



NEWS RELEASE

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Community Service Board of Middle Georgia is participating in a statewide campaign to raise awareness about the critical role of Community Service Boards in Georgia

Dublin, Georgia – September 21, 2022 – Community Service Board of Middle Georgia is participating in a statewide campaign to raise awareness of the critical importance of Community Service Boards (CSBs) in assuring behavioral health services are available to everyone in Georgia. ‘*The CSB is Me*’ campaign provides real-world examples of how the state’s CSBs – like the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia – help local residents who may be low-income, uninsured, or underinsured access treatment for mental health challenges, substance use disorders and intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Community Service Board of Middle Georgia is part of a statewide behavioral health safety-net that ensures everyone in Georgia can get the help they need, in their community, regardless of their ability to pay. With clinical services, crisis services, community-based services and more, Community Service Boards remove barriers to treatment and meet people where they are. As demand for mental health and substance use treatment services is at an all-time high following the pandemic, Community Services Boards are more important than ever.

Denise Forbes, MS LPC, CEO of CSB of Middle Georgia, leads a dynamic group of approximately 500 staff in carrying out the mission and vision of this remarkable agency. Forbes’ leadership style is embedded in teamwork. She believes in allowing managers and staff to work creatively in figuring out the best approaches to providing services and follow-up to individuals and families throughout our 16-county service area. As she reflected upon the past

several years in dealing with the pandemic and beyond, she stated, “ We have an incredibly talented and well-trained staff and able and willing managers who go the extra mile in making sure our mission is accomplished. What’s extraordinary, however, is how well our agency does in times of stress. We leave no stone unturned in our quest to provide quality behavioral healthcare in a recovery-based environment to those we serve. It’s amazing to see how this caring group of people reach out and do everything they can, and then some, to make sense of difficult times in the lives of others as they continue to carry out their duties to bring quality behavioral health care to rural Georgia. Further, it’s heartwarming to see how our community partners and stakeholders come to the table, no matter the task, and work alongside our agency on various projects to provide education, assistance, training, and resources for those served.” Forbes sees daily how those who have a purpose and “calling” to help others struggling with behavioral health challenges model what dignity and respect look like when serious about providing services in a recovery-oriented system of care.

Georgia’s 22 Community Service Boards serve all 159 counties in the state, with most CSBs covering multiple counties. In many Georgia counties, the Community Service Board is the only public mental health/substance use treatment provider. Each year, CSBs in Georgia serve more than 29,000 children and adolescents, 144,000 adults with mental health problems or substance use, and more than 5,000 adults with disabilities. Because individuals typically receive multiple services from their local CSB, it is estimated that CSBs in Georgia provide more than a million services each year, making them collectively the largest provider of behavioral health services in the state.

‘The CSB is Me’ campaign is being coordinated by the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards (GACSB), a statewide association that supports the state’s CSBs through policy and legislative advocacy on both the state and national levels. The GACSB website (www.gacsb.org) allows Georgia residents to search by zip code to find their local CSB, with direct links to each agency’s website.

To learn more about the services provided by Community Service Board of Middle Georgia counties served and how to enroll in services, visit <https://csbmg.com>.