



2021 Legislative Term Agenda

1. New/Current Legislator Engagement – Tell Your Story!

When the 2021 Legislative Session begins, the Georgia General Assembly will look very different. We anticipate dozens of new legislators and each will be a key target in educating who you are and what you do.

GACSB position: Each CSB will need to identify any and all new State House and State Senate members post November 2020 election. Outreach for a congratulations, CSB 101, meal sit down, virtual meeting and tour offering (post-COVID-19) should be offered. Government affairs team to follow up with outreach on who represents the CSB's and contact information.

2. Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission

Governor Kemp announced the 24-person commission under the guidelines of House Bill 514 passed in 2019. Kemp named nine appointees to the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission along with Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan and Speaker David Ralston, who each named six appointees, and Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Harold Melton, who announced three appointees.

GACSB position: Support – GACSB will monitor the findings with GACSB members and other key stakeholders appointed to commission and execute action items as they come.

3. Engage Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Community Health, Office of Planning and Budget and Administration on budget process.

GACSB position: Maintain a strong working relationship with key appropriators and Administration officials as budget process progresses.

4. Department of Justice Settlement Agreement

GACSB position: Monitor the state's engagement with the DOJ.

5. Psychiatric Advanced Directive

To provide for a competent adult to express his or her mental health care treatment preferences and desires directly through instructions written in advance and indirectly through appointing an agent to make mental health care decisions on behalf of that person; to provide for construction of such form; to amend [Code Section 16-5-5 and Title 31 of the O.C.G.A.](#), relating to assisted suicide and notification of licensing board regarding violation and health, respectively, so as to include cross-references to the psychiatric advance directive and provide for consistent terminology. (2017 legislative language)

GACSB position: GACSB will take a formal position as we learn more information, and should legislation arise.

6. Mental Health Parity

Engage the Georgia Insurance Commission to prioritize policy solutions that will increase access to care and hold insurers accountable under the federal Mental Health Parity & Addiction Equity Act. Additionally, monitor potential legislation and engage accordingly as possible parity legislation progresses.

GACSB position: GACSB will take a formal position as we learn more information, and should legislation arise.

7. Conversion Therapy Prohibition

Legislation was introduced (HB 580) in the 2019/2020 session aiming to protect children from having irreversible procedures done when they are young.

GACSB Position: GACSB will take a formal position as we learn more information, and should legislation arise.

8. Federal and State Public Health Emergencies

As we progress through the new world we are in with social distancing, mask wearing, and overall public interactions, policies and regulations are changing on an almost weekly basis.

GACSB Position: GACSB will continue to monitor and update leadership on all matters affecting the public health safety net.

9. Telehealth Policies and Procedures

Current Telehealth policies that are in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to be in effect for the foreseeable future. However, as we transition and eventually surface out of the pandemic, changes made to policy will likely be discussed in the chance of a crisis such as COVID.

GACSB Position: GACSB will monitor telehealth policies and procedures as determined by the DBHDD, DCH and the Georgia Composite Medical Board under the Georgia Public Health Emergency.