PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 457.65, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any amendment that eliminates or restricts eligibility or benefits.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Health Services Initiative (HSI)
STATE PLAN AMENDMENT (SPA)

Pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Community Health (DCH) seeks to establish a Health Services Initiative (HSI) for children and youth who interact with the courts. This population has been identified by Georgia's juvenile courts as at risk due to serious behavioral, emotional, or familial challenges. Furthermore, they face a heightened risk for poor health outcomes driven by trauma, unstable environments, and gaps in early behavioral health support.

Upon CMS approval, this change will be effective retroactively on January 1, 2026. The HSI will use the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) administrative funding to support non-clinical health-related services for vulnerable youth in Georgia. Georgia administers CHIP under the name PeachCare for Kids.

The HSI will be phased in across Cobb, Douglas, and middle judicial circuits. The goal is to demonstrate scalable, CHIP-allowable strategies to improve behavioral health screening and coordination for this population. This phased approach will allow the State to implement the standardized assessment tool across key populations to collect data that will be used to support decision-making and service planning.

	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total
SFY 2026	$43,382	$140,594	$183,976
SFY 2027	$6,321,682	$20,556,216	$26,877,898

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **June 16, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days before the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86340034282?pwd=9XcHxUdaJ68i4HLGytgC08AWlM38p6.1

Meeting chat link
https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/jc/86340034282

Meeting ID: 863 4003 4282
Passcode: 903856

One tap mobile
+13092053325,,86340034282#,,,,*903856# US
+13126266799,,86340034282#,,,,*903856# US (Chicago)

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before June 23, 2026 to D'Lawren Hicks c/o the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to D'Lawren Hicks dlawren.hicks@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to openrecordsrequest@dch.ga.gov. ***Please note that any comments submitted are subject to open records.***

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **July 9, 2026,** at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 11th DAY OF JUNE 2026
Dean Burke, MD, Commissioner