

In this issue #40:

2019 Conference Re-Cap

Conference Highlights

BHAP Promo Ad

Addiction Recovery and Awareness Day

AATOD Update what you need to know

Come Join Us

Next OTPG Meeting
Decatur Office
1116 E. Ponce de Leon Ave Decatur, GA 30030
Jan. 16, 2020

Board Members:

Brook Etherington President	Leslie Sitkoff Secretary
Ali McCorkle Vice President	Stacey Pearce AATOD Delegate
Chip Fuller Treasurer	Zac Talbott Parliamentarian



real help = real hope

2019 Conference Re-Cap

By Joelyn Alfred | OTPG Conference Chair

The 2019 OTPG Conference held in Stone Mountain, Georgia was momentous, and after 12 years, it seemed to be a fulfilling experience enjoyed by all. Thanks to our enlightening lineup of presenters and the support of our colleagues, visitors and peers, the Opioid Treatment Providers of Georgia (OTPG) will continue to strive to provide a venue where we can collectively collaborate to change the face of medication assisted treatment and recovery. Undoubtedly, our keynote speaker, Marie Sutton, added a significant spark of awareness and creative interaction that propelled our thoughts and comprehension of Hepatitis C. Respectively, with the support of Vonshurii Wrighten, with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and our committed sponsors, OTPG can continue to host conferences that encourage the input of our regulatory agencies, government officials and community affiliates. Together we can influence change and support a defined direction to quality treatment services and recovery. On behalf of OTPG, we value your participation and we look forward to seeing each of you in 2020!



Our Conference Regulatory Panel
The panel was an important part of the conference. Left to right is Supervisor Jason Allen, DEA. Willie Dean, DCH-HFRD. Vonshurii Wrighten, DBHDD-SOTA.

www.otpggeorgia.org

Conference Highlights

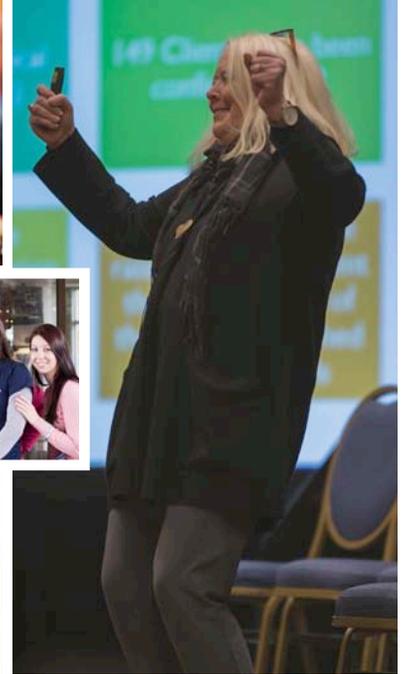
Congratulations to our very own, Joelyn Alfred

Joelyn was honored to be the recipient of the first State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) Leadership Award, presented by DBHDD, for outstanding achievement in the field of addiction.



continued on page 2

2019 OTPG Conference Highlights



Marie Sutton: Keynote Speaker



Panel discussion (Hepatitis C)

- Jessica Ross, ARC
- Ashely Preyer, ARC
- Riley Kirkpatrick, ARC
- Ali McCorkle, Athens Clinic
- Jeanette Loudermilk, Pittard Clinic



BHAP BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PROVIDERS
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP EDUCATION ADVOCACY

BHAP is a national trade membership association that provides **education and advocacy** for behavioral healthcare providers and related entities. We are the leading and unifying voice of addiction-focused treatment programs.

What We Do

- ◆ **Membership:** discounts on entertainment options, legal repository, compliance information, and more
- ◆ **Education:** webinars, workshops, and the Certificate in Addiction Treatment Marketing (C-ATM)
- ◆ **Advocacy:** keeping you aware of new laws and regulations affecting the industry

Who We Serve

- ◆ **Owners and Operators:** if you run a treatment center or transitional living facility
- ◆ **Counselors and Clinicians:** if you work in the behavioral health or substance abuse field
- ◆ **Marketing and Advertising:** keep abreast of how to market addiction treatment ethically
- ◆ **Attorneys and Advisors:** those who serve clients in the behavioral health and substance abuse fields

www.bhap.us





Addiction Recovery and Awareness Day on January 28th, 2020

Join the Georgia Recovery Community on January 28th, 2020.

About this Event

On Tuesday, January 28th, 2020 join the Georgia Recovery Community - health care professionals, family members and other allies convening at the Georgia Freight Depot at 9:00 AM for the 2020 Addiction Awareness Recovery Day for the Georgia General Assembly.

Registration starts at 9:00 AM. Program starts at 10:00 AM at The Freight Depot. Moving to the state Capitol at 1:00 PM for the Recovery Rally and Press Conference.

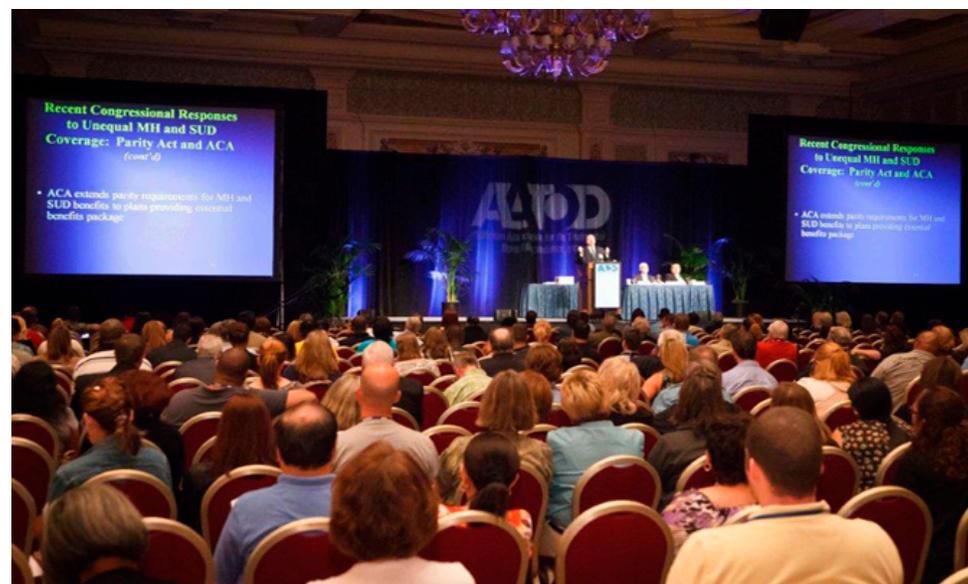
The purpose of this day is to recognize and lift up the power of Recovery in the lives of everyday Georgians and to say thank you to for the bi-partisan support the Georgia Recovery Community receives from the General Assembly and our state Constitutional Officers.

We support initiatives that promote prevention & early intervention; increase opportunities and resources for treatment and support pro-recovery policies that increase the likelihood of sustained, long-term recovery. As Georgia's policy-makers and leaders make decisions that affect all of us, they will see that RECOVERY IS HERE and RECOVERY IS REAL!

This is their website to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arad-2020-registration-76805767117>

The next AATOD conference to look forward to is in Las Vegas, April 11-14, 2021.



By Stacey Pearce | OTPG AATOD Board Delegate

Hello Fall! As the time has changed and the leaves are falling, I have been reflecting back on a wonderful AATOD conference at Walt Disney World. I saw some of my fellow Georgia providers, and I'm sure everyone had a fantastic time while learning and enjoying the weather and venue. The next AATOD conference to look forward to is in Las Vegas, April 11-14, 2021. That seems like a long time from now, but it will be here in the blink of an eye!

As usual, the AATOD Board Meeting was open to the public, but I sure did miss seeing most of you there. I guess everyone was enjoying other things on a Saturday night! We had a few presentations from Federal officials you missed. The quick recap includes a few things from the DEA: the guidelines were going to publication the next week as of October 19th, so they should be in process by now, but we were told not to look for them until spring; and the DEA hopes to get mobile van issues resolved soon. No timeline for that, so who knows if new vans will ever be approved.

Also discussed was the issues with the proposed changes to the confidentiality regulations and the Medicare reimbursement rates. Since the conference, the confidentiality regulation comment period has ended and we do not know what SAHMSA is going to do, but I will update members as I receive information. The Medicare rates have now been revised based on the public comments and I recently sent out an email with that information. It is now time for all OTPs to begin the process of being approved to bill Medicare. This is very important since beginning in January 2020 we can lift a tremendous burden from our older patients and those with Medicare through disability.

And finally, a very helpful new vaccine has been released and we got to hear about it from a representative of Dynavax. There is a new Hepatitis B vaccine that can be fully effective with only two doses delivered within thirty days. If your facility does

primary care for patients, you might want to look into this for your patients who haven't received vaccination. Or maybe you can partner with another organization to vaccinate patients. Our population is perfect to be able to fully immunize since many patients are in treatment significantly longer than thirty days, and even ones prematurely leaving treatment are there for at least that period of time.

I hope everyone had a delightful holiday season and you enjoy this cooler, pleasant weather. I look forward to seeing many of you and hope to see you in 2020 at the quarterly OTPG meetings.

Thanks again to the following OPTG conference sponsors for their support:



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities



Come Join Us!
become an OPTG member

The annual membership dues are listed below and are based on the current patient census of your facility.

- 0-149 patients: \$250
- 150-299 patients: \$500
- 300-499 patients: \$1,000
- 500+ patients: \$1,500

Please visit our web site for more information on membership.



OPTG is proud to offer on-site training and education, So what are you waiting for? Schedule a free consultation TODAY. Call Joelyn Alfred at (770) 840-9912

Get to know the OPTG board members visit www.optgeorgia.org

The benefits available to members of OPTG:

- Four free one CEC trainings during 2017
- Access to free hotline maintained by Jackson-Lewis PC, labor and employment law specialists
- Membership with the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD)
- Discounted education opportunities
- Affiliation with community organizations
- Updated state and federal information to include statistics, changes to regulations, available funds, etc.
- Chance to network within our industry
- Ability to purchase discounted copies of "Exploring the World of Opioid Addiction"

INTRODUCING
On Site-Training and Education

