NOW/COMP Waivers:

Family Supports:

Final Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriation
to better serve people with mental illness and developmental disabili-

DBHDD is in the third year of the Settlement Agreement with the De-

The FY 2013A budget did not make any changes to the Depart-

DOJ Settlement:

TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS:

Social Services Block Grant:

Medical Assistance Program:

Community Mental Health Svcs Block Grant:

TOTAL STATE FUNDS:

Tobacco Settlement Funds:

Bills passed this session include: HB 78, which deals with protections for adults with disabilities and seniors; HR 107 and SB 62, both of which create committees to examine Medicaid and possible reform; SB 24, which allows the Department of Community Health to assess a provider payment on hospitals that will help fund Medicaid; HB 242, the comprehensive overhaul of the juvenile justice system; and HB 142, the much-discussed ethics bill.

Remember: bills that did not pass will be alive next year. Much was accomplished this session, but there is a great deal for advocates left to do! Be sure you are signed up for GCDD’s email lists to STAY CONNECTED throughout the year! Our connection information is in the bottom right corner of this page.

House and Senate News:

House Leadership — Speaker of the House: David Ralston, 7th; Speaker Pro Tempore: Jan Jones, 46th. Majority Leader: Larry O’Neal, 146th; Minority Leader: Stacey Abrams, 84th.

Senate Leadership — Presiding: Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle; Senate Pro Tempore: David Shafer, 48th. Majority Leader: Ronnie Chance, 16th; Minority Leader: Steve Henson, 41st.

Contact information for the Governor — The Honorable Nathan Deal, 203 State Capitol, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334; 404-656-1776, http://gov.state.ga.us
Visit www.votesmart.org to identify your legislators. Find your legislators’ contact information at www.legis.state.ga.us
House Information, 1-800-282-5800; Senate Information 1-800-282-5803.

Budget Information:

The 2013 Session tackles the 2013 supplemental budget, referred to here as FY 2013A, (ending June 30, 2013) and the FY 2014 budget (beginning July 1, 2013). This week’s issue looks at highlights from the final FY 2013A and FY 2014 budgets.

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

To see details on how the budget breaks down for each program in DBHDD, please see the full budget documents available at http://opb.georgia.gov and http://www.house.ga.gov/budget. This year, DBHDD took a 3 percent cut with all other state agencies.

The FY 2014 budget adds $250,000 in state funds for the Marcus Au-

tism Center, with total funds added of $500,000. The House and Sen-

ate also agreed to add language to the budget requiring DBHDD to

department to assess a provider payment on hospitals that will help fund Medicaid; HB 242, the comprehensive overhaul of the juvenile justice system; and HB 142, the much-discussed ethics bill.

FY 2013A & FY 2014:

State General Funds: $945,720,771
Tobacco Settlement Funds: $10,255,138
TOTAL STATE FUNDS: $955,975,909
Community Mental Health Svcs Block Grant: $14,163,709
Medical Assistance Program: $25,507,365
Prevention & Treatment of Substance Abuse: $46,889,589
Social Services Block Grant: $35,981,142
TANF Block Grant: $11,568,720
Federal Funds Not Itemized: $48,098
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS: $144,827,042
TOTAL FUNDS: $1,160,609,191

DOJ Settlement-Related Spending

The FY 2013A budget did not make any changes to the Depart-

ment of Justice-related spending laid out in FY 2013, and the FY 2014 budget supports the DOJ-related spending in full.

DBHDD is in the third year of the Settlement Agreement with the De-

partment of Justice. The agreement lays out five years of deliverables to better serve people with mental illness and developmental disabil-

ities currently living in state institutions or at risk of institutionalization.

Final Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriation

Family Supports: $6,520,400
⇒ $1,872,000 recommended increase over FY 2013, to serve 500 more families
NOW/COMP Waivers: $31,812,512
⇒ $11,966,160 recommended increase over FY 2013 for 250 new waivers

Crisis Respite Homes (12) & Mobile Crisis Teams (6): $11,917,681
Education of Judges and Law Enforcement: $250,000
Waiver Audits: $200,000
DD Total spending: $50,700,593
⇒ $13,838,160 recommended increase over FY 2013

Department of Community Health

FY 2014: Twenty new Independent Care Waiver Program slots were included in the final budget. The proposed 0.74% provid-

er rate cut was eliminated. Language is included regarding consum-

er choice in the elderly and disabled waiver; eligible beneficiaries can choose from SOURCE care management companies and the Communi-

ty Care Services Program available in each county.

Finally, the FY 2014 budget includes language authorizing DCH to sub-

mit a federal application for an 1115 Medicaid waiver; this waiver will

be used to create the new managed care system for children in foster care.

FY 2013A & FY 2014: Funds will be reduced in both budgets by bet-

ter enforcing analyses of the level of care required to qualify for long-term care and home and community-based services. In 2013A, this is projected to save $3.5 million; in 2014, it is projected to save $7.2 million. Both 2013A and 2014 increase the budgetary flexi-

bility allowed between the Aged, Blind and Disabled Medicaid program and the Low-Income Medicaid Program, from 2% to 10%.

Department of Human Services

FY 2014: There are two key items regarding services for seniors. The Governor had originally proposed eliminating 17 adult protective service worker positions for a savings of $528,871 and reducing contract resistive services by $484,559. All of the funding for respite care was restored, along with half of the funding for the adult pro-

ective service worker positions.

FY 2013A: In the Elder Community Living Services program, there was a $2.6 million reduction based on the capping of the CCSP waiver in October.

In the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency budget, $5 million in funding was added for the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute.

Department of Education

FY 2014: The final budget incorporated a proposal by the Governor to transfer $6.3 million from the Georgia Learning Resource Center into federal programs.

It includes $2.6 million for the Sparicity Grant program but directs the Department of Education to study and evaluate the need for it. It also includes $291,361 for special education funding for students served in Residential Treatment Facilities.

Other 2014 items of note:

Increase funds based on enrollment growth & training: $146,583,599
Increase funds for Special Needs Scholarships to meet projected need: $52,247
Adjust funds for the Georgia Preschool Handicapped program based on increased enrollment: $763,969
Reduce funds for Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS) due to declining enrollment: ($2,009,258)

FY 2013A: Funds for Residential Treatment Centers were reduced by 1%.

In the Quality Basic Education (QBE) program, there are increases for enrollment growth, Special Needs scholarships, and charter schools, a funding increase of $167,087,739. Out of that total increase, $3,033,447 is for Special Needs scholarships.

Stay Connected: GCDD Advocacy Resources

GCDD Mailing & Email Lists: www.gcdd.org - scroll down & click "Stay Connected" on right hand side
Unlock the Waiting Lists! advocacy website: www.unlockthewaitinglists.com

The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities collaborates with Georgia citizens, public and private advocacy organizations, and policymakers to positively influence public policies that enhance the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
Thursday, March 28th was the final day, Sine Die, of the legislative session. In order to pass, a piece of legislation must have passed both chambers in identical form by midnight on Sine Die. Unless otherwise noted below, bills that passed are now awaiting the governor’s signature. Below is the list of legislation tracked by Moving Forward, with the bills that passed listed first. Bills that did not pass will stay alive for next year’s session.

### Legislation that PASSED— HOUSE Bills:

- **HB 70**: To provide for the waiver of one of the special needs scholarship requirements under the Technical Education Act. Sponsor: Willard, 51; Jones, 47; Lindsey, 54; Dudgeon, 25; Kaiser, 59. Status: Ed, House Passed & Adopted; Ed&Y, Senate Passed & Adopted; House Agreed to Senate Amendments.
- **HB 78**: To relate to the protection of disabled adults and elders persons, and reporting abuse or exploitation of residents in long-term care facilities; to change provisions relating to abuse to apply to non-residents of 65 or older. Sponsor: Willard, 51; Jones, 47; Lindsey, 54; Abrams, 89; Cooper, 43; Houston, 170. Status: Judy, House Passed & Adopted; Judy&Y, Senate Passed & Adopted; House Agreed to Senate Amendments.
- **HB 198**: To provide for licensing of health insurance navigators under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Sponsor: Smith, R., 20; Meadows, 5; Mitchell, 13; Vickers, 18; Abrams, 89; Gard, 76. Status: Insurance, House Passed & Adopted; I&L, Senate Passed & Adopted; House Agreed to Senate Amendments.
- **HB 207**: To authorize issuance of a special turkey-hunting permit and provide for an extended turkey season for young and mobility impaired hunters. Sponsor: Shaw, 176; Roberts, 155; Tankersley, 160; Williams, 168; Nimmer, 178; Black, 174. Status: H&HC, House Passed & Adopted; HR&A, Senate Passed & Adopted; House Agreed to Senate Amendments.

### Legislation that did NOT pass— HOUSE Bills:

- **HB 18**: The “Blind Persons’ Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act”; to provide requirements for textbook publishers relating to electronic materials; to provide license requirements relating to Braille for certain dealers. Sponsor: Waites, K., 60; Scott, 76; Stevens, 105. Status: Judy, House Passed & Adopted.
- **HB 67**: To expand the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund provisions to authorize additional penalty assessments for violative actions. Sponsor: Culver, 145. Status: Judy, House Second Readers.
- **HB 74**: To require health plans to provide coverage for hearing aids for certain individuals. Sponsor: Smith, R., 134; Meadows, 5; Doug Holt, 112; Mike Glanton, 75; Tom Dickson, 6; Tommy Benton, 31; Pat Gardner, 57. Status: Insurance, House Second Readers.
- **HB 19**: To provide for enhanced sentencing of defendants guilty of crimes that target a victim due to the victim’s race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin. Sponsor: Marvin, 96; Walters, 60; Brooks, 55; Bell, 39; Bostick, J., 158; Willard, 51. Status: Judy&Y, House Second Readers.
- **HB 166**: The “Parent Protection Act”; to provide for leave to attend for employees to attend school conferences and medical appointments; to provide that retaliatory actions are unlawful. Sponsors: Bruce, 61; Anderson, 92; Abrams, 89; Hugley, 136; Mitchell, Bill; Holcomb, 81. Status: I&L, House Second Readers.
- **HB 290**: To provide that employees may use sick leave for the care of immediate family members. Sponsors: Dempsey, 13; Benton, 31; Clark, 101; Brookway, 102; Kaiser, 59; Powell, 171. Status: HR&A, House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute.
- **HB 299**: To relating to tax returns; to provide for contributions to Special Olympics Georgia. Sponsor: Shaw, 176; Carter, 175; England, 116; Sharp, 177; Back, 174. Status: W&H, House Second Readers.
- **HB 461**: To provide for certain insurance coverage of autism spectrum disorders. Sponsors: Harbin, 122; Dempsey, 13; Ramsey, 72; Randolph, 142; Neal, 2; Battles, 15. Status: Insurance; House Second Readers.

## Legislation that did NOT pass— SENATE Bills:

- **SB 13**: The “Stacey Nicole English Act,” to allow the director of missing persons who may be incapacitated due to serious medical conditions. Sponsors: Davenport, 44; Fort, 39; Jones, 10; James, 35; Tate, 38; Butler, 55. Status: PS, Senate Passed & Adopted; HR&I, House Favorably Reported by Substitute.
- **SB 47**: To provide that each individual accident and sickness health insurance policy sold shall provide coverage for treatment of dependent children with cancer and provide coverage for autism. Sponsors: Fort, 39; Henson, 41; Tate, 38; Sims, 12; Lucas, 26; James, 35. Status: I&L, Senate Read & Referred.
- **SB 50**: To relating to absentee voting, so as to change the time periods for advance voting. Sponsors: Henson, 41; Ramsey, 43; Tate, 38; Butler, 55; Lucas, 26; Fort, 39. Status: Ethics, Senate Read and Referred.
- **SB 163**: To require the Department of Community Health to study and identify options for Medicaid reform; to provide for a report on findings and recommendations. Sponsors: Ligon, 3; Albers, 58; Hill, 40; Lowdermilk, 14; McKoon, 29; Cooke, 28. Status: HR&S, Senate Passed & Adopted; & HR&S, House Committee Favorably Report by Substitute.
- **SB 309**: To “Ava’s Law,” to provide for certain insurance coverage of autism spectrum disorders. Sponsors: Albers, 56; Stone, 23; Hufstetler, 52; Williams, 19. Status: I&L, Senate Read & Referred.

## Supporting Resources:
- Moving Forward e-Updates available at www.gcord.org/public-policy
- www.gcdd.org
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Capitol Impact
Moving Forward. Hoobastank. Album Every Man for Himself. Moving Forward Lyrics. At least I'm moving forward At least I'm moving forward At least I'm moving forward At least I'm moving forward. I stand before a road that will lead Into the unknown At least unknown to me I want to go but I'm paralyzed with fear Fear of a choice where the outcome isn't clear. No but still I go.