

Annual Report FY 2014

Mission

Georgia Parent Support Network, Inc. is dedicated to providing support, education, and advocacy for children and youth with mental illness, emotional disturbances, and behavioral differences and their families

Board of Directors

Kathy Dennis
President

Linda Seay
Treasurer

Carolyn Walker
Secretary

Karl Dennis
Barbara Dunbar-Arnold
Lorraine Echols
Todd Estroff, MD
Linda Seay
Sherry Jenkins Tucker
Kathy Vadasy

Cynthia Wainscott
Emeritus

Sue L. Smith, Ed.D.
Chief Executive
Officer

Georgia Parent Support Network, Inc.

Georgia's Federation of Families for
Children's Mental Health



GPSN Supports Georgia Families

Georgia Parent Support Network (GPSN) is a grassroots family-run non-profit organization established in 1987. GPSN has worked on the premise that families are key to systems change and believes that families are the best and most effective agents for change. GPSN was founded in response to the lack of knowledge about services and actual lack of services that address the needs of children with mental illness, emotional disturbances, and behavioral differences. GPSN is a Board-directed family support organization whose Board consists of from 10 to 14 family members and concerned citizens at any given time. Working with families at the community level is at the heart of GPSN's vision and mission. In FY14, GPSN served 4,015 children and their families. GPSN Family Support Partners work one-on-one with families to provide care coordination, support, advocacy, education, mentoring, information, and referral services uniquely tailored to each family's specific needs. GPSN works to assist families in a variety of settings including schools, courts, social service agencies, mental health, and other community agencies. GPSN has been a key stakeholder in system transformation efforts through participation in local, regional, and state councils and committees.

Sue Smith, CEO-GPSN,
Frank Berry, Commissioner-
DBHDD, Bobby Cagle,
Commissioner-DFCS, Amber
Beck, TFC Coordinator-
GPSN



11th Annual "Unmasking Children's Mental Illness"
Fundraising Gala

Letter from the Board President

It is always with great pleasure that I write this letter. I serve on several boards and many other committees, but Georgia Parent Support Network is the organization I truly value. It has been a privilege to be on the board; to work with the most dedicated staff; and to have the opportunity to meet many of the youth and family members that GPSN serves.

In addition to many traditional services that GPSN provides, they are also the Statewide Family Network state chapter of the Federation of Families Children's Mental Health. GPSN has helped to develop and nurture 20 local chapters throughout Georgia (the most of any state in the country.)

The agency coordinates Mental Health Day at the Capitol, which brings hundreds of advocates and state legislatures together in support of funding and appropriate services for the vulnerable youth and families that we serve.

To help support our work every year we celebrate Mardi Gras with a large fundraiser at the historic Fox Theater. This year we had a great turnout and crowned Bobby Cagle, Commissioner of DFCS, as the King of the Ball. It was an exciting party enjoyed by all.

This is also a great time to thank the board, dedicated staff, and volunteers for all that you do. Through your work Georgia Parent Support Network has played a key role in changing how services are delivered in Georgia, how we think about persons in need of services, and how those in decision-making roles view the need for services. Your help is deeply appreciated.

With best regards,

Kathy Dennis
Board President

GPSN Programs and Services

Statewide Family Network Advocacy – GPSN is the state chapter of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health and works with the 19 local chapters throughout Georgia to provide advocacy for families and train families to advocate for their children and themselves.

The Transitional Youth Peer Center - The Transitional Youth Peer Center Program provides services and training to youth between the ages of 17 and 25 who have aged out of child and adolescent mental health services. This provision of services is done through youth staff who serve as mentors and team workers for youth served by the program. The services and trainings include, but are not limited to: vocational assessment, life skills, personal hygiene, cooking, tutoring, interview skills, and youth support groups. These services are provided to the youth according to the youth's individual needs and desires.

Therapeutic Foster Care - Therapeutic Foster Care is long-term, out-of-home placement for children who have already entered the custody of the Department of Family and Children's Services. These children often exhibit emotional and behavioral difficulties and are considered for therapeutic foster care when less intensive forms of foster care would not meet the child's needs.

Respite Care Services - Respite care is planned or emergency relief for guardians or caregivers of children who are difficult to manage. Respite care occurs as part of ongoing mental health services. In some instances, respite takes place on an unplanned basis due to a crisis situation. Trained respite care workers assume the duties of caregiving for a brief period of time to give parents/guardians a break from the constant strain of parenting a child with serious emotional problems.



**Governor Nathan Deal Proclamation Presentation
Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, May 2014**

2014 Outcomes, Highlights and Accomplishments

- ◆ GPSN provided advocacy, support, food, clothing, and other basic necessities for children and families via the Statewide Family Network Grant.
- ◆ Continued leadership in educating Georgia's policymakers and legislators.
- ◆ Served on committees across Georgia, including the Mental Health Planning Council, the Behavioral Health Services Coalition, the Recovery Initiative, the CHIPRA Committee, and the Care Management Entity Committee.
- ◆ Provided families with accurate, up-to-date information on laws, school issues, behavioral, emotional, and mental disorders, and community resources.
- ◆ Provided holiday gifts to 218 children and families.
- ◆ Parent Support Groups were presented 4 times in 2014, with 31 people in attendance.
- ◆ GPSN provided up-to-date and real-time, useful information through advocacy-based e-blasts to the email list of 1,640 people.
- ◆ GPSN's website is updated weekly. Informative articles and community happenings are communicated via Facebook and Twitter multiple times per week. Georgia Parent Support Network, Inc.'s (GPSN) Facebook page has 365 followers and our Twitter feed has 107 followers.
- ◆ Responded to over 2,000 telephone calls for family support and referrals.
- ◆ Provided safety and shelter to 112 children in the Therapeutic Foster Care program.
- ◆ Provided Peer services to 14 transitioning youth through the Peer-to-Peer Center.

Donors and Contributors

GPSN thanks all of our 2014 donors. Our work would not be possible without your help!

Dr. Kristan Adams
Melissa Alford
Amerigroup
Leah McClellan-Brantley & Family
Atlanta Braves
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
Christi Bartolomucci
Behavioral Health Link
Heather Bond
Thomas Bournemann, Ed.D.
Kathleen Breen
The Breeze Kings
Carole Parks Catering
Celebrity Sports Auction
Chick-Fil-A
Cobb/Douglas CSB
Elaine Decostanzo
Frank Decostanzo
Kathy and Karl Dennis
Arden Dingle
Employees of the Department
of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disabilities
Employees of Dexis/Gendex
Judy Fitzgerald
Sarajane Foltz
Helen Franks

Barbara Friesen
The Fox Theater
Representative Pat Gardner
Global Impact Christian Ministries
Laura Hall
Healthcare Foundation of Georgia
Highland Chiropractic Clinic
Highland Rivers Health
High Museum of Art
Inside CNN Studio Tour
Catherine Ivy
Kimy Kennedy
Laura Lucas
Magellan Health Services
Sandra & Freddy Maynard
McIntosh Trail CSB
Rebecca Merchant & Alanna Quinn
Andy Miller
Jennifer Moore
Greg Moritz
Debby Murphy & Family
Optum
Kelly Patillo & Rob Field
Peachford BH Hospital
Pfizer Pharmaceuticals
Lisa & Wes Rager
Ritz-Carlton Hotel

Rachel Robertson
Resurgens Bank
Remedios Rodriguez
Rollins & Associates
Barbara Lee Runyan
Barbara Sample
Jeff Sargent
Service Master
Catherine Root Sibuma
Morgan Skilling
Rheba Smith
Sue Smith
Dr. Romeo & Rochell Stockett
Topaz Gallery
Jean Toole
ValueOptions
Krissy & John Venneman
View Point Health
Cynthia Wainscott
Carolyn Walker
WalMart – Haynes Bridge Road
WellCare
The Westin Peachtree Plaza
Anita Zervigon-Hakes
Amy and John Zolkowski
Joseph and Karen Zolkowski

GPSN Programs Supported By Diverse Funding



GPSN's revenue for FY14 totaled \$2,316,775. Financial support was provided by multiple agencies and funding sources including the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, The Georgia Department of Family and Children's Services, a Statewide Family Network Grant funded by SAMHSA, and a Peer-to-Peer Grant funded by DBHDD. In addition, GPSN holds fundraisers, which includes the annual "Unmasking Children's Mental Illness" Mardi Gras Ball.

Financial Data

Public Support and Revenue:

State and Local Grants	\$ 417,768
Federal Grants	70,000
Contributions	31,955
Contract Services	1,771,004
Medicaid Revenue	24,936
Other Income	<u>1,112</u>
Total Public Support & Revenues	\$ <u>2,316,775</u>

Expenses:

Program Services	\$ 1,934,359
Support Services:	
Management and General	315,542
Fundraising	<u>49,199</u>
Total Expenses	\$ <u>2,299,100</u>
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ <u>503,714</u>
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ <u>521,389</u>

Georgia Parent Support Network, Inc.
1381 Metropolitan Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30310
Phone: 404-758-4500
Fax: 404-758-6833
Toll-Free: 800-832-5645
Email: info@gpsn.org
www.gpsn.org