

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
COBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY 13, 2021
11:00 AM**

A Work Session of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the second-floor public meeting room in the Cobb County Building, Marietta, Georgia. Present and comprising a quorum of the Board were:

Chairwoman Lisa Cupid
Commissioner JoAnn Birrell
Commissioner Keli Gambrell
Commissioner Jerica Richardson
Commissioner Monique Sheffield

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Cupid called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **To present an overview regarding the Cobb County criminal justice partners and how they provide both efficient and effective case management that benefits both the community and the individuals effected.**

Dr. Jackie McMorris, County Manager, introduced Flynn Broady, District Attorney, who presented information regarding Cobb County criminal justice partners and how they provide both efficient and effective case management that benefits both the community and the individuals effected.

2. **To receive an update on Cobb County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program from its approved Service Providers.**

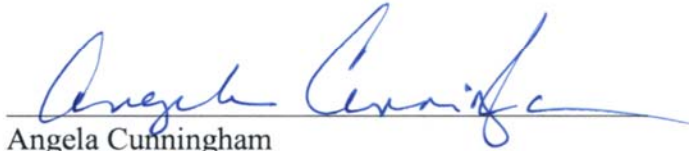
Debbie Blair, Deputy County Attorney, presented information regarding the Emergency Rental Assistance program. The following service providers presented an update regarding Cobb County's Emergency Rental Assistance program.

- Judge Brendan Murphy, Cobb County Magistrate Court
- Falecia Stewart, MUST Ministries
- Lee Smith and Melanie Kagan, The Center for Family Resources
- Earnest Davis, HomeFree-USA
- Audrea Rease, Star-C

A copy of the information presented is attached and made a part of these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angela Cunningham", is written over a horizontal line.

Angela Cunningham
Deputy County Clerk
Cobb County Board of Commissioners



RELATION BETWEEN DRUGS AND CRIME

COBB JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT

1

THE MISSION OF THE COBB COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IS TO
ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY...
WE STRIVE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF
LIFE FOR ALL PERSONS IN COBB COUNTY BY
PROMOTING GREATER PUBLIC SAFETY AND
WELL-BEING...WE FURTHER SEEK TO REDUCE
RECIDIVISM...



2

REFERENCE ITEM

2

1

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- To recognize mental illness and substance use disorder as public health concerns;
- To collaborate with other governmental and law enforcement partners so that we can solve and prosecute crimes more effectively;
- To designate specialty court diversion prosecutors to cases in which defendants suffer from mental illness and/or substance use disorders, or in cases where the community and defendant may be best served by alternative approaches



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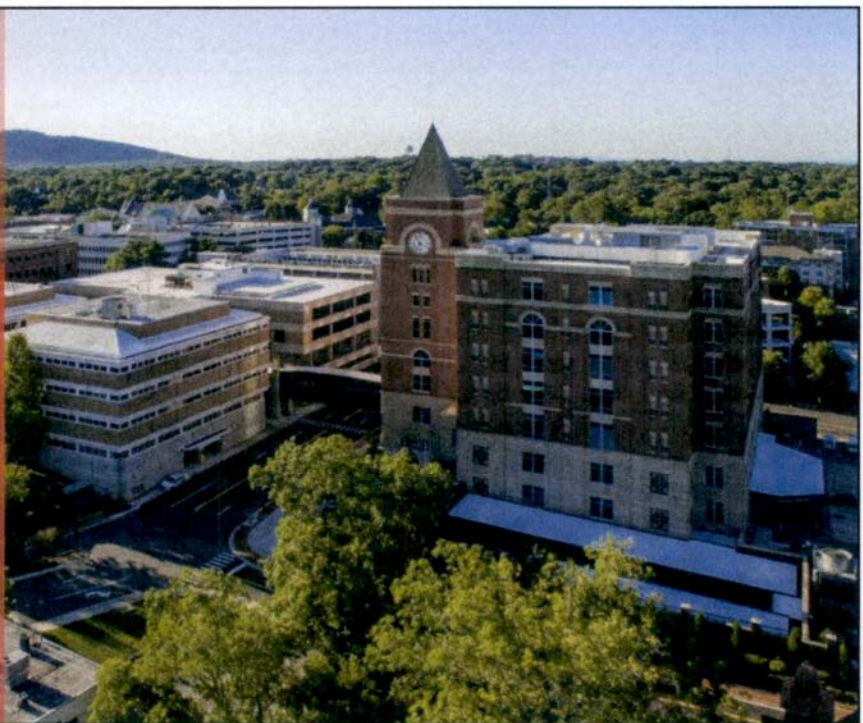
IN GEORGIA, OUR
INCARCERATION RATE
IS 31% HIGHER THAN
THE NATIONAL
AVERAGE WITH 53,000
PEOPLE BEHIND BARS.

40% OF GEORGIANS
HAVE A CRIMINAL
RECORD.

WE ALSO LEAD THE
NATION WITH OVER
200,000 PEOPLE ON
PROBATION/PAROLE

IN GEORGIA,
APPROXIMATELY 2
OUT OF 3 PEOPLE
RELEASED FROM
PRISON ARE
REARRESTED WITHIN
THREE YEARS

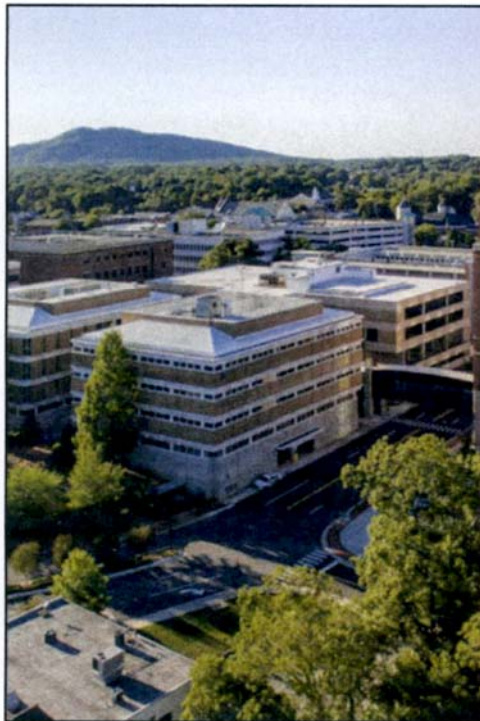
[HTTPS://STOPRECIDI
VISM.ORG/](https://stoprecidivism.org/)



4

REFERENCE ITEM





TWO TIERED APPROACH

DIVERSION

ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS

5



ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS

- 1) **Drug Court**-Judge Mary Staley-Clark
- 2) **Intermediate Drug Treatment Court**-Judge Kim Childs
- 3) **Mental Health Court**-Judge Ann Harris
- 4) **Parental Accountability Court**-Judge Ann Harris
- 5) **Veterans Court**-Judge LaTain Kell

6

OBSTACLES

- Economic Burden on Offenders/Cost of treatment
 - Evaluations
 - Counseling Cost
 - Drug testing expenses associated with pretrial release
- Failure to uncover the underlying problem/not addressing trauma related issues
- To much time between offense and enrollment in treatment



7

WHY ? WHY NOW?

(1) Counties with the Highest Number of Opioid-Involved Overdoses — Georgia, 2016

1 FULTON (142) FULTON (68)
2 COBB (107) COBB (36)
3 DEKALB (57) DEKALB (22)

(2) From 2010 to 2016, the number of opioid-involved overdose deaths increased by 117% in Georgia, from 426 to 929 deaths a year

(3) Cobb County leads Georgia's three largest Counties in overdose deaths at 13.81 per 100,000



Georgia Department of Health

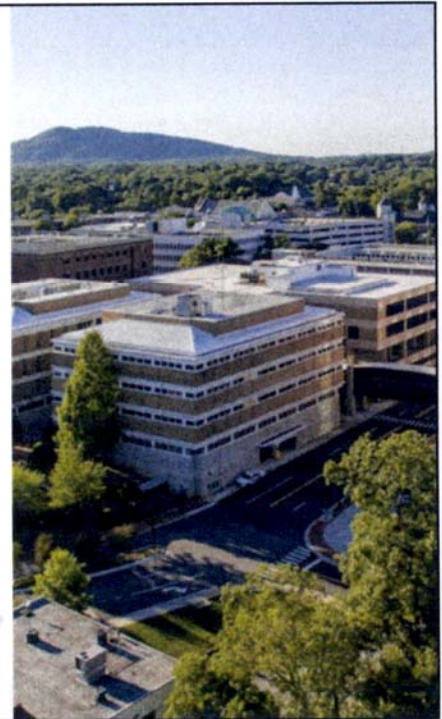
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REFERENCE ITEM

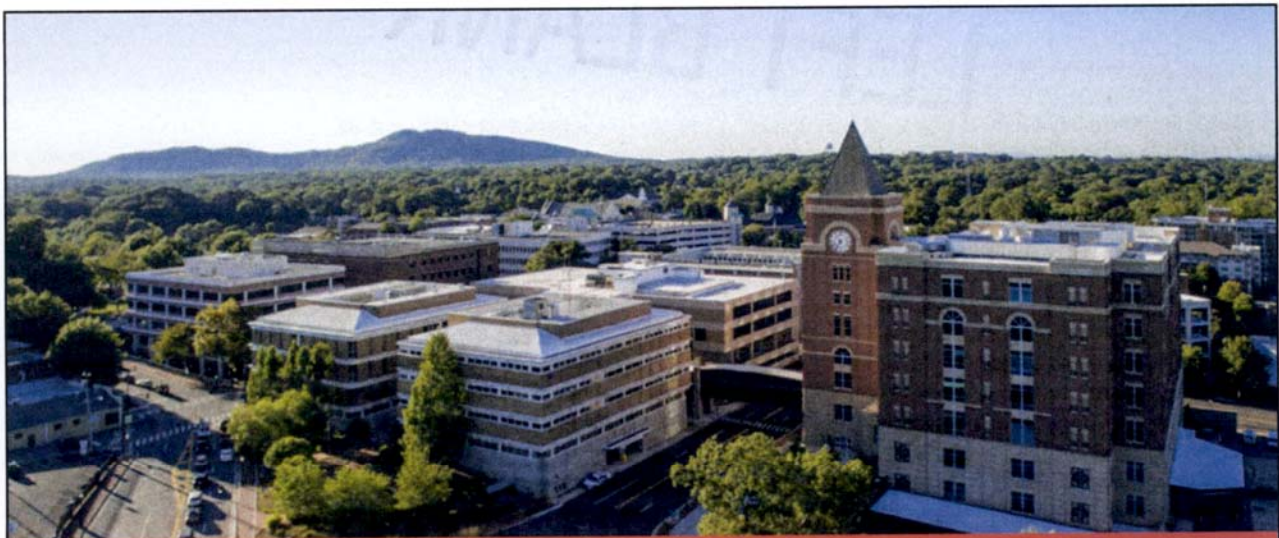


EARLY INTERVENTION CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- Early identification of Diversion and Accountability Court eligible offenders
- Early enrollment and treatment/counseling means reduced recidivism
- Minimalization of Economic Consequences for non-violent offenders.
- Restoring non-violent offenders to the community as productive citizens
- Frees up valuable court calendars to allow the criminal justice system to focus on more serious crimes promoting public safety



9



QUESTIONS?

10

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REFERENCE ITEM

Cobb County Emergency Rental Assistance Program Update

Board of Commissioners'
Work Session

July 13, 2021



Falecia Stewart
Vice President of Housing

1

ERA Update:

Number of Applications
Received: 546

Number of Applications in
Que: 47

Number of Completed
Applications: 408

Number of Incomplete
Applications: 67



2

REFERENCE ITEM

2

Number of Applications Rejected: 71

Unable to provide documents demonstrating
COVID-19 Financial Hardship

Fraudulent Documents

Incomplete Documents

Sent back to Originating Agency

MUST
Ministries
Serving the Neighbors in Need

3

ERA Expended/Awarded

► Rent/Utility Assistance to date:
\$1,349,251

► Average ERA Award:
\$5,433

4

REFERENCE ITEM 2



Emergency Rental Assistance Program
Board of Commissioners Work Session
July 13, 2021

1



ERA UPDATE

- Appointments- 235
- Request for Rental/Utility Assistance- 446
- Completed Applications- 157
- Incomplete Applications- 44
- Applications Denied- 11 (7- not impacted by COVID; 2- no arrears owed; 1- over income; 1- relationship to tenant)
- Applications Being Served By Another Organization- 23
- Total Funds Awarded- \$1,108,398
- Average Award- \$7,060

2

REFERENCE ITEM

2

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**COBB HOME SAVER
EMERGENCY
Rental
Assistance
Status Report
7/13/2021**



**COBB COUNTY RENTERS
RENTAL ASSISTANCE
COVID-19 RELIEF**



HOMESAVER RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Total Number of ERA Applications Received		1509
	Applications Denied	121
Number Applications Incompleted (i.e. started but not finished)		512
Number Applications Pending awaiting documentation		356
Status of Applications Eligible for Grant Assistance		
Total Number Approved and Funded as of June 30th		254
Approved and/or process of being funded		67
Number Completed in Pipeline awaiting final approval/review		219
		520
Grants Awarded		
Funding awarded for April	\$139,451.40	
Funding awarded for May	\$902,399.88	
Funding awarded for June	\$1,305,307.81	
Total	\$2,347,159.09	
(Average Grant Awarded \$9,240.78)		

**KEY
OBSERVATIONS**

- Applicants do not fully understand that application approval requires 100% of ALL documentation being submitted.
- Applicants not wanting or unable to provide documentation to support Covid hardship.
- Staffing of Internal Resources are limited (based on budgetary constraints) for a project this scope and size.



THANK YOU
COBBHOMESAVER.ORG





Emergency Rental Assistance Program Update

July 13, 2021

1



Star-C Cobb Rental Assistance Overview

CARES Act: May 2020-Feb 2021	\$3,424,155
ERA1 To Date since April 2021	<u>\$1,236,562</u>
Total Rental Assistance Expenditures	\$4,660,717

2

REFERENCE ITEM 2

1



Star-C Cobb ERA1 Program Resources

Neighborhoodly Online Application Portal:

<https://portal.neighborhoodlysoftware.com/ERAP-STAR-C/Participant>

Landlord Training Sessions Held

Tenant Training Sessions Held

Magistrate Court Partnership since summer 2020

District Four Career Fair Outreach: July 31

Dedicated Team

3



ERA1 Program Statistics as of June 30, 2021

Number of Applications Received	1,773
Number of Applications in Queue:	
Complete	411
Incomplete	782
Number of Applications Under Review	153
Number of Applications Rejected	179
<i>57% incomplete; 18% nonresident; 13% other provider; 5% over AMI; 7% moved/withdrawn</i>	
Total ERA1 Expenditures: 30%	\$1,236,562
Average Award	\$4,986
Remaining ERA1 Grant	\$2,915,894

4

REFERENCE ITEM 2