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Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support
Conference

Promoting Behavioral Health Supports through School Attendance/Climate Committees (HB763)

The Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

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View Point Health

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Recommended Citation

The Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice; Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice; Turner, Renata; and View Point Health, "Promoting Behavioral Health Supports through School Attendance/Climate Committees (HB763)" (2018). *Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support Conference*. 63.

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(1) Presentation Type

- a. Workshop

(2) Title – Promoting Behavioral Health Supports through School Attendance/Climate Committees (HB763)

(3) Presenters

- a. Talley Wells, Executive Director, Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, B.A. (Duke), JD (Duke), M.Ed (Harvard), 17 years of experience at Atlanta Legal Aid where he served as the Director of Disability Integration Project where he advocated for children and adults with disabilities, primary focus on implementation of US Supreme Court decision *Olmstead v. LC* which held that individuals with disabilities have the right to live and receive supports in the community rather than in institutions, key advocate in the implementation of a United States Justice Department settlement with Georgia in which the state invested over 200 million dollars in state services for people with mental illness and developmental disabilities. Georgia Appleseed, 1600 Parkwood Circle SE, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30339, (678) 336-7213, twells@gaappleseed.org, twells@gaappleseed.org,
- b. Terrence Wilson, Staff Attorney, Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, B.A. (UNC), JD/MPA (UGA), Several years of legislative experience both as a staffer and lobbyist in Georgia and North Carolina. Currently spearheads Georgia Appleseed’s Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline Project where he trains and supports school districts as they promote effective discipline practices including PBIS and Restorative Practice. Also leads the Georgia Educational Climate Coalition, a group that was instrumental in promoting the passage of HB 763, the school climate protocol committee bill. Georgia Appleseed, 1600 Parkwood Circle SE, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30339, (678) 336-7233, twilson@gaappleseed.org,
- c. Judge Renata Turner, Presiding Judge Fulton County Juvenile Court, B.A. (UGA), J.D. (University of Southern California), Associate Juvenile Court Judge in Fulton county since 2015, appointed presiding judge in 2017, spearheads the Fulton School-Justice Pathways Partnership, an innovative grant-funded program which seeks to end the school to prison pipeline and has thus far reduced school-based court referrals by approximately 50 percent compared to pre-initiative numbers. Fulton County Juvenile Court, 395 Pryor St. S.W. Suite 4079, Atlanta, Georgia 30312, (404) 613-4851 Phone, (404) 612-1314 Fax, renata.turner@fultoncountyga.gov
- (4) Chad Jones is the Director for View Point Health’s Community and Prevention Services, which includes 21 community-based programs serving adults and youth in the metro area and throughout Georgia. Chad has worked in high intensity behavioral health services for the past 15 years, and has used this experience to help further System of Care principles in Georgia. Before this, Chad taught developmental and abnormal psychology. Chad graduated from the University of Georgia, and loves spending time with his lovely wife and five kids.

Abstract

- a. This year, the Georgia General Assembly passed and the Governor signed HB 763, which requires each county’s Student Attendance Protocol Committee to include reviewing school climate as part of the committee’s responsibilities. This presentation would

explain the new aspects of this law and how these committees may be leveraged to advocate for school climate reform and increased behavioral health supports. We will present an example of how a committee has successfully organized to promote school climate change.

- b. GA Appleseed Staff Attorney, Terrence Wilson will take participants through the aspects of the new law and outline the requirements explain what the committee is now empowered to do. GA Appleseed Executive Director Talley Wells will then talk about the different mental and behavioral supports that are available for students for which these committees should be advocating. Chad Jones will then present on the services that are available through Georgia Apex, Project Aware, and other wraparound service providers. Judge Turner will then present the history of her pathways program and how they have successfully advocated for school climate reform in their jurisdiction.

(5) Learning objectives

- a. Participants will understand the mandates of HB 763 and understand how to ensure accountability in the implementation of this law.
- b. Participants will know additional mental and behavioral health supports are available for students that can aid school climate.
- c. Participants will understand the challenges that these committees may face and have an example of how a local jurisdiction has overcome these challenges.

(6) Relevance to conference

- a. Please describe how your presentation relates to positive behavior support.
 - i. Our presentation relates to positive behavior support as it presents the current legislation that directly can be used to promote positive behavior supports in each Georgia county.
- b. Please describe how your presentation relates to mental wellness.
 - i. The presentation will outline different mental and behavioral supports that are available for students and how one jurisdiction makes use of these supports for their students.

(7) Track

- a. Community Support: Presentations that focus on how to support and enhance community inclusion for all
- b. Mental Health: Presentations related to practices and resources that improve psychological and emotional well-being
- c. School Climate: Presentations related to the quality and character of school life and school-wide/ targeted positive behavior support (Tier 1 and 2)
- d. All: Presentation fits across three or more of the above tracks

(8) Presentation time/date preference

- a. No preference