

Afterschool & Summer Learning Programs Supporting the Behavioral Health Needs of Georgia's Youth



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 factors^{3, 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 rates^{8, 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



Resources Needed

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



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



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