THE PROBLEM: 
60% of children who need behavioral health services do not receive them.

Behavioral Health is at the core of the majority of the problems we see in education, juvenile justice and child welfare. And the challenges don’t stop there — they continue into adulthood.

Counts without licensed psychologist
Counts without licensed social worker
Counts without licensed psychologist or licensed social worker

76 of 159 COUNTIES do not have a licensed psychologist
52 of 159 COUNTIES do not have a licensed social worker

Approx. 75% of children who receive services, receive them in schools

Social Workers
Currently: 1 for every 2,742 students
Needed: 1 for every 250 students

School Psychologists
Currently: 1 for every 2,475 students
Needed: 1 for every 1,000 students

School Nurses
Currently: 1 for every 1,088 students
Needed: 1 for every 750 students

OF Georgia’s Crisis in Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health
ALARMING STATS:
2 in 10 children have one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions.

- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among youth age 9 to 17.
- Children with disabilities are twice as likely to be suspended increasing the risk of grade repetition and dropping out.
- Preschoolers are expelled more than three times as often as K-12 students, often due to behavior issues.
- Approx. 50-70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a need for behavioral health services.

WHY WE NEED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES:

Untreated behavioral health illness in children and adolescents can lead to:

- A higher usage of health care services
- Higher poverty rates
- Much lower rates of employment in adulthood

WHAT WE NEED:

1. All children and adolescents have access to behavioral health services
2. Schools are equipped to meet the need early and effectively
3. Georgia has the workforce to help children and adolescents with behavioral health needs

WHAT NEXT:

We need to fully implement Georgia's comprehensive three-year state plan for child and adolescent behavioral health and continue to fund the recommendations from the Children's Commission on Mental Health.

Sources available at: https://tinyurl.com/yarnoke5
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