an intensive case management system for children	X			
Establish a single benefit package that allows children to receive the same service options from the same providers	X			
Determine the need for adolescent detoxification services and develop a plan based upon the need.	X			
Implement Zero-to-Three, the Pipeline to Prison Initiative, and evidence-based practices for prevention and early intervention of mental illness in children ages 0-5		X		

## Workforce Development

Mental health service or policy recommendation	Governor's Mental Health Commission	Chief Justice-Led Task Force on CJ/MH	Chiefs of Police Report	Notes/Opportunities
<b>Criminal Justice</b>				
Require Georgia law enforcement agencies to have in place a policy when interacting with mentally ill persons.			<b>X</b>	
Support statewide implementation of Crisis Intervention Teams and expansion of CIT training to all First Responders	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Governor's MH Commission:</b> Build greater capacity for Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) <b>Chief of Police Report:</b> Provide CIT training as a volunteer course
Provide training and technical assistance to Georgia Sheriff departments on a jail-based mental health program		<b>X</b>		Training curriculum should address these issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification</li> <li>• Medication access</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> <li>• Suicide prevention</li> <li>• Discharge planning</li> </ul>
Training on mental health issues and resources for Judges in all classes of courts		<b>X</b>		Judges want to know what resources are available to them from the MHDDAD system, the Georgia Department of Corrections, and local non-profit and community organizations and how to access those resources.
<b>State Hospital</b>				
Invest in state hospital workforce professional development	<b>X</b>			

<sup>i</sup> Governor Sonny Perdue's Mental Health Service Delivery Commission: Final Report. Delivered December 4, 2008.

<sup>ii</sup> Chief Justice-Led Task Force to Promote Criminal Justice/Mental Health Collaboration—A Call To Action: Final Report and Recommendations. Presented to Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, Nov. 7, 2008.

<sup>iii</sup> Georgia Association Chiefs of Police, Mental Health and Law Enforcement Encounters: A Review of Current Problem and Recommendations.