



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 Letter from the Executive
Director

04 Board of Directors

05 Advocacy

06 Youth Programs

07 Kids on The Block
Program

08 Leadership Empowerment
Access Program

09 Mental Health Academy

10 Community Partners

11 Social Media Snapshot

12 Donate



A Letter From the Executive Director



Dear Georgia Mental Health Community,

My name is Abdul Henderson, and I am the new Executive Director for Mental Health America of Georgia (MHAG).

This past year has been difficult because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the organization has endured numerous challenges. Despite these challenges, MHAG has worked tirelessly to continue to serve the community.

During the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year, we successfully trained over 5,000 Georgian's through our Mental Health Academy, and expanded our LEAP and KOTB programming. In addition, MHAG has been leader in mental health policy as a member of the the Georgia Mental Health Policy Partnership. As the Georgia Assembly begins to engage more in discussions concerning mental health policy, MHAG will be a part of the plan.

I want to personally thank our partners, funders, stakeholders and staff who are dedicated to our mission. I encourage you all to read our annual report and continue to work with us to fight for mental health access, parity, and mental health literacy for all.



Officers

Jeffrey Nolan
Board President
Director, Corporate Development
JES Holdings, LLC

Dawnne Nightingale-Amey
Vice President
Owner/CEO
Nightingale Inc.

Laura Steul
Treasurer
Controller
Capital City Club

Marybeth Peters, LCSW, CEAP
Secretary
Regional Supervisor
Federal Occupational Health, Magellan
Health

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christine Doyle, BA, BS, MSW, PhD
Director, Office of Behavioral Health Services
Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

Meredith Yourd
Director of Account Management
Prometheus Research, LLC

Bradley Harder
Attorney
Alston & Bird

Collen Reedy
Senior Manager
Global Workplace

Tracey Henry, MD, MPH, MS
Assistant Health Director
Grady Primary Care Center

Cory Ruth
Chief Executive Officer
Mergence Global

Heather Koth, MS, APC, NCC
Owner & Therapist
Intown Professional Counseling

Pat Saxman
Chief Growth Officer
VisitPay

Edgar Neely
Attorney
Nelson Mullins

Melissa Dietz
Director of Global Accounts
Verusen

Nicholas Reuter
Partner
Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP



ADVOCACY

MHA of Georgia makes and supports policy recommendations that promote the rights and access to care of individuals living with a behavioral health condition. We build solutions to increase access to health care all while combatting discrimination, and the stigma associated with mental illness.

The 2021 Legislative Session Included:

- ✓ Hosting a Freshman Forum to discuss mental health with our new legislators.
- ✓ Hiring a new Policy and Research Associate for tracking and reporting on legislation.
- ✓ Hosting our first virtual Mental Health Day at Capitol.
- ✓ Distributed over 18 Legislative Updates to more than 4K subscribers with a 20% average open rate.
- ✓ Presented Unified Vision for Mental Health Policy with the Georgia Mental Health Policy Partnership.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Our Kids On The Block program offers education and wellness puppetry arts performances for ages 3-12. Our LEAP programming has been extended this year to include youth and young adults up to age 26.



**Leadership Empowerment
Access Program (LEAP)**



**Puppetry Arts
Program**



Ages 3-12



**Educate Youth to
understand and
communicate
their thoughts,
feelings, and
behaviors in the
home, school,
and community.**

Program Highlights

3,160

CHILDREN SERVICED

87

PERFORMANCES

33

COUNTIES COVERED

Program Highlights

The youth and young adults who participated in our program were provided various opportunities for personal and professional development. Examples of workshops include Time Management, Goal Setting, Networking, and Building Resilience. The program partnered with Mercer University to hold an informative workshop on how to build a resume and then participants could schedule time with a mentor directly to finalize their individual resume. We held a Mock Interview event where participants were partnered with a variety of professionals to practice and receive coaching on their interview techniques.

436
Participants

24
Trainings



**Vocational Training
Program**



Ages 16-26



**Training and
Support for
emerging adults
with behavioral
health conditions to
prepare them for
employment.**

Program Highlights

We hosted 7 Behavioral Health Townhalls where we had 1,334 community members attend; Hosted 2 YMHFA train the trainers where we certified 28 new Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructors; We hosted an AMHFA train the trainers where we certified 12 new Adult Mental Health First Aid instructors. We hosted a teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) train the trainers where we partnered with 6 different schools in the state of Georgia to certify 12 tMHFA Instructors. We hosted 5 trainings through our Professional Series, training 213 behavioral health providers.

241
Trainings

5,102
People Served



MENTAL HEALTH ACADEMY

The Mental Health Academy is a training program to educate non-mental health professionals to better understand mental illness/addictions and provide effective response options for de-escalation. It offers Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) Gatekeeper Training, and Outreach Wellness Learning (OWL) seminars.

MHFA	QPR	OWL
✓ Recognize signs and symptoms of mental illness	✓ Recognize signs and symptoms of suicide	✓ Recognize signs, symptoms, & treatment for mental illness
✓ De-escalation techniques and action plan	✓ De-escalation & support strategies	✓ Effective coping & support strategies
✓ 8-hour instruction	✓ 1-2 hour instruction	✓ 60-90 minute instruction
✓ Evidence Based	✓ Evidence Based	✓ Research Based

MENTAL HEALTH ACADEMY COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Atlanta Police Department
- Amerigroup
- Anthem
- BlueCross BlueShield
- Butts County City Schools
- Butts County Life Enrichment Team
- Chatham County Sheriff's Office
- Cherokee County City Schools
- Cherokee County Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) Triad
- Clayton County Public Library
- Columbia County City Schools
- Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
- Dawson County City Schools
- Dekalb CASA
- Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
- Dekalb County City Schools
- Family Connections
- Fulton County Juvenile Courts
- Georgia State University
- Heritage Fellowship Church
- Inner-City Muslim Action Network
- Mercer University
- National Association of Mental Illness
- Newton County City Schools
- Paulding County City Schools
- Resilient Georgia
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
- University of West Georgia
- Valdosta Police Department
- Westside Health Collaborative



Mental Health Academy



Social Media Snapshot

3K Twitter Followers



4.1k Instagram followers

23.7 K Facebook Followers



13K in Facebook Fundraising



Donate to MHAG by
Scanning Our Donation
QR Code or
visit

www.mhageorgia.org