Rural Health Transformation

pathroot™ health

Rural health won't stabilize without addressing addiction & behavioral health. Prioritize now to reduce deaths and ER use, improve treatment retention, and lower avoidable spend.

Why Prioritize Behavioral Health & Addiction

- **High burden:** overdose + mental health drive ER use and deaths.
- **System impact:** strains hospitals, CPS, jails, and workforce participation.
- **Enabler:** primary care, maternity, chronic disease efforts are jeopardized

Strategic Priorities

- **Expand access:** mobile/tele-BH, rapid MAT, peer warm handoffs.
- **Keep people in care:** family engagement + 90-day follow-up.
- **Embed BH in medicine:** primary care, OB/peds, ER (on-site/virtual).
- **Grow workforce:** regional supervision hubs; scale peer support.
- **Build data insight:** ER/overdose dashboards; shared care plans; consent workflows.

Funding & Sustainability

- **Braided financing:** Use Rural Transformation to stand up services; shift to Medicaid/commercial by months **18–24**.
- **Billable from day one:** family therapy, group, peer support, care management, telehealth parity.
- **Reinvest savings:** Avoided ER/readmits → rural BH capacity.

Call to Action (next 90 days)

- Name BH a top priority to achieve goals.
- Fund access + retention + data insight in the top rural counties.
- Launch a cross-agency task force in 30 days (Medicaid, Public Health, Corrections, Education, Labor).

Georgia

24-36 Month Results

- Overdose deaths ↓ **25%**
- SUD-Related ER Visits: ↓ **25%**
- AMA Discharges: ↓ **30%**
- 30-Day Readmits: ↓ **30%**
- Treatment costs: ↓ **30%**

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

- **48.5 million**
  17.1 % of people ages 12+ had a substance use disorder (SUD). (2023)
- **20.4 million**
  Adults had co-occurring mental illness (AMI) + SUD (2023)
- **7.7 million**
  37.6% received neither mental health nor SUD treatment (2023)
- **Rural Suicide Rates**
  Almost double metropolitan rates, and the gap has been widening since ~1999.
- **Rural Youth Suicide**
  Among Rural Youth~54% higher than among urban youth.

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