

# Making a Difference

*Thank You,  
Governor Deal*



WINTER  
2019

[gcdd.org](http://gcdd.org)



Join Us at the  
Gold Dome for  
Advocacy Days!



The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) is driven by its Five Year Plan (2017-2021) goals of education; employment; self-advocacy; Real Communities; and formal and informal supports. The Council, charged with creating systems change for individuals with developmental disabilities and family members, will work through various advocacy and capacity building activities to build a more interdependent, self-sufficient, and integrated and included disability community across Georgia.

FEATURES



6

**PUBLIC POLICY FOR THE PEOPLE**  
**2019 Legislative Preview**

by Hanna Rosenfeld

*Georgia is about to kick off the 2019 legislative session! With it, we welcome a new governor, a new lieutenant governor and a new Georgia General Assembly. Join us as we educate legislators about our 2019 legislative priorities and get involved in our advocacy network.*



10

**Dear Governor Kemp . . .**

*In November, Georgia elected Brian Kemp as its new governor, succeeding Nathan Deal. GCDD opened "Dear Governor ..." allowing individuals across the state to submit ideas and issues that they'd like the new administration to work on that affect individuals with disabilities. Read some of the many responses we received.*



12

**2019 Advocacy Days**

*GCDD will host its Third Annual Advocacy Days starting January 30, 2019 during the Georgia General Assembly legislative session. Topics will include the DD Waiver Waiting List, Employment, Inclusive Post-Secondary Education, Direct Support Professionals and Home and Community-Based Services. Learn how to speak with elected officials about policies affecting people with disabilities.*

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**MORE FEATURES**

**Nonprofit Organizations Utilize TA Center to Improve Employment Services**

by Adrienne Murchison ..... 14

**Take Your Legislator to Work Day Yields Positive Effects**

by Adrienne Murchison ..... 15

**VIEWPOINT**

**In the Name of Disability Advocacy**

by Eric E. Jacobson ..... 3

**AROUND THE STATE**

**GCDD Impact 2018** ..... 4

**GCDD IMPACT**

**Gwinnett StoPP Committed to Ending Disproportionate Punishment in Schools** ... 16

**GHF Encourages Stakeholders to Become Medicaid Advocates** ..... 17

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON?**

by Alison Barkoff & Molly Burgdorf ..... 18

**Thank You, Governor Deal** ..... 20

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**January - April** ..... 22

On the Cover: GCDD thanks outgoing Governor Nathan Deal with a plaque for his advocacy for individuals with disabilities and their families during his eight years in office. (l to r) GCDD Council Member Parker Glick, GCDD Executive Director Eric E. Jacobson, Governor Deal, GCDD Deputy Director Kate Brady and GCDD Council Member Brenda Liz Muñoz.

DEPARTMENTS





## IN THE NAME OF DISABILITY ADVOCACY

**In a recent speech, Governor-Elect Brian Kemp said, "It's time to stand up for our communities, our families and our Georgia values." (Source: AJC, 12/2/2018) Now is the time for people with disabilities, family members and advocates to hold the future governor and the legislature accountable for this statement.**

We have new legislators, as well as new governor and lieutenant governor, and as the legislative session begins, the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) and our allies have begun pushing a legislative agenda that includes allocating more money for waivers, addressing the direct support professional shortage, getting all children out of institutions and expanding opportunities for students with developmental disabilities to attend college or university.

In this edition of *Making a Difference*, you will read about these issues and more. The magazine also includes our expectations of what the legislature and governor need to do to solve many of the growing needs for people with disabilities and their families.

However, we cannot do this alone. We need each of you to get involved. Now is the time for you to reach out to your representative, senator and governor to demand attention be given to these issues. Tell the governor we support him in standing up for communities, families and Georgia values.

Once again, GCDD will host Advocacy Days during the

upcoming legislative session. Have you registered? If not, now is the time. This is your chance to come to the Capitol and meet with your elected officials. It is a time to tell them about what it takes to live a meaningful life. **I challenge you to join GCDD and your friends at one of our five Advocacy Days.** You spent time and effort on voting; now it's time to spend a few hours in the name of disability advocacy.

Finally, the Employment First Council met for the first time in early December. The Council was created as part of House Bill 831, known as the Employment First Act, which Governor Nathan Deal signed into law in May 2018. The legislation established employment as the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities receiving public services who choose careers as a path to independence.

This is an opportunity to revamp our employment efforts so that individuals with disabilities who want to go to work have that choice. Already the Council is gathering information on what Georgia does to promote employment. This report will be submitted to the legislature



Eric E. Jacobson

before the end of the session. We will be reporting on this effort throughout the year.

**I CHALLENGE YOU TO JOIN GCDD AND YOUR FRIENDS AT ONE OF OUR FIVE ADVOCACY DAYS. YOU SPENT TIME AND EFFORT ON VOTING; NOW IT'S TIME TO SPEND A FEW HOURS IN THE NAME OF DISABILITY ADVOCACY.** ”

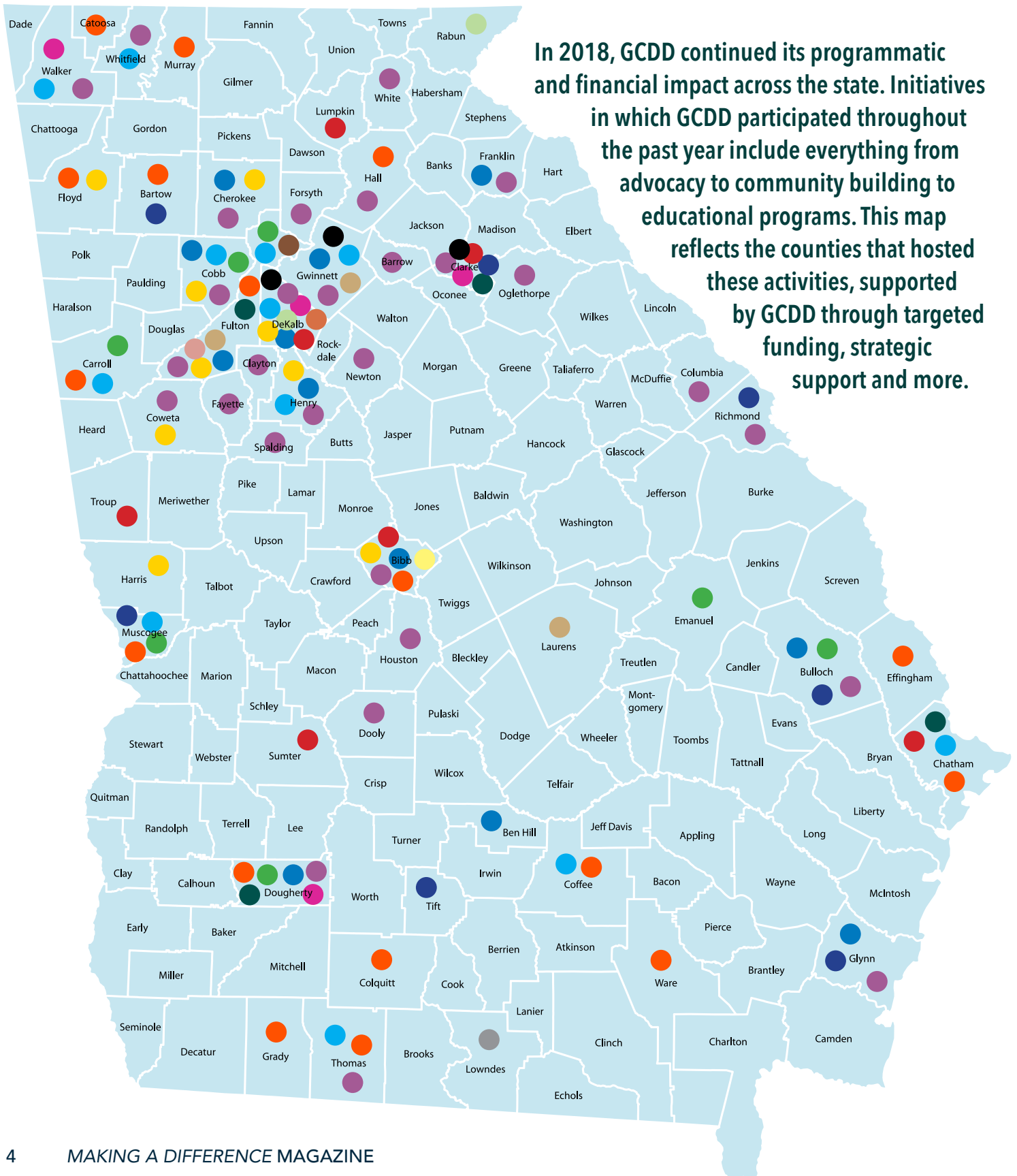
Check out GCDD's website and join our advocacy network so that you can stay informed. We hope you enjoy reading this magazine, and we want to hear from you. Let us know your thoughts and comments about the magazine by writing to Managing Editor Hillary Hibben at [hillary.hibben@gcdd.ga.gov](mailto:hillary.hibben@gcdd.ga.gov).

*Eric E. Jacobson*

Eric E. Jacobson  
Executive Director, GCDD

# AROUND THE STATE:

In 2018, GCDD continued its programmatic and financial impact across the state. Initiatives in which GCDD participated throughout the past year include everything from advocacy to community building to educational programs. This map reflects the counties that hosted these activities, supported by GCDD through targeted funding, strategic support and more.





- Candidate Forum Site**  
The 2018 Candidate Forum on Disability Issues featured candidates for Insurance Commissioner, School Superintendent and Secretary of State.
- Children's Freedom Initiative (CFI)**  
The CFI coalition hosted educational events to inform Georgians about resources available for children to remain at home or in their communities.
- Conference Support Fund Locations**  
GCDD funded various conferences, meetings and/or workshops for education, training, policymaking and advocacy in the developmental disability community. (9 conferences funded)
- Council Member Hometowns**  
These include counties in which current, governor-appointed GCDD council members reside. (27 council member hometowns)
- GHF Training Sites**  
Georgians for a Healthy Future (GHF) hosted trainings to educate individuals with and without disabilities about the importance of Medicaid and becoming involved in Medicaid-related advocacy. (4 trainings)
- Inclusive Colleges & Universities**  
Nine inclusive post-secondary education programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities are supported by GCDD and GAIPSEC (Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium).
- Leadership Launchpad Training Sites**  
Star Choices, Inc. hosted programs to provide opportunities for leadership development for frontline supervisors and direct support professionals.
- Learning Opportunities Support Fund Locations**  
These include counties where individuals with disabilities and their families live who received GCDD's financial support to attend events focused on advocacy, learning, etc. (12 locations)
- Project SEARCH Sites**  
Businesses participated in high school-to-work transition programs where students with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities experienced competitive, integrated employment. (21 sites)
- Public Forum Site**  
The 2018 Public Forum welcomed members of the community to share their thoughts and concerns.

- Real Communities Sites**  
GCDD's Real Communities partnerships are local groups working to improve their communities using person-centered supports, community-centered connections and involving people with and without developmental disabilities. (6 groups)
- School-to-Prison Pipeline Advocacy Training Locations**  
Gwinnett SToPP and the Interfaith Children's Movement hosted educational and training events related to the school-to-prison pipeline crisis that disproportionately impacts children with disabilities. (3 events)
- Social Justice Dialogue Meeting Sites**  
Periodic gatherings served to plan and develop processes and strategies to create safe spaces for productive dialogue where marginalized individuals' existence and gifts are valued. (3 gatherings)
- Storytelling Participant Hometowns**  
GCDD's Storytelling Project is an effort to collect stories representing the experience of individuals living with developmental disabilities across Georgia. (63 stories collected)
- SUN Self-Advocacy Training Sites**  
GCDD-funded Sangha Unity Network (SUN) hosted training events to empower self-advocates with developmental disabilities. (7 trainings)
- TA Center & Provider Organization Sites**  
The Technical Assistance Center and its provider organizations are entities that promote employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- TYLTWD Visit Sites**  
Businesses participated in GCDD's Take Your Legislator to Work Day (TYLTWD), an initiative to show the benefits of hiring Georgians with disabilities and create opportunities to form and nurture relationships with their elected officials. (17 visits)
- UNLOCK! Coalition Location**  
The GCDD-funded UNLOCK! coalition hosted advocacy and training events to encourage Georgia to reduce spending on institutional care and increase spending on home and community-based supports. (3 events)

# 2019 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW & Getting Involved in Advocacy

by Hanna Rosenfeld, GCDD Planning & Policy Development Specialist



**What do Savannah, Augusta, Louisville, Milledgeville and Atlanta have in common? They all served as the home of the Georgia General Assembly at one point or another. Indeed, our statehouse did not settle in Atlanta until 1868. At the time, the legislature was still young and new, having been founded only a few decades earlier in 1777.**

**A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE ONLY WORKS IF THE PEOPLE RAISE THEIR VOICE. WE AT GCDD ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO DO JUST THAT.** ”

Fast forwarding to the present, we are about to kick off the 2019 Legislative Session here in Georgia! With it, we welcome a new governor, a new lieutenant governor and a new Georgia General Assembly. It is important to remember that just because the political party in charge did not change, we cannot expect everything to remain the same. Governor Brian Kemp's new administration will have their own budget and legislative priorities. It is likely these will differ from those promoted by former Governor Nathan Deal.

Starting on Monday, January 14, 2019, the Georgia General Assembly will begin its race towards the finish line. The Georgia Constitution only grants them 40 days to complete all their work. While the days do not have to be continuous, the Assembly's traditional deadline of late March or early April does not allow for much dawdling.

With that in mind, it is never too early to double check who your elected officials are online. You may very well have a new state representative or state senator! Even if they did not change, confirm their contact details online as there is a good chance their Capitol office may shift in the first week of the session.

Remember, your elected officials cannot represent your opinions if you have never taken the time to educate them on issues of importance to you. Whether you have new or old representatives, be sure to take some time to re-introduce yourself. Your elected

officials work for you, so put them to work for your interests! A government of the people and for the people only works if the people raise their voice. We at the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) are counting on you to do just that.

Not only does 2019 mark the start of Governor Brian Kemp's tenure, but the start of the two-year legislative cycle. That means any bill left over from last year is now dead. All bills must be re-introduced this year. Bills introduced this year will have until the end of the 2020 legislative session to be signed into law, at which point the whole cycle will start over again.

## Focus on the 2020 State Budget

As always, the Georgia General Assembly's only required task is to pass a balanced state budget. While it is true that last year saw Georgia pass its largest budget yet, we still lag behind our fellow states in spending in many key areas.

A good example is in Medicaid spending per enrollee. Georgia is

### GCDD'S PUBLIC POLICY TEAM



DAWN ALFORD, GCDD Public Policy Director



HANNA ROSENFELD, GCDD Planning and Policy Development Specialist



**Georgia is the lowest spender in the country at \$4,838 spent on Medicaid per person.**

the lowest spender in the country at \$4,838 spent on Medicaid per person. The Kaiser Family Foundation found the national average to be \$6,396. Even compared to our southern neighbors, Georgia falls behind their average of \$5,950. While some people may find this discouraging, it is important to view this as an opportunity for improvement!

For a better understanding of where Governor Kemp plans to focus his

time and energy, be sure to watch the State of the State Address on Thursday, January 17th at 11am. While in theory, Governor Kemp is only addressing the members of the Georgia General Assembly, he is actually addressing all of us. [Tune in online so that you too can hear about Governor Kemp's vision for Georgia.](#)

Following his speech, the Governor's Office of Planning & Budget will release Kemp's budget recommendations. While ultimately the Georgia House of Representatives and the Senate decide what is



Brian Kemp

**Governor:**  
Brian Kemp (Republican)

**Lieutenant Governor:**  
Geoff Duncan (Republican)

**Secretary of State:**  
Brad Raffensperger (Republican)

**56 State Senators:**  
(35 Republicans / 21 Democrats)

**180 State House:**  
(106 Republicans / 74 Democrats)

included in the budget, the governor's recommendations usually serve as a guiding light. [Be sure to join our advocacy network to ensure you receive our budget analysis.](#)

## 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### Led by GCDD

The following legislative priorities are championed by GCDD on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Georgia. The Council's goal is to educate and inform legislators on these topics during the legislative session.

### DD Waivers

We believe that Georgia should work to eliminate the waiting list for NOW & COMP waivers. These waivers allow individuals with developmental disabilities who qualify for an institutional level of care to receive the supports they need in the community. As of September 2018, 5,975 Georgians with developmental disabilities were on the waiting list for a NOW or COMP waiver. Our advocacy around this very important issue remains as crucial as ever. GCDD will be educating our legislators on the need for a \$16.3 million increase to the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental

Disabilities to fund 650 new NOW and COMP waivers.

### Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE)

We believe that all students, regardless of ability, should have access to post-secondary education programs in the State of Georgia. Inclusive post-secondary educational programs supported by GAIPSEC (Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium) provide students with intellectual and developmental disabilities access to education not otherwise available. Currently, there are nine IPSE programs in Georgia serving approximately 139 students. They are Kennesaw State Univ. Academy for Inclusive Learning & Social Growth, Univ. of Georgia Destination Dawgs, Georgia Institute of Technology EXCEL, Georgia State Univ. IDEAL, Columbus State Univ. GOALS, East Georgia State College CHOICE, Georgia Southern Eagle Academy, Albany Technical College LEAP and Univ. of West Georgia Project WOLVES.

GCDD is committed to the growth and support of IPSE programs because we recognize their value in preparing students to live increasingly independent lives within their communities. Therefore, GCDD will be educating our legislators on the value of an additional \$500,000 in state funds to the IPSE program within the GCDD Budget. While in the past the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency funded each program's Academic Transition Teacher, they are no longer doing so. Such positions are crucial to ensuring IPSE students receive the curriculum support and employment-focused training necessary to prepare them for competitive integrated employment after graduation.

### Children's Freedom Initiative

We believe that before the state pays to have a child housed in an institutional setting, a parent or guardian must have affirmatively rejected adequate supports to have the child in the home.

# 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES (continued)

Decades of research have shown that the institutionalization of children and youth under age 22 results in profound developmental delays across nearly all domains, including cognitive, social and physical development (Beren & Nelson, 2015). Every child deserves a permanent loving home, especially the eleven children living in skilled nursing facilities (as of August) and the twenty-five children living in a private intermediate care facility in our state (as of November).

## Medicaid

We recognize that Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) are the lifelines that allow people with I/DD access to their communities. We know that any proposal to cut, cap or reduce Medicaid funding to Georgia will put the lives of people with disabilities at risk. We will continue to educate members of our government, community and state about the importance of Medicaid in the lives of people with disabilities and the many benefits Medicaid brings to our state as a whole.

## Supported Decision-Making

We believe that all people, including those with I/DD, have the right and capacity to make their own decisions. We endorse supported decision-making agreements as a method for ensuring people have access to real decisions and a self-determined life. We look forward to beginning a discussion with our elected officials about supported decision-making and its promotion here in Georgia.

## Caregiver Registry Expansion

We believe in expanding the caregiver registry passed in the 2018 legislative session to include the caregivers of individuals who use NOW, COMP and ICWP, as well as caregivers of those under age 65 who use SOURCE and CCSP, to ensure all Georgians with disabilities have the same protection and security of a background check for their direct support professionals.

## The Shortage of DSPs: Workforce Crisis

We believe that a competent, well trained and caring work force of direct support professionals (DSPs) is essential to the health and wellbeing of individuals with disabilities who utilize home and community-based services. We support strategies to address this crisis so that people with disabilities can have the care they need. We look forward to the recommendations of the House Study Committee on the Workforce Shortage & Crisis in Home/Community-Based Settings as we work to address this issue.

## Georgia STABLE

Open to Georgians with disabilities, STABLE accounts are tax free and allow people with disabilities to save money for expenses related to their disability without risking eligibility for federal programs like Medicaid and SSI (within limits).

We believe in the importance of the Georgia STABLE program and support efforts to grow the enrollment of qualified individuals in Georgia. STABLE accounts can

lead to an increase in independence and financial security for enrollees. [Open a Georgia STABLE Account of your own online.](#)

## GCDD SUPPORTS OUR PARTNERS

### Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)

The Georgia Council on Aging is advocating for \$4 million to strengthen the ADRC statewide network by adding capacity to meet the growing demand for crucial information and access to services. ADRCs serve as a “no wrong door” for Georgians with disabilities and the elderly looking to learn more about long-term supports and services available in their community. GCDD looks forward to continuing our support of this important service.

### Organ Transplant Discrimination

The Arc Georgia believes that life-saving organ transplants should not be denied because of a person's developmental disability. Currently in Georgia, there is nothing to prevent such an occurrence. GCDD is pleased to support The Arc Georgia in ensuring all Georgians, regardless of disability, have equal access to life-saving medical procedures.

**Remember to REGISTER for Advocacy Days 2019!**

Choose from Five Days of Advocacy (read more about it on pages 12-13).





## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- 1** Attend GCDD's Advocacy Days: 1/30, 2/12, 2/14, 2/27, 3/6
- 2** Read GCDD's e-newsletter *Public Policy for the People* 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18, 4/1
- 3** Participate in GCDD's Public Policy Calls at 9:30 AM on 1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25
- 4** Join GCDD's Advocacy Network to get updates and information on public policy.

## HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW:



Check out [Georgia Public Broadcasting's short video about the legislative process online.](#)



[Check to Find Your Current Elected Official online.](#)



[Confirm Your Current Elected Official's Contact Details online.](#)



[Tune in for Governor Brian Kemp's First State of the State Address online.](#)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

# FAQ

### **Q** How do I find out when legislative committees are meeting?

**A** You can find the [schedule for the Georgia House of Representatives online](#) and the [schedule for the Georgia Senate online](#). If you plan to attend a committee meeting in person, be flexible as meeting times often change suddenly. Also, you can watch state committee meetings online. [View the Georgia Senate meetings online](#) or the [Georgia House of Representatives online](#).

### **Q** How do I find the status of a bill?

**A** [If you know the bill number, you can track it online.](#) Or you can read GCDD's *Public Policy for the People* e-newsletter and participate in our Public Policy Calls.

### **Q** How can I help my school-aged child learn about the legislative process?

**A** Consider signing them up to be a page. Pages deliver messages to the senators and representatives when they are meeting in the legislative chambers. It is such an important job that there is even a Georgia law, [O.C.G.A. §20-2-692](#), that states "children who serve as pages of the General Assembly during the school year, either at regular or special sessions, shall be credited as present by the school in which enrolled in the same manner as an educational field trip, and such participation as a page shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused." Learn more about becoming a [Georgia Senate page online](#) or a [House of Representatives page online](#).



# Dear Governor Kemp ...



In November, Georgia elected Brian Kemp as its new governor, succeeding Nathan Deal. The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities saw this as a prime advocacy opportunity to inform and educate the new governor and his incoming administration about individuals with developmental disabilities, issues that affect them and how we can work together to build a more inclusive Georgia.

GCDD opened "Dear Governor ..." allowing individuals across the state to submit ideas and issues that they'd like the new administration to work on that affect individuals with disabilities. We received many responses. Some are included here.

I would hope that you see the possibilities of the people with disabilities in our state. We want to all be employed, have a choice of going to college/ or training and owning our own home. We want to know our Medicaid services will remain with the person that is affected so they can have their choice of life with supports.

- Mitzi Proffitt,  
Brooklet, Bulloch Co.

It is imperative that children with disabilities have access to the Katie Beckett/Deeming waiver. This should include a process that is fair and equal across all counties in the State of Georgia. Currently, the process to apply is labored and families face numerous delays due to paperwork being lost or sent late. Additionally children who clearly meet the criteria are being denied and parents can't afford the attorney necessary to go to court. Please find a reasonable solution to this problem that doesn't involve removing qualified children with disabilities from receiving services.

- Lisa Matesevac,  
Lawrenceville, Gwinnett Co.

Affordable, accessible housing is desperately needed. I get calls from people with disabilities where I work at a local Center for Independent Living. Having a son with disabilities means our healthcare costs are much higher than we can even afford. My husband works as a pastor at a United Methodist Church and I work as well, but it is still not enough.

- Veronica Apecena,  
Stone Mountain, Gwinnett Co.

The latest crackdown on opioids has caused an unintended hardship on most persons with developmental disabilities. Some of their needed medications fall into the list. It has placed an unnecessary burden on the caregivers and those for whom they care. Please help!

- Thomas Sunderland,  
Evans, Columbia Co.



**Share more ideas and suggestions for Governor-Elect Brian Kemp using GCDD's online form.**



Please help improve the community living situations for people with disabilities by providing more than a living wage for the caretakers and making sure they have in-depth education and training to help those they take care of. My 43-year-old son is on the autism spectrum and I have struggled for more than a year to get his living situation and caretakers in place. I am now dealing with his increased anxiety over this. He needs consistency, routine and caretakers who understand his needs.

- Diane Prosser, Marietta, Cobb Co.

I hope that you will take into consideration the issues facing our families that have students and adults with special needs. Many resources seem to stop in the metro area and do not reach out to our rural areas in NW Georgia. We only have ONE provider for over four counties. Please get accurate information and really look at what your administration can do to better the lives and families of those that deal with family members with intellectual disabilities.

- Michal Jones, LaFayette, Walker Co.



Increased employment opportunities for autistic adults that match their capabilities and more autism awareness campaigns that educate people and dispel myths about Autism to promote acceptance of people living with developmental disabilities.

- Cyndi Taylor, Evans, Columbia Co.

I hope you will expand Medicaid and reinforce the Affordable Care Act. Those with mental health deficits, addictions and disabilities need your strong support. Thank you.

- Joan Gage, Decatur, DeKalb Co.



I hope that you will make it a priority to add additional funding for waivers that support individuals with disabilities to live, work and thrive in their communities. There are thousands of individuals who are still waiting on the help, many with aging parents.

- Jackie McNair, Loganville, Walton Co.



My hope is that you will provide more funds for and expand Medicaid. There are many of us with children who have mental and physical disabilities and receive their medical care via Medicaid. Our 47-year-old daughter was brain-injured at delivery. As a result, she has the mental acuity of a 4-5-year-old. She has seizures and needs daily medications to keep them under control as well as a low immunity to respiratory infections. Please do not neglect our children. Her father and I are in our early 80s, and we have been preparing funds to leave for her when we die. But if her medical provider is gone, our funds will be insufficient. Georgia has the elderly, the young and people with disabilities who need this important medical care. Please give these people, citizens of this state, consideration to keep them alive and well.

- Camille Yahm, Carrollton, Carroll Co.

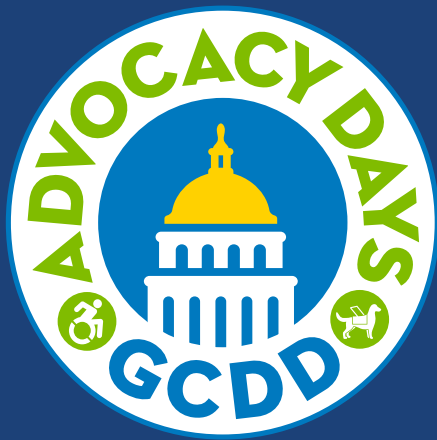


I would like you to provide better access to adult services. I hope you look into cultivating medical marijuana in this state to make it easier for families to obtain the oil.

- Susan Selwa, Snellville, Gwinnett Co.







# ADVOCACY DAYS 2019

Join GCDD at the Capitol to speak with elected officials about policies affecting people with disabilities!



The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) will host its Third Annual Advocacy Days starting January 30, 2019 during the Georgia General Assembly legislative session.

Five different Advocacy Days will focus on policies affecting people with disabilities and bring together advocates from across the state to speak with elected officials about various important issues.



Topics will include the DD Waiver Waiting List, Employment, Inclusive Post-Secondary Education, Direct Support Professionals and Home and Community-Based Services.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THE 2019 ADVOCACY DAYS!

### January 30 - Advocacy Day #1

**Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) Day** – Join current students, future enrollees and alumni of Inclusive Post-Secondary Education programs here in Georgia as we educate our legislators about the increased employment opportunities these programs provide.

### February 12 - Advocacy Day #2

**Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers Day** – Advocate for the protection and increase of more funding to reduce waiting lists for HCBS services like NOW, COMP, ICWP, CCSP and SOURCE waivers.

### February 14 - Advocacy Day #3

**Everyone Out! Day** – Let's advocate for all those with disabilities remaining in institutional settings here in Georgia!

### February 27- Advocacy Day #4

**Direct Support Professional (DSP) Day** – Come speak with your legislators about the workforce shortage of DSPs here in Georgia as well as the importance of a caregiver registry open to all HCBS waivers.

### March 6 - Advocacy Day #5

**Supported Decision-Making Day** – Join us to educate our lawmakers on Supported Decision-Making as an alternative to guardianship for adults with disabilities.

**TIME:** 8 AM – 12 PM

**WHERE:** We kick off at 8 AM at: Central Presbyterian Church (across from the Georgia State Capitol) 201 Washington St SW Atlanta, GA 30334

**10 AM – 12 PM**  
Georgia State Capitol (The Gold Dome)

**Register for ADVOCACY DAYS Online NOW**

## What to Expect Each Advocacy Day

At Advocacy Days, GCDD will welcome hundreds of advocates who are ready to build a relationship with the new legislators and reconnect with those who are continuing to serve us.

Each day kicks off at Central Presbyterian Church, across from the Gold Dome, where leaders from GCDD and other organizations will train and teach advocates how to approach legislators, make a connection and discuss the topics that are important to you.

After the interactive training, advocates and leaders will head over to the Gold Dome to meet with legislators. *Check the box below for*



*the daily agenda and how to find out which representative and senator represent you.*

## All Set to Advocate

GCDD is excited to kick off its Third Annual

Advocacy Days and it's only possible with advocates who are ready to lead the way.

Remember to register in advance so you have time to arrange transportation, take time off of work or school, tell your friends and bring your friends to participate.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

From what to bring and where to park, GCDD has you covered.

Check out the FAQs and be prepared for a full day of advocacy.

## 2019 ADVOCACY DAYS AGENDA

| TIME             | AGENDA  |
|------------------|---|
| 8:15 - 8:30 AM   | Arrival & Registration at Central Presbyterian Church |
| 8:30 AM          | Breakfast is Served!                                  |
| 9 - 10 AM        | Advocacy Day Orientation                              |
| 10 - 10:15 AM    | Walk Over from the Church to the Gold Dome            |
| 10:15 - 12:15 PM | Visit with Legislators "At the Ropes"                 |

## Find Your Legislator

Your Georgia state representative and state senator represent your district in the Georgia General Assembly. Additionally, it's important to know what committees they sit on and what bills they have sponsored in the past.

[Find Your Senator and Representative Online using Open States](#)

## BE A VOLUNTEER FOR A DAY OR A TEAM LEADER!

If you are interested, email GCDD at [info@gcdd.org](mailto:info@gcdd.org).

## ADVOCACY DAYS

1

### Wednesday, January 30, 2019 Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Day

Advocate for Inclusive College Opportunities for Students with Developmental Disabilities.

2

### Tuesday, February 12, 2019 Home & Community-Based Services Day

Advocate to Increase Funding and Reduce Waiting Lists for NOW, COMP, ICWP, CCSP and SOURCE Waivers.

3

### Thursday, February 14, 2019 Everyone Out! Day

Advocate for All People with Disabilities Stuck in Institutional Settings in Georgia.

4

### Wednesday, February 27, 2019 Direct Support Professional (DSP) Day

Advocate for More DSPs in Georgia and the Importance of a Caregiver Registry.

5

### Wednesday, March 6, 2019 Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Day

Educate our Lawmakers on SDM as an Alternative to Guardianship for Adults with Disabilities.

THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER AND ITS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE HELP ORGANIZATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

## Nonprofit Organizations Utilize Technical Assistance Center to Improve Employment Services

by Adrienne Murchison

*Three Georgia employment service providers have been selected for specialized planning and training sessions in order to provide best practice support for people with disabilities in their organizations.*

Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Services in Albany, Lookout Mountain Community Service Board in Chickamauga and DeKalb Community Services Board in Lithonia have started receiving technical assistance through Advancing Employment, a program managed by the Institute on Human Development and Disability (IHDD) at the University of Georgia.

“These are agencies who provide residential programs for people with disabilities,” said Doug Crandell, project director for Advancing Employment. “We are helping them to provide employment support on behalf of the person with a disability.”

Technical assistance for the three nonprofits is funded through a \$60,000 grant awarded to IHDD by the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD).

The Technical Assistance Center and its Community of Practice

helps organizations to strengthen their employment services.

The three organizations that are receiving assistance were among several applicants in a scored process. The application included such questions as ‘What are you doing now to advance employment for the people you serve?’ and ‘What can our grants do for you?’

Each organization receives individualized training with of goals and objectives in a transformation plan that enables them to provide more employment services.

“We’ve done the initial site visits to see what they want to accomplish with assistance ranging from getting a contract with [Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency] to hiring staff, working with their boards and more,” said Crandell. “What we hope is the Community of Practice will be long term; and that we can help more than three organizations and provide training on site and elsewhere.”

The Community of Practice is a virtual space within Advancing Employment where providers

can share information, receive new training through webinars and utilize resources that will ultimately serve people with developmental disabilities in their employment goals.

Georgia becoming an Employment First State has encouraged Crandell about increasing awareness and acceptance of employers to hire people with developmental disabilities.

Since Gov. Nathan Deal signed the bill last spring, Crandell has served as a panelist at forums on the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program, hosted by the Office of Disability Employment Policy within the Department of Labor.

“In the past, while these agencies have offered employment services, it hasn’t been the most focused on,” said Crandell. “It takes a lot of work in a state to move provider agencies and funding on Employment First. Our staff is working diligently with community employers and GCDD to further employment for people with disabilities in Georgia.”

### EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS





# Take Your Legislator to Work Day Yields Positive Effects

by Adrienne Murchison

*Since 2015, the month of October has been notably significant for employees with disabilities. The occasion, Take Your Legislator to Work Day, brings employees together with their respective state representative or senator at their work place to show them a day at work.*

Launched by the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD), the event coincides with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a campaign of the Office of Disability Employment Policy.

“I think the employees appreciate the opportunity to show off the success that they have,” said Hanna Rosenfeld, GCDD planning and policy development specialist. “A lot of people have low expectations of people with disabilities and their ability to work. One of the nice things about this event is it’s impactful for the legislators and a great opportunity to raise awareness in the wider society.”

The visits generally include a tour of the work site where the legislator has an opportunity to meet with the owner or manager and other staff. Some employees with disabilities have a coach to support them at the job site and help them to be a success.

“Maybe the disability is such that it can take them longer to learn new tasks and a coach can help with that,” said Rosenfeld. “For employees with disabilities, when they are at a job that is suited to their skills, they are very successful.”

Take Your Legislator to Work Day (TYLTWD) has been

featured on WABE public radio and occasionally in the newspaper, which are opportunities for more parents to discover new possibilities for their children, as well as potential employers, Rosenfeld added.

“Maybe an employer hears about it and says, ‘Oh a neighboring business is employing people with a disability and maybe that is something I too can do and have more inclusive practices,’” said Rosenfeld.

It can also be impactful for the policymakers who visit. State Sen. Mike Dugan, who has participated in the annual event, sponsored Georgia’s Employment First Act, which was signed into law last spring. The Act makes employment a priority for people with disabilities who want to work.

Two representatives, Karen Hugley and Dale Rutledge were participating for the second consecutive year.

Rosenfeld added, “[Legislators] enjoy meeting with their constituents and hearing their concerns. They obviously enjoyed it so much that they wanted to come back.”

Thanks to the following employers, employees and Georgia representatives and senators for their participation.

- Hannah Hibben and Arianna White at Digital Technology Partners in Conyers were visited by State Rep. Dale Rutledge and State Sen. Brian Strickland.
- Matt Price at Ingles in Carrollton was visited by State Rep. Randy Nix.
- Angad Sahgal at Sandy Springs Police Headquarters was visited by State Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick.
- Project SEARCH Interns at TSYS in Columbus were visited by State Rep. Carolyn Hugley.



Host Rose Scott (second from right) interviewed (l to r) Hanna Rosenfeld, Rep. Dale Rutledge, Arianna White and Jonathan Kendrick (far right) to raise awareness of competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities at WABE Studios.



TYLTWD visit at Digital Technology Partners: (l to r) Sen. Brian Strickland, Arianna White, direct supervisor Shawn Adkins, Hannah Hibben, Rep. Dale Rutledge and Jonathan Kendrick (owner)



Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick visits Angad Sahgal (center) at the Sandy Springs Police Headquarters.

# Gwinnett SToPP Committed to Ending Disproportionate Punishment in Schools

by Adrienne Murchison



In the 2000s, Gwinnett resident Marlyn Tillman’s advocacy for her son in high school inspired her to become an advocate for all students of color, as well as students with disabilities in the county.

Marlyn Tillman, co-founder of Gwinnett SToPP, appears with students during a community event to raise awareness of disproportionate treatment of students in schools. (Photo courtesy of Marlyn Tillman)

In 2007, she co-founded Gwinnett SToPP (Gwinnett Parent Coalition to Dismantle the School-to-Prison Pipeline) following a successful battle with her son’s high school, which had punished him with in-school suspension for his choice of clothing. The incident nearly led to the honor student being transferred to an alternative school for discipline. Such actions put students at risk of going to jail instead of college.

Gwinnett SToPP’s goal is to increase awareness of the disproportionate treatment of black students and students with disabilities compared to white classmates for allegedly breaking the same rules. The former are two and three times more likely, respectively, to receive out-of-school suspensions than white students, according to the Georgia Coalition Working to End the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

Tillman’s nonprofit, known as Gwinnett SToPP, recently received a \$35,000 grant from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities.

“We are trying to raise awareness in DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties,” said Tillman. “Thus far we’ve done a listening session to learn more from the community about what they see and where they think

the bigger issues lie. We want to connect with parents of students with disabilities, community organizations and parents active in education, in general.”

The school-to-prison pipeline was an already existing phrase for a national trend that concerned parents and community advocates when the Gwinnett nonprofit was formed.

Several years ago, Gwinnett SToPP conducted research in Snellville and uncovered disturbing information. White students were only suspended for serious actions such as possessing drugs or a firearm. Black students were suspended and arrested for talking back, disrespect, disorderly conduct and fighting.

“Students with a behavioral disability, that’s a biggie because [some teachers and staff] don’t think of [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)] as a disability,” she added.

One such student was sent to a school tribunal. “He was accused of theft of school property for taking candy out of a candy dish on the teacher’s desk,” said Tillman.

The student graduated from a different high school where the administration provided a balanced environment and supported his interests and skill sets.

Tillman’s son also graduated following a court battle brought forward by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). “He had a full academic scholarship to college,” she said. “He got his master’s degree and he’s now a sociology professor.”

The ACLU Georgia Chapter is now a Gwinnett SToPP community stakeholder.

Gwinnett SToPP has held implicit bias exercises with white and minority citizens to gauge what they think consciously and unconsciously about different ethnic groups.

The nonprofit meets quarterly and will be considering the next steps in 2019. “We are guided by the community in terms of where this should go, knowing what we now know,” said Tillman. “Do we want to tackle this at the district level? It’s up to the community to decide.”

[Find out more about Gwinnett SToPP online.](#)



**Gwinnett SToPP’s goal is to increase awareness of the disproportionate treatment of black students and students with disabilities compared to white classmates for allegedly breaking the same rules.**



# Georgians for a Healthy Future Encourages Stakeholders to Become Medicaid Advocates

by Adrienne Murchison

Affordable healthcare is frequently in question for people on a limited income. [Georgians for a Healthy Future \(GHF\)](#) has identified multiple avenues to help citizens gain access and awareness.

In 2018, the nonprofit consumer health organization hosted four training workshops titled “Georgia Voices for Medicaid: Building a Constituency for Medicaid Across Georgia” to help attendees understand the difference between Medicaid and Medicare, which can often be a point of confusion.

“Trainings are an hour and a half long and include an introduction to what Medicaid is and the types of people it covers – like senior citizens, people with disabilities and children – and how Medicaid supports those groups and the healthcare system,” said Executive Director Laura Colbert.

“In 2017, we saw some real threats at the congressional level with a proposal to restructure for Medicaid recipients,” said Colbert. “We were able to eliminate the threat and further felt that it’s important to raise awareness of the role that Medicaid plays in families and communities. We are building support and sustainability.”

For example, Medicaid offers assistance with job searches and training. It can provide tools to help people with disabilities live independently.

“Medicaid provides home nursing care that helps people get to work and someone to help them bathe and dress and get out the door,” explained Colbert.

Workshop facilitators encourage attendees to embrace community advocacy by becoming proactive while the Georgia legislature is in session. Stakeholders can host their own workshops at offices or community centers and contact



their legislator directly by phone and email.

Writing letters to the editor of local papers has proved effective said Alyssa Green, GHF outreach and education manager.

“If there is a healthcare issue in rural Georgia, it’s important to get that information out to the community,” she said.

Georgians for a Healthy Future will host a panel of members of the Georgia General Assembly on Jan. 10, who will discuss upcoming healthcare policy. The event named “[Health Care Unscrambled 2019](#)” will be held at The Freight Depot.

During a Georgia Advocacy Day event hosted by GHF last February, legislators told 100 attendees why they support Medicaid expansion, Green said.

“I know folks can be disillusioned or unenthusiastic about this,” added Green. “It’s important for legislators to hear from constituents and that they talk about how [policymakers’] actions affect their experiences. Advocates [such as GHF] are always going to be there. It’s important for the legislators to know how it impacts the people they represent.”

[Visit Georgians for a Healthy Future online for more information.](#)

Hannah Hawkins and her husband adopted Anthony and Nicholas. Her sons are covered under Medicaid for behavioral and physical health services. (Photo courtesy Georgians for a Healthy Future)

**MEDICAID OFFERS ASSISTANCE WITH JOB SEARCHES AND TRAINING. IT CAN PROVIDE TOOLS TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY.** ”

Medicaid is a state and federal program in which 500,000 of the 1.9 million Georgians covered are senior citizens and people with disabilities.

The community sessions are funded by a \$30,000 grant from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities.

These workshops inform stakeholders such as individuals, physicians and employers on what they can do to advocate for Medicaid and make sure the program is supported.





# What's Happening in Washington?

## Federal Disability Policy Updates

by Alison Barkoff and Molly Burgdorf,  
Center for Public Representation

With the 2018 midterm elections behind us and a new Congress beginning in January, we are looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities in 2019. While it's hard to predict, below are some of the major advocacy issues we expect to work on this upcoming year.

### Healthcare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Some observers called November's election a "healthcare election." For the last two years, the disability community fought attempts by Congress to cut Medicaid and repeal the ACA. With the newly-elected Congress – the House of Representatives will have a Democratic majority and the Senate will continue to have a Republican majority – bills to repeal the ACA or cut Medicaid will likely be unable to pass both houses.



**Competitive, integrated employment has been a top advocacy priority for the disability community.**

We likely will see both the Senate and House introduce proposals around "universal healthcare," expanding the public healthcare options for all Americans. So

far, these bills have ranged from "Medicare-for-All" to Medicaid Buy-in programs. While it's unlikely that these bills will pass in the next Congress, a discussion about improving access to healthcare is underway. Disability advocates are working with Congress to educate them about the services that people with disabilities need – particularly Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) – to ensure they are included in any healthcare proposals.

You may have heard that a federal judge in Texas recently issued a decision finding the entire ACA unconstitutional, including its provisions protecting people with pre-existing conditions. The decision is still moving through the courts, and we expect it will ultimately go to the Supreme Court (although this process will take some time). The Administration has made clear that the decision will not go into effect until the case is final. That means the ACA is still the law of the land. Other courts may also rule on the

issue before it makes its way to the Supreme Court (for example, there's currently a case pending in Maryland). The decision has already intensified the healthcare debate and could even create some momentum around new healthcare bills that are even more expansive than the ACA.

The midterm elections made changes in Congress, but not in the federal agencies. We expect to continue to see concerning healthcare policies from the Administration, like the recent expansion of Short-Term Plans (that can exclude people with pre-existing conditions or charge them higher rates); allowance of Section 1332 ACA waivers (which increase state flexibility but may also circumvent protections); and approval of new Section 1115 Medicaid waivers with significant restrictions on access, like work requirements. With a Democratic majority in the House, there may be oversight hearings related to the impact of these healthcare policies.

The midterm energy around healthcare played out at the state level too. Three states (Idaho, Nebraska and Utah) passed Medicaid expansion bills, meaning there are now 37 states that have expanded Medicaid.



## Money Follows the Person

The disability community has been working hard to try to get Congress to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. MFP provides funding to states to help people with disabilities move into the community from institutions. The program has assisted more than 88,000 individuals to return to the community. It expired in 2016, and states have run out of funding or will soon. If a bill to fund MFP doesn't pass the "lame duck" session (the session from the election until the next Congress begins in January), getting a bill to fund MFP re-introduced and passed in the next Congress will be a priority.

 **88,000+**  
 **Number of individuals Money Follows the Person assisted to return to the community.**

## Employment of People with Disabilities

Most of us know from experience that having a job is critical to being able to earn a living, contribute our skills and experience and be part of the community. Competitive, integrated employment (CIE) – jobs where people with disabilities are paid the same wages, have the same opportunities for advancement, and work alongside their co-workers without disabilities – has been a top advocacy priority for the disability community.

Employment of people with disabilities has been the subject of

numerous bills in this Congress. There are several proposed bills that could increase opportunities for CIE for people with disabilities, many of which we expect will be reintroduced in the next Congress:

- **The Disability Employment Incentive Act of 2018** (S. 3260): Enhances tax credits for hiring a person with a disability, removing barriers and retaining a worker with a disability for at least two years.
- **Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment (TIME) Act** (H.R. 1377): Phases out Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which allows the payment of subminimum wages to people with disabilities, over several years.
- **Transitions to Independence** (H.R. 4931): Creates a pilot program to provide enhanced Medicaid funding to incentivize states to shift funding and capacity from sheltered workshops and other segregated day services to CIE.
- **Raise the Wage Act** (S. 1242 and H.R. 15): Raises the national minimum wage to \$15 per hour and includes a proposed multi-year phase out of Section 14(c) subminimum wages.

We are also working to protect the gains we've already made, such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and its regulations. WIOA was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and expressed a clear policy in support of CIE. We remain concerned about Congressional efforts to roll back the law, particularly the Workplace Choice and Flexibility for Individuals

with Disabilities Act (H.R. 5658) that would weaken WIOA's definition of CIE. In addition, the Department of Education has given public notice that they may open the existing WIOA regulations in early 2019. If the rules are opened, it will be critical for the disability community to submit comments sharing why CIE is so important to people with disabilities.

## Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule

Finally, a Georgia-specific update. We're expecting Georgia's transition plan implementing the HCBS Settings Rule to come out for public comment soon, before it's resubmitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for final approval. As we've written before, input from advocates and HCBS participants is critical so that the state will implement the HCBS settings rule in ways that ensure HCBS participants are fully included in the broader community.

## Get More Information About:

- [The Texas v. USA case and other Attacks on the ACA](#)
- [The HCBS Settings Rule, the status of Georgia's plan, and how to get involved](#)
- [A set of principles around disability services in universal healthcare developed by the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, in which NACDD is a member and CPR is a co-chair](#)
- [Money Follows the Person Program and the bills to re-authorize it](#)

*Please note: information in this article is current as of January 2, 2019.*



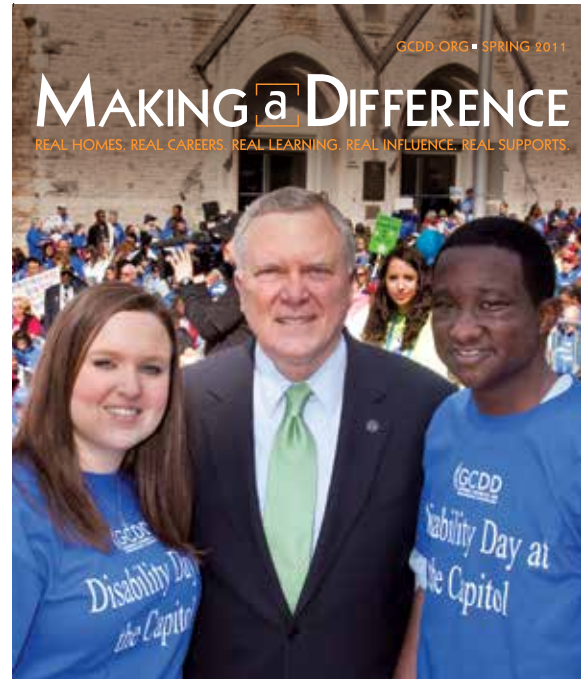


Governor Nathan Deal speaks at Disability Day 2013.

# Thank You, Governor Deal



Disability Day 2014



**NEWS FOR YOU:** **DISABILITY DAY** Governor Deal Addresses Disability Community  
**INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE** Students Learn From One Another  
**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** How the Senate and House Voted

Making a Difference Magazine Cover – Disability Day 2011



Disability Day 2011



Disability Day 2016



Disability Day 2012



Graduation at Kennesaw State University Inclusive College Program 2018



Disability Day 2013



## Dear Governor Deal,

We want to thank you on behalf of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities and the thousands of Georgians with developmental disabilities and their families for your support over the last eight years. You braved the cold and rain to attend six Disability Day events at the Capitol where your heartfelt words brought hope and encouragement that we can make Georgia a better place to live for all people.

You spoke about the need to expand inclusive post-secondary programs and to move children and others out of institutions. You followed up those words with actions that led to innovative programs at nine colleges and universities around the state. You signed into law the creation of the Georgia STABLE program. Finally, we have an Employment First Council that will change the way Georgia structures employment options for people with disabilities.

You have not always had an easy job. You did not negotiate the Department of Justice settlement around moving people out of institutions; instead you were handed this decision on your first day in office. While the process hasn't always run smoothly, Georgia is now at the point where there are just a few people still living at Gracewood State Hospital. Most have moved into the community and are living the kind of life we all want. It will not be long until we join those states that have ended the warehousing of people with disabilities. You should be proud that we have come so far.

You have been a compassionate and dedicated human being and governor. Even before you were governor, as a US representative you supported federal legislation to improve the lives of people with disabilities including the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and MiCASA. While there are issues that remain unresolved, your administration was willing to work with advocates around the state.

Again, we thank you for the last eight years and hope that you will continue to be an advocate for the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,  
The members and staff  
at the Georgia Council on  
Developmental Disabilities



Disability Day 2014



Disability Day 2015



Disability Day 2016



Georgia STABLE Bill Signing 2017



Employment First Council Signing 2018



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## JANUARY

January 14

**2019 Georgia Legislative Session begins**

Atlanta, GA

[Find more information online](#)

January 22, 10 AM

**Locating Employment Avenues with Peer Support**

disABILITY LINK - Tucker, GA

[Find more information online](#)

January 24, 1 PM

**Getting Ready for Work**

disABILITY LINK - Tucker, GA

[Find more information online](#)

January 29, 10 AM

**Locating Employment Avenues with Peer Support**

disABILITY LINK - Tucker, GA

[Find more information online](#)

January 30, 8 AM - 12:30 PM

**Advocacy Day #1 - Inclusive Post-Secondary Education**

Atlanta, GA - [Register online](#)

January 30, 9:30 AM - 5 PM

**Sangha Unity Network, Inc. Power of Communication Workshop**

Cartersville (Region 1)

[Register FREE online](#)

## FEBRUARY

February 12, 8 AM - 12:30 PM

**Advocacy Day #2 - Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers Day**

Atlanta, GA - [Register online](#)

February 12, 2 PM

**Think College Webinar: Answers to Your Most Commonly Asked VR Questions**

[Register FREE online](#)

February 14, 8 AM - 12:30 PM

**Advocacy Day #3 - Everyone Out! Day**

Atlanta, GA - [Register online](#)

February 20, 9:30 AM - 5 PM

**Sangha Unity Network, Inc. Power of Communication Workshop**

Columbus (Region 6)

[Register FREE online](#)

February 26, 1 PM

**Think College Webinar: Key Strategies for Finding and Maintaining A Job**

[Register FREE online](#)

February 27, 8 AM - 12:30 PM

**Advocacy Day #4 - Direct Support Professional Day**

Atlanta, GA - [Register online](#)

## MARCH

March 6, 8 AM - 12:30 PM

**Advocacy Day #5 - Supported Decision-Making Day**

Atlanta, GA - [Register online](#)

March 7, 1 PM

**Think College Webinar: Assessing Risk and Developing Strategies for Inclusive Postsecondary Education Programs**

[Register FREE online](#)

March 20, 9:30 AM - 5 PM

**Sangha Unity Network, Inc. Power of Communication Workshop**

Augusta (Region 2)

[Register FREE online](#)

March 21, 9:30 AM - 5 PM

**Sangha Unity Network, Inc. Power of Communication Workshop**

Savannah (Region 5)

[Register FREE online](#)

## APRIL

April 11-12

**GCDD Quarterly Meeting**

Atlanta, GA

[Find more information online](#)

To find out about more events across the state, visit GCDD's Calendar of Events.



**Remember to REGISTER for Advocacy Days 2019!**

Choose from Five Days of Advocacy (read more about it on pages 12-13).