



Conference Program

Day 1 - Monday, November 14th

9:00 AM **Registration and Breakfast**

Knowles Conference Center Lobby

9:30 AM **Welcoming Remarks**

Courtroom

LaVonda Reed, Dean, Georgia State Law

Chad Jones, Vice President of Business Development, View Point Health and GSHA Board Director

9:45 AM **Toya Mather, Honored Speaker, the RESPECT Institute**

Courtroom

10:00 AM **A Conversation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

Courtroom

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities leadership will update us on the state's efforts to provide housing and supports to formerly homeless persons with behavioral health and/or substance abuse disorders by providing supportive housing and services. They will update us on where we are now and share what lies ahead this year for DBHDD in the wake of the successful passage of the Mental Health Parity Act in 2022, with historic levels of federal and state funds.

Monica Johnson, Director of Behavioral Health, DBHDD

Maxwell Ruppensburg, Director, Office of Supportive Housing, Division of Behavioral Health, DBHDD

10:45 AM **Strategies to Advance Housing Equity Through Federal, State, and Local State Policy Actions**

Courtroom

This session features recognized experts providing a national, state, and local perspective on important housing justice issues. Mr. Miao will discuss successful equitable housing policies implemented by local jurisdictions with support from the ChangeLab Solutions Housing Collaborative. Attorney Appley will update us on advocacy at the Georgia Capitol surrounding state policy on housing and homelessness. Dr. Raymond will provide an overview of her research on housing justice, race, segregation, and the financialization of housing.

Karen Johnston, Deputy Director, Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth, Georgia State Law (Moderator)

Gregory Miao, Senior Attorney, ChangeLab Solutions

Elizabeth Appley, Interim Director and Public Policy Advocate, Georgia Supportive Housing Association

Elora Raymond, Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning, Georgia Institute of Technology

12:15 PM
Salons ABC

Lunch

12:30 PM

Keynote Address: Housing First - Putting Proven Best Practices to Work to End Unsheltered Homelessness

The Housing First model, launched in 1992 by Dr. Sam Tsemberis, is an evidence-based intervention that uses a psych-rehab philosophy driven by consumer choice to engage, house, and keep housed individuals with long histories of homelessness, mental illness, and addiction. Housing First is based on the belief that housing is a basic human right and not something that must be earned through demonstrated periods of sobriety or other clinical or programmatic prerequisites. Housing First programs have been implemented across the United States, Canada, European Union, Australia, and New Zealand. Dr. Tsemberis is currently working with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and local nonprofits to expand the practice of Housing First throughout the State.

Keynote Speaker- Dr. Sam Tsemberis, Chief Executive Officer, The Pathways Housing First Institute, and Executive Director, VA-UCLA Center of Excellence for Training and Research on Veterans' Homelessness

1:45 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Salon A

Accessing Housing for Returning Citizens Through the Re-Entry Innovation Partnership Pilot

This workshop will outline the collaborative interagency partnership and pilot initiative to address the housing needs of justice involved individuals who are currently incarcerated and diagnosed with a behavioral health disability who do not have any viable housing options for their release. This partnership includes the Georgia Department of Corrections, the Georgia Department of Pardons and Parole, the Georgia Department of Community Supervision, and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The Re-Entry Innovation Partnership (REIP) is a pilot program using the Georgia Housing Voucher Program to pay the rental costs for approved housing locations. The pilot is in the infancy stages; however, the partnership is building a strong network across agencies to promote community re-entry for those with behavioral health diagnoses and demonstrating promising opportunities for the future.

Letitia Robinson, Assistant Director, Office of Supportive Housing, Georgia DBHDD (Moderator)

Tamara Middlebrooks, Project and Housing Manager, Reentry Services Division, Department of Community Supervision

Crystal Moon, Director, Clemency Division, Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles

Lesley Plugge, Program Consultant Supervisor, Office of Health Services Mental Health Unit, Georgia Department of Corrections

Vonetta Stocks, Quality Assurance, Critical Analysis Unit, Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles

Salon B

Underwriting Supportive Housing Development

With rising interest rates and construction pricing, many great supportive housing projects are finding themselves asking how they can move forward. With insight and solutions from experts Katie Crippen and Stan Sugarman, we will learn about the process of creating partnerships and layered funding to develop successful projects.

Katie Crippen, Senior Loan Officer, Lending, Mercy Community Capital (Moderator and speaker)

Stan Sugarman, Manager and Owner, Stryant Foundation and Stryant Investments

- Salon C* **Answering Mental Health Crises with the New 988 Crisis Line and Co-Responder Teams**
We are aware of the tragedy of jails and prisons serving as our country's largest healthcare providers. Too often, individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorders in the criminal justice system suffer tragic results. This session discusses the implementation of co-responder units that create partnerships between mental health, social service providers, and the criminal justice system.
- Chad Jones**, Vice President of Business Development, View Point Health
- 2:45 PM** **Snack Break - 4th Floor, Research Centers Site**
Exhibit Visit and Networking - Health is a Human Right: Race and Place in America
This exhibit explores health disparities over the past century, the policies that have created and sustained them, and the efforts that have sought to dismantle them and create health equity. For simulcast attendees, visit library.gsu.edu/healthexhibit.
Stacie Kershner, Deputy Director, Center for Law, Health & Society, Georgia State Law
- 3:15 PM** **U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness: Leadership to Prevent and End Homelessness**
The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is the federal agency charged to develop and coordinate the strategic plan and federal funds to prevent and end homelessness in America. They coordinate with nineteen federal agencies, state and local governments, and the private sector to create partnerships, use resources effectively and efficiently, and implement evidence-based practices. Dr. Savage joins us to elaborate on USICH's all hands-on deck approach to leverage and expand the availability and implementation of federal funds and coordinate elected leaders and communities under the House America coalition.
Introduction: Jeff Olivet Executive Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (virtual)
Joe N. Savage, Jr. Senior Regional Advisor, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
- 4:15 PM** **Addressing Health Equity for the Unhoused**
Housing is a key social determinant of health. Housing instability, displacement, and homelessness disproportionately impact racial and ethnic minorities, low-income rural and urban communities, people with disabilities, and those with chronic mental illness. This session discusses health disparities in the economic and social fabric and policies of our communities and ways they can be addressed.
Tami K. Brown, Senior Behavioral Health Program Manager, PeachState Health Plan
Laura Colbert, Executive Director, Georgians for a Healthy Future
Jeff Smythe, Executive Director, Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement (ARCHI)
- 5:15 PM** **Reception and Musical Entertainment with the Chris Ott's Trio**
Knowles Conference Center Lobby
- 5:30 PM** **Dinner and GSHA Awards Ceremony**
Salons ABC
 GSHA Honored Award Recipients
 2022 GSHA Mission Champion Award recipient **Tony Johns**, Executive Director of Crossroads Community Ministries
 2022 GSHA Civic Leadership Award recipient **Libby Tyre**, Permanent Supportive Housing Program Manager, DCA Office of Housing and Special Needs
 2022 GSHA Outstanding Staff Member Award recipient **Jodi H. Feathers**, Director of Residential Services, Legacy Behavioral Health Services
- 6:30 PM** **Adjourn**

Day 2 - Tuesday, November 15th

9:00 AM Registration and Breakfast

Knowles Conference Center Lobby

9:30 AM Welcoming Remarks

Courtroom

Mariel Risner Sivley, GSHA Board Member

Lauren Sudeall, Professor of Law and Director, Center for Access to Justice, Georgia State Law

9:45 AM Mayor Dickens' Housing and Homeless Agenda (Video)

10:00 AM Welcome and Greetings from the Honorable Mayor of Atlanta, Andre Dickens

Courtroom

Mayor Dickens is committed to ensuring development without displacement and providing practical, diverse housing options for Atlanta's community. He is directly involved and invested in efforts to combat homelessness, including leveraging federal funds to increase the affordable housing supply, decrease barriers to accessing services, and supporting the needs and meeting the challenges of nonprofits working in this area.

10:15 AM Mental Health Parity and the Work of the Behavioral Health Innovation and Reform Commission

Courtroom

Georgia House of Representatives Chairman Mary Margaret Oliver was a leader in the historic effort that saw unanimous passage of HB 1013, the Mental Health Parity Act, in 2022. This law created a sea change in the way mental health care is being delivered in Georgia. However, it is just the start. In this "decade of mental health reforms," the high-level Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, continues to develop short and long-range recommendations to address and improve the state's mental health outcomes. Learn from a state leader about the progress of these reforms and priorities for the next legislative session, addressing the shortage of mental health professionals, the need for systems change and increased reimbursement rates, care coordination, licensing issues – all key priorities for the next round of reforms.

Introduction by Elizabeth Appley, Esq.

Representative Mary Margaret Oliver, Georgia House of Representatives (virtual)

10:45 AM Housing Needs at the Intersection of Homelessness, Behavioral Health, and Criminal Justice

Courtroom

Georgia has been working hard to meet its obligations under a federal settlement agreement with the Department of Justice for the past 12 years, in a case growing out of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society's landmark Olmstead decision. A critical aspect that remains involves the state's commitment to house homeless people with severe and persistent mental illness who are cycling through the criminal justice system, the state hospitals and hospital emergency departments. Progress has been made through the Georgia Housing Voucher Program but more remains to be done. These already strained hospital and criminal justice systems are proven to be extremely expensive and ineffective ways of meeting the needs of chronically homeless persons, especially those with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders. Best practices support increased emphasis on diversion of these individuals away from the criminal justice system and into housing and supportive services and strengthening connections to housing and supports when leaving prisons and jails on re-entry. The Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission is working with the Council of State Governments, Fulton County and other Stepping Up communities on the Familiar Faces Advisory Committee to the Courts Diversion Committee to formulate solutions.

Elizabeth Appley, Interim Director, and Public Policy Advocate, GSHA (Moderator)
Charles Francis, Deputy Program Director, Behavioral Health, The Council of State Governments Justice Center (Virtual)
Kristin Stoycheff, Director of Planning and Development for Superior Court of Fulton County
Susan Walker Goico, Director, Disability Integration Project Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.

12:15 PM
Salons ABC

Lunch

Keynote Address: A Property Owner Who Invests in People
Stagmeier offers an inside track on the successful transformation of blighted multifamily housing properties which were boarded up and blighted and had very high crime levels. Within two years, she worked to develop a community with children playing on the playground, families thriving, and kids outperforming their peers at the local elementary school.

Introduction by Amy Barrow, Senior Director, Homelessness, United Way of Greater Atlanta
Keynote Speaker: Margaret Stagmeier, Co-Chair, House ATL, Managing Partner at TriStar Real Estate, and author of *Blighted: People, Politics and an American Housing Miracle*.

1:45 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Salon A

An Overview of Medicaid Credentialing for Providers

This session explains the process for supportive services providers and providers of behavioral health services to become accredited providers in the state of Georgia to accept Medicaid as a form of payment.

Jessica Foust, Chief Operating Officer, Georgia Collaborative Administrative Services Organization (Moderator)

Jenny DeLoach, Georgia Collaborative Administrative Services Organization

Salon B

A Guide to the Development of Supportive Housing in Georgia

This session will provide an overview for those interested in learning how to develop supportive housing in this state, including models of supportive housing, information specific to the current landscape of development in Georgia and how we got here, relevant partner information, and basic funding models. This training serves as a foundation for those interested in creating new units and new permanent supportive housing programs.

Marisel Risner Sivley, GSHA Board Director, Housing Director, St. Vincent de Paul Georgia

Salon C

Fair Housing Protections and Barriers to Access to Affordable Housing and Supportive Housing

The Federal and Georgia Fair Housing Acts proscribe practices, laws, and policies that discriminate based upon the disability or familial status of residents who live in a dwelling, as well as other protected classes, including race, color, religion, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, and minor children. Advocates are looking at ways to use these protections to address discrimination against renters based on prior evictions, justice involved history, and use of vouchers and other sources of income that limit access to affordable housing. In addition, the Acts bar zoning ordinances that treat uses such as supportive housing or group homes for people with disabilities differently and less favorably than other similar uses. Still, Georgia's 159 counties have enacted many variations of zoning codes that adversely impact the development and renovation of supportive housing. Zoning ordinances are repeatedly identified by providers and prospective providers of supportive housing as real barriers to development. These barriers directly impede the development of critically needed affordable, supportive housing units and they implicate racial inequity and the rights of people with disabilities.

Allona Lane Cross, Executive Director of the Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity (GCEO)
Joyce Catrett, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity (GCEO)

2:45 PM Housing Innovation Around the State

Courtroom

Tiny houses for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, land banking for affordability over generations, and supportive housing development through RAD deals - these innovations are occurring in our state! Join us to learn from the experts behind these projects.

Dravion M. McGill, Sr. - DCMS, Inc. Housing Developer

Shawn Edwards, Director, Augusta Land Bank Authority

Odetta McLeish White, Director of Georgia Initiatives, Center for Community Progress (Moderator and Panelist)

3:45 PM Snack Break

Knowles Conference Center Lobby

4:00 PM The Built for Zero Initiative to Measurably and Equitably End Homelessness

Courtroom

Community Solutions was awarded the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change \$100 million grant to help accelerate an end to homelessness in the United States. Learn how they are activating the grant, as well as engaging in partnership with the City of Atlanta and other communities across the country.

Introduction by Shawn Green, COO, Safe Haven Health, GSHA Board Director

Annie Hyrila, Director, Housing, Partners for HOME - Atlanta Continuum of Care

Jasmine Cunningham, SPM, Special Populations, Partners for HOME - Atlanta Continuum of Care



Leslie Wise, Strategic Consultant to Kaiser Permanente Built for Zero, Community Solutions

5:00 PM Adjourn

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS: The conference provides 12 hours of Continuing Education credit for LCSW, MSW, LPC, and LMFT license holders via the University of Georgia School of Social Work Continuing Education Department under the auspices of the Georgia Composite Board of Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists.

The Conference provides 4.5 hours of Continuing Legal Education through the State Bar of Georgia for attorneys, courtesy of Georgia State University College of Law.

Conference Hosts

	<p><u>Georgia Supportive Housing Association</u></p> <p>Supportive housing provides at-risk populations with stable housing with needed support services. At-risk populations include individuals with physical, mental, or developmental disabilities, veterans, youth aging out of foster care, seniors, and reentry individuals. Services can include case management, housing search and reasonable accommodations requests, assistance with cooking, cleaning, maintaining the household, orientation to transportation, eviction prevention (meeting lease requirements and conflict resolution), peer supports, education, training, and other services to ensure stability, autonomy, and dignity.</p> <p>The Georgia Supportive Housing Association (GSHA) is a non-profit membership network of non-profit housing developers, service providers, statewide agencies and organizations, corporations, associations, and individuals with a shared goal: strengthening housing resources in our state. The vision of GSHA is to have a Georgia where individuals with disabilities can choose the housing and supports they need to thrive. GSHA is realizing its mission and vision through professional education and an advocacy agenda to raise awareness for the population we jointly serve.</p>
	<p><u>Georgia State University College of Law</u></p> <p>Located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, Georgia State University College of Law provides an outstanding legal education in an urban setting. The Georgia State Law community is diverse in thought and background, expanding students' understanding of varied cultural perspectives and the world. Surrounded by business, government, nonprofit and cultural organizations, Georgia State Law provides an ideal environment for practical experience and engaging in interdisciplinary research and collaboration. Led by an accomplished faculty, Georgia State Law offers numerous courses, clinics and externships leading to a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) or Master of Laws (LL.M.) for attorneys. With recognition as a best value law school, Georgia State Law continues to set standards of excellence.</p>
<p>CENTER FOR Access to Justice</p>	<p><u>The Center for Access to Justice</u></p> <p>The Center for Access to Justice at Georgia State University College of Law trains the next generation of lawyers to serve the public interest. Students are able to focus their studies and earn a certificate in public interest law. Since 2017, Georgia State Law students have logged more than 4,000+ hours of service through the center's Pro Bono Program, and many students annually give their time off to participate in the Alternative Spring Break. Through research and public education, the center helps people in need to navigate the legal system. The Center for Access to Justice promotes meaningful access to the courts and equal</p>

	<p>treatment in the civil and criminal legal systems. The center bases its work in the South, conducting research and hosting community programs that explore and address obstacles to access to justice.</p>
<p>CENTER FOR THE Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth</p>	<p><u><i>The Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth</i></u></p> <p>The Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth at Georgia State University College of Law offers an opportunity to dissect issues affecting urban areas. The U.S. Census states that Atlanta is the third fastest-growing city in the country, making Georgia State’s downtown location ideal for this research. Lawyers working alongside planners, business leaders and engineers, play an important role in urban growth and development, crafting laws and regulations. Through the Urban Fellows Program, students can network with lawyers and urban planning experts and attend special events. The center also hosts professional development programs, such as the international Study Space workshop.</p>
<p>CENTER FOR Law, Health & Society</p>	<p><u><i>The Center for Law, Health & Society</i></u></p> <p>The Center for Law, Health & Society at Georgia State University College of Law, established in 2004, is ranked number 3 in the country and has been consistently ranked among our nation’s top 10 health law programs over the last decade by <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>. The center has 10 full time faculty, affiliates and academic professionals, whose teaching and research span the health law field, including health and business regulation, public and environmental health, health equity and social justice, bioethics and legal medicine, and health sciences and technology. Students benefit from an extensive health law curriculum, including the nationally recognized in-house Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services Clinic and the <i>Olmstead</i> Disability Rights Clinic. The center continuously hosts our graduates and the greater health law community with cutting-edge public events and diverse outreach activities.</p>