

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

Focus on Amended FY 20 Budget

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Key Events This Week

General Assembly will be in for all five days this week. The House is diving right into budget subcommittee meetings this whole week and will focus on the Amended FY 2020 budget.



Key committee times:

Tuesday, Jan 28 at 3pm - DCH/Medicaid & Public Health

Wednesday, Jan 29 at 1pm - GVRA, DHS, DFACS & Public testimony on Amended FY 20 Budget

Thursday, Jan 30 at 3pm - Veterans, BHDD, GCDD, Family Connections

Health and Human Services Budget Impact

Legislators listening to the agency heads who covered the Governor's recommended budget asked probing questions and were very unhappy with what they heard about cuts and priorities. Human Resources Commissioner Robyn Crittenden covered cuts in DHS but did not talk about GVRA. She mentioned that Executive Director Shawn Ryan was available if they had questions. BHDD Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald reviewed in detail the \$80 million in cuts over two fiscal years and 15 months that would impact services to people

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Special Announcements



experiencing mental health, substance use disorders and developmental disabilities. While the Governor's budget document did not name specific organizations, the Commissioner did have detailed slides and revealed the family support cuts would be directly impacting the Bobby Dodd Institute. Commissioner Fitzgerald stated "The safety net is stretched to the max. They're painful cuts". Both Chair Katie Dempsey (R-Rome) and Vice-Chair Darlene Taylor (R-Thomasville) expressed their grave concern for cuts in human services and healthcare with Rep. Dempsey calling them "life-robbing". However, in the AJC that afternoon the Governor's spokesperson was quoted explaining "The Office of Planning and Budget conducted an in-depth, comprehensive analysis of every agency's budget submission. Commissioner Fitzgerald's claims are not supported by our analysis, nor would we allow such a significant disruption in service to Georgia." I have not seen a rebuke by the Governor's office to one of his commissioners in a very, very long time.

Budgets in Detail

NOTE: This year's cuts for the amended budget are in bright red and big budget in dark red, while any additions are in green.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation

Department Administration

Purpose: The purpose of this appropriation is to help people with disabilities to become fully productive members of society by achieving independence and meaningful employment.

Recommended Change:

Reduce funds to realize savings from program reorganization and personnel restructuring initiatives. **Total Funds (\$1,307,851) State Funds (320,358) / Total Funds (\$1,610,186) State Funds (427,245)**

Reduce funds for contractual services. **Total Funds (\$150,000) State Funds (31,950) / Total Funds (\$150,000) State Funds (39,795)**

VR Program

Purpose: The purpose of this appropriation is to assist people with disabilities so that they may go to work.

Reduce funds to realize savings from vacant positions. **Total Funds (\$4,222,529) & State Funds (899,399) Total Funds (\$4,339,455) & State Funds (1,199,198)**

Dept of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities - Service Impact

Adult Developmental Disabilities Services

Purpose: The purpose of this appropriation is to promote independence of adults with significant developmental disabilities

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through institutional care, community support and respite, job readiness, training, and a crisis and access line.

Recommended Changes:

- Increase funds to provide a \$1,000 pay raise to full-time, regular employees with current salaries of \$40,000 or less **2,041,263**
- Increase funds to annualize the cost of 125 New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) slots for the intellectually and developmentally disabled. **2,749,798**
- Increase funds to reflect a reduction in the Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) from 67.30% to 67.03% **2,127,829**
- Reduce funds for intensive family support services (Bobby Dodd) **(1,000,000)** & **(1,000,000)**
- Reduce funds for assistive technology assessments and research (Georgia Tech). **(1,000,000)** & **(1,000,000)**

Total Change (\$2,834,138) & \$3,425,041

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Purpose: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide evaluation, treatment, crisis stabilization, and residential services to children and adolescents with mental illness.

Recommended Change:

- Reduce funds for community innovation programs. **(342,131)** & **(456,174)**
- Reflect savings from a shift to fee-for-service reimbursements of high-fidelity wraparound services. **(406,691)** & **(542,255)**
- Reduce funds for System of Care to reflect projected expenditures. **(1,046,881)** & **(1,395,841)**
- Reduce funds for enhanced staffing at crisis stabilization units to reflect projected expenditures. **(1,974,566)** & **(1,974,566)**
- Reduce funds for supported employment and education services. **(3,060,000)** & **(3,542,709)**
- Eliminate funds for four crisis respite homes due to non-implementation. **(5,923,288)** & **(234,000)**

Total Change (\$12,751,386) & (\$14,070,657)

Adult Mental Health Services FY 2021

Purpose: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide evaluation, treatment, crisis stabilization, and residential services to facilitate rehabilitation and recovery for adults with mental illnesses.

Recommended Change:

Increase funds to provide a \$1,000 pay raise to full-time, regular employees with current salaries of \$40,000 or less. **5,107,473**
Increase funds to reflect a reduction in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 67.30% to 67.03%. **461,019**

Reduce funds for provider support and training. (1,148,837) & (1,219,593)
Reduce funds for supported employment services to reflect utilization rates. (1,994,944) & (2,452,885)
Reduce funds for behavioral health services. (8,341,192)
Total Change (\$3,477,231) & (\$7,437,568)

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Call for Information

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