



## Assertive Community Treatment

### ACCESS TO SERVICES

Call the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) at (800) 715-4225 for both routine and crisis services 24/7.

### HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE?

Contact the Office of Constituent Services at [dbhddconstituent-services@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:dbhddconstituent-services@dbhdd.ga.gov) or (404) 657-5964

### MORE INFORMATION

Visit the DBHDD website at <http://dbhdd.ga.gov> for more information about our agency, including rules and regulations, policies and careers.

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities' (DBHDD) continuum of care is designed to help people with behavioral health needs that range from low or moderate to severe. Where possible, we believe that people are served better in their own communities, and in the least restrictive setting appropriate to meet their needs. For those with acute needs, DBHDD provides for assertive community treatment (ACT), a consumer-centered, recovery-oriented, and highly intensive service that offers access to a variety of interventions 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ACT is a community-based alternative to hospitalization for people who have a severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) which has interrupted their ability to live in the community successfully. ACT is a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act. Per the settlement, ACT providers adhere to strict fidelity monitoring outlined by the Dartmouth Assertive Community Treatment Scale (DACTS). In addition to having an SPMI, ACT enrollment **criteria** may include:

- \* Frequent admission to psychiatric hospitals
- \* Significant functional impairments due to mental illness

- \* Homelessness or risk of becoming homeless

- \* Incarceration for reasons related to mental illness

- \* Co-occurring substance abuse disorders

ACT is an option for people who have not had success in traditional outpatient behavioral health programs. It is often referred to as a "hospital without walls" because it provides a full range of treatment and supports that enable individuals with SPMI to live in the community. ACT supports recovery through skill-building, advocacy, case management and psychiatry.

DBHDD contracts for ACT services and uses state dollars to offset costs that are not covered by Medicaid. ACT is administered by a multidisciplinary team of behavioral health professionals that consists of a team lead, psychiatrist, registered nurse, certified peer specialist, licensed clinician, vocational specialist, substance abuse counselor and a paraprofessional. The teams provide intensive, community-based interventions, including: rehabilitation, crisis planning, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, medication management, housing and employment assistance, transportation and other integrated services. ACT is a unique treatment model in which the majority of mental

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health services are provided directly by the ACT team in the consumer's natural environment, which may be his or her home. DBHDD supports **22 ACT teams** serving more than **1,700 people** in Georgia.

ACT teams receive referrals from providers, clinics, hospitals and jails. Eligible referrals receive a comprehensive intake assessment by the team. ACT teams also coordinate transitions to provided for in DBHDD's the community for individuals being discharged from a hospital or jail. A large majority of ACT services are provided in the field, rather than in an office setting. Teams are also on call 24/7 to provide crisis intervention outside of regularly scheduled appointments. Because serious mental illnesses are episodic disorders and many consumers benefit from the availability of long-term treatment and continuity of care, individuals may remain in ACT as long as eligibility is met. This flexibility allows consumers to experience gains and setbacks along the process while continuing on the overall road to recovery.

ACT teams typically serve between 75 and 100 consumers. Georgia's 22 teams are located throughout the state.

## ACT Team Locations:

### Region 1 (280 individuals served\*)

Austell  
Gainesville  
Rome

### Region 2 (207 individuals served\*)

Athens  
Augusta  
Milledgeville

### Region 3 (660 individuals served\*)

Atlanta (4 teams)  
East Point  
Jonesboro  
Lawrenceville

### Region 4 (186 individuals served\*)

Albany  
Moultrie  
Valdosta

### Region 5 (190 individuals served\*)

Brunswick  
Savannah (2 teams)

### Region 6 (192 individuals served\*)

Columbus  
Griffin  
LaGrange

*\*Census data as of Dec. 31, 2014*

*The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) serves individuals with mental health challenges, addictive diseases, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our mission is to provide easy access to high-quality care for the people we serve. We offer a wide range of services to fulfill our mission and support our goal of helping people achieve recovery and independence.*