

In this issue #50:

A Message
From OTPG
Georgia OTP Update
Important
Upcoming Date
Rural Communities
& Access to Care
A Quick Reminder

What We're Reading

George Coley
Welcomed at the
White House

R.O.A.R.S.
Recently Featured

The Work We Do
Matters
Come Join Us

2026

OTPG Conference
Emory Conference
Center Hotel,
1615 Clifton Road NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Board Members:

Dr. Kimberly Henderson, President

George Coley, Vice-President

Joelyn Alfred, Advisory Board Chair
& Conference Chair

Jewana Lowe, Parliamentarian

Adriana Chiknas, Secretary



2026 Conference Issue

real help = real hope

OTPG QUARTERLY OCT. 19, 2026

A MESSAGE FROM OTPG

Greetings Providers



As we move into the final months of 2026, opioid treatment programs across Georgia continue to navigate an evolving regulatory environment while providing essential, life-changing care to individuals and families affected by opioid use disorder. This fall brings several important developments for Georgia OTPs—including continued implementation of Georgia's new DBHDD licensing authority, upcoming state training opportunities, new federal investments in addiction treatment, and the return of the annual OTPG Conference.



GEORGIA OTP UPDATE

DBHDD Licensing Transition Continues



One of the biggest changes affecting Georgia's Narcotic Treatment Programs this year is the transition of licensing and oversight responsibilities to the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).

Effective January 1, 2026, DBHDD assumed authority for licensing Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTPs),

along with several other facility types previously overseen by the Georgia Department of Community Health.

Providers should continue monitoring DBHDD communications and make sure administrative, licensing, background-check, and compliance procedures are aligned with the new oversight structure. [READ MORE →](#)

<https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/be-connected/licensure-information>

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATE

December 1-31

DBHDD NTP Open Enrollment Period

9:00-10:30 a.m. The forum is for organizations interested in opening a new Narcotic Treatment Program in Georgia. Attendance is mandatory for an agency representative intending to apply for an NTP license through the upcoming open-enrollment process. Open enrollment is scheduled for December 1-31, 2026. [READ MORE →](#)

<https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/events/2026-10-07/2026-dbhdd-narcotics-treatment-program-ntp-open-enrollment-forum>

**Thank You,
What You Do Matters**



SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER 11, 2026 OTPG CONFERENCE

Emory Conference Center • Atlanta, Georgia. OTPG's annual conference provides an opportunity for Georgia's opioid treatment community to come together for education, networking, professional development, and discussion of issues affecting treatment providers and the patients we serve.

[READ MORE →](#)

<https://www.otpggeorgia.org/>



RURAL COMMUNITIES & ACCESS TO CARE

HRSA announced \$89.3 million through the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program. The awards support communities in 45 states and one territory and are intended to expand substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services in rural communities. [READ MORE →](#)

<https://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/press-releases/expand-addiction-treatment-and-recovery-rural-communities>



A QUICK REMINDER

Federal OTP Regulations Continue to Emphasize Individualized Care

The revised federal 42 CFR Part 8 regulations continue to shape OTP

practice. The updated regulations provide greater flexibility around several aspects of OTP treatment, including take-home medication decisions, admission criteria, telehealth, mobile medication units, and individualized treatment planning. SAMHSA emphasizes individualized clinical decision-making for take-home medication.

[READ MORE →](#)

<https://www.samhsa.gov/substance-use/treatment/opioid-treatment-program/42-cfr-part-8/faqs>



WHAT WE'RE READING

CDC • OVERDOSE PREVENTION DATA CHANNEL

The CDC's updated Overdose Prevention Data Channel brings together information from multiple surveillance systems, including fatal and nonfatal overdose trends. The resource is designed to help communities better understand changing overdose patterns. [READ MORE →](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-channel/index.html>

Recent addiction-medicine coverage has also included buprenorphine access, fentanyl and stimulant co-use, methadone versus buprenorphine outcomes following nonfatal overdose, emerging substances found in overdose deaths, early initiation of buprenorphine, naloxone access following incarceration, and care navigation for stimulant use disorder.

George Coley Welcomed at the White House



This past week, representatives from the AATOD (The American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence) were in Washington, D.C., advocating for our patients and the high standards of care required to effectively treat Opioid Use Disorder.

We had productive meetings with the offices of Representative Mike Collins, Senator Jon Ossoff, and Senator Reverend Warnock. During our visits—including a coffee meeting at the White House, we made OTPG's voice clear that we oppose legislative bills that threaten patient safety or compromise the integrated, high quality care essential for long term recovery.

Real help and real hope start with safe, proven, and supportive care. Thank you to our federal leaders for hearing our perspective and partnering with us to support Georgia communities!

R.O.A.R.S. recently featured

We are absolutely thrilled to share that Barrow R.O.A.R.S. was recently featured on the front page of the Barrow News-Journal following our historic launch at the Winder Community Center! The energy in the room was electric as over 200 people packed the building to celebrate the official establishment

of Barrow County's very first Recovery Community Organization. We are incredibly honored to have the backing and full support of our amazing community, including local resources, peers, and neighboring recovery organizations. Founded by Debi Bradley, Christine Bradley, and Terry Bradley, all from The Genesis Center of Winder, R.O.A.R.S. is officially on the ground and ready to change lives, with Christine leading the charge to smash the stigma surrounding substance use. This is just the beginning of a powerful movement of hope, healing, and human connection right here in Winder.





The Work We Do Matters

Every dose administered, every counseling session completed, every patient who walks through the door, every family

member who receives education, and every person who chooses to return for another day of treatment represents an opportunity.

Opioid treatment programs do more than dispense medication. They provide stability. They provide connection. They provide medical care. They provide counseling and support. They help people remain connected to their families, jobs, communities, and futures.

Come Join Us! become an OTPG member

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

- 0-12026 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.



Get to know the OTPG board members visit www.otpggeorgia.org

The benefits available to members of OTPG:

- Four free one CEC trainings
- 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"