



## **2015 Legislative Agenda and Talking Points**

The following 2015 legislative agenda and associated talking points were approved by the Board of Directors of the Association on October 19, 2014. The Executive Committee, on the recommendation of the Public Information and Policy Committee, is authorized to modify this agenda on an emergency basis as circumstances dictate prior to and during the 2015 session of the General Assembly.

### **1. Amended FY 2015 and FY 2016 Appropriations Acts**

The Association supports DBHDD's Amended FY 2015 and FY 2016 Appropriations requests. For FY 2016, \$4,627,985 in additional state funds are sought to annualize funding for existing or to expand community mental health services as well as \$19,466,066 for community developmental disability services. The FY 2016 request also includes \$5,000,000 to fund the administrative services organization (ASO). No additional funds are sought in the Amended FY 2015 request.

### **2. Omnibus Clean-Up Bill**

In each legislative session, there is a single piece of legislation that corrects errors and omissions in bills that were enacted in the previous session. The Clean-Up bill for the 2015 session will contain four corrections to Senate Bill 349. One corrects a grammatical error and the other three correct Code references.

### **3. Governor's Criminal Justice Re-Entry Initiative**

During the past year, CSBs, the Department of Corrections, and DBHDD have been engaged in expanding activities to support the re-entry of former inmates with behavioral health challenges into community life. The Association has participated and continues to participate on The State Reentry Task Force of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry and the Reentry and Recidivism Reduction Committee of the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform, both of which address the needs for successful reentry and recovery. The Association advocates for increased funding for housing, employment, and service delivery should the Governor recommend funding to support the re-entry of former inmates with behavioral health challenges into community life, or increased funding for treatment courts and further, advocates that such services should be integrated into the existing provider system of care.

### **4 Governor's Juvenile Justice Reform**

During the past year, CSBs, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and DBHDD have been engaged in expanded activities to support the re-entry of youth with behavioral health challenges into community life. The Association has and continues to participate on The Reentry Task Force of the Department of Juvenile Justice in addition to leading pilot projects across the state addressing protocols for transition and evidence based practices for behavioral health treatment of youth integrating back into community life. The Association supports any increased funding should the Governor recommend appropriations that support the reentry of youth with behavioral health challenges into community life, or increased funding for treatment courts and further, advocates that such services should be integrated with the existing provider system of care.