Jewish Community Legislative Priorities FY20

I. Priority Issues

- Protect Medicaid Reimbursement rates for the William Breman Home based on current year cost reports (ongoing, but reimbursement rates were updated in 2014).
- Support Medicaid preservation and expansion. Increase the number of Georgians with access to health insurance and healthcare.
- Protect SNAP and create a Georgia work credit.
- Create uniform start and stop dates for Public Schools across counties since truncated summer schedules are negatively affecting camp enrollment and ability to hire staff. This will help camps have certainty about the summer vacation window available to them.
- Support efforts to maintain visa admission for exchange visitor programs (J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa). Dismantling this visa program will result in closing opportunities for hiring specialized camp personnel and other cultural exchange positions which provide core Jewish education opportunities in our community.
- Support legislation pertaining to protection against hate crimes.
- Oppose unnecessary and discriminatory legislation pertaining to religious liberty.
- Protect “money follows the person” with disabilities allowing for options to institutions.
- Support Gracie’s Law which advocates to end organ transplant discrimination against people with disabilities.

II. Coalition Issues

Aging and Disabilities

- Support Unlock the Waiting List agenda including increases in “slots” (people) to be served under Medicaid Waivers (Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, Independent Care for people with Physical Disabilities), expansion of Grant in Aid Family Support services and update the multiple year funding plan for waiver slots as well as Non-Medicaid Home and Community-based Services, and Community Care Services Program.
- Increase funding for “Exceptional Rate” Waivers and improve utilization approval process for those with needs beyond what waivers typically pay, and/or monitor changes to waiver rates (such and tiered rates, per capita rates and block grants) and advocate for maximum benefits to clients and providers.
- Increase in developmental disability service provider reimbursement for day services and Supported Employment.
- Increase in nursing home provider reimbursement.
- Restore subcontracting of Public Guardianship and develop a State Office of Guardianship.
- Amendment of SB 10 to include children who have an IEP in Pre-K, allowing them to move to private school for kindergarten.
- Develop a plan to address workforce development and the critical shortage of qualified direct support professionals.
- Address the burden of multiplicative regulatory oversight of I/DD supports, and Georgia’s years-long waiting list for I/DD support funding.
III. Issues to be Monitored

Aging and Disabilities
- Support assisted living level of long-term care and better enforcement of regulations, reporting of abuse, access to information regarding violations and other quality indicators at assisted living facilities
- Protect legislation pertaining to establishing interstate partnerships for special needs trusts (Able Accounts)
- Affordable housing for older adults

Children and Families
- Find ways to increase access to mental health services for children and youth
- Monitor ALEF funding for challenges to current funding structure
- Changes in early childhood service delivery such as teacher qualifications, staff to child ratio and health regulations and changes in camping regulations.
- Year round schooling/later start of school year
- Assuring continuity of Violence Against Women Act.
- Criminal Justice reform (cash bail, school-to-prison pipeline)
- Immigration reform and refugee protections
- Affordable housing for children and families
- Protect documented, legal immigrants’ status and access to legal Federal and State benefits

Physical and Mental Health
- Managed care for mental health and Bright from the Start program for birth – 3-year-olds with developmental delays
- Five-year renewal of the sales tax exemption for nonprofits
- Continued, if not increased, funding for charity clinics
- Tax credits for employers hiring people recovering from substance abuse