The 2017-2018 National Survey of Children’s Health: 24% of Georgia’s youth aged 3 – 17 years had one or more mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral problem.¹

High Quality Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs

- Provide supportive environments & incorporate healthy habits into routine²
- Promote positive behavioral factors like positive decision-making skills, self-control, and self-awareness⁶
- Offer protective factors that improve youth outcomes & mitigate the effects of risk factors³, ⁴
- Provide opportunities to learn from mentors⁷
- Help overcome Adverse Childhood Experiences & reduce chances of developing substance use disorders⁵
- Lead to improved work habits and classroom behavior, gains in reading and math, and increased school attendance and graduation rates⁸, ⁹

These programs are an ideal opportunity to foster positive behavioral health, which increase a child’s sense of well-being, supports healthy relationships, and enables children to achieve their full academic potential.¹⁰, ¹¹

Spring 2019 Behavioral Health Round Table Discussions

Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network hosted 5 Behavioral Health round table discussions with 37 Afterschool & Summer Learning providers to identify strategies, tools, and resources to address program challenges in supporting youth’s behavioral health needs.

What We Heard

Behavioral Health Issues Observed
- Attention seeking behavior
- Defiant behavior and testing boundaries
- Physical and verbal altercations

Obstacles to Supporting Youth
- Lack of behavioral health knowledge, understanding, and training
- Program capacity stretched too thin
- Lack of access to a list of referral services and organizations

Resources Needed
- Training and professional development
- Education and awareness
- Vetted master list of services, partners and referral organizations

Successful Strategies
- Raise awareness and knowledge
- Include families in services and intervention methods
- Offering youth choice, nurturing relationships, supportive age appropriate environments, and enriching activities

For references, go to www.afterschoolga.org/afterschool-issues/