



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | syoung@acluga.org

August 20, 2019

Members of the DeKalb County
Board of Registration and Elections
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, GA 30030
voterreg@dekalbcountyga.gov

Erica Hamilton, Director
DeKalb County
Board of Registration and Elections
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, GA 30030
ehamilton@dekalbcountyga.gov

Via Certified Mail and E-mail

**Re: Voter Purge of Residents at the Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Center,
and Open Records Request**

To the DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections,

The ACLU of Georgia and Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law write on behalf of the New Georgia Project and the Georgia Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda in response to a voter purge of Decatur residents approved during your August 1, 2019 meeting. According to the Board Minutes, which are appended as Exhibit A, you categorically purged several voters, including all of those who listed as their residence 444 Sycamore Drive, Decatur, GA 30030.¹ The purge of the voters at 444 Sycamore Drive was in response to a challenge filed by the City of Decatur, although it is not clear who asked the City of Decatur to challenge these voters. Your stated reason for the purge was that this address "is a business where clients can only stay for three days, and citizens cannot register at a business," and that based on your "understanding," "at one point, it was a residence." The minutes, however, do not cite to any evidence in support of these assertions.

The registered voters at 444 Sycamore Drive appear to be among the most vulnerable among us and hardest hit by life's struggles. Located at that address is the Peer Support,

¹ Board Minutes dated August 1, 2019, located at <https://bit.ly/2z4gkrj>.

Wellness, and Respite Center, which according to its website (see Exhibit B)² is freely available for people with mental disabilities who need housing to avoid psychiatric hospitalization, and where residents may stay up to seven nights (not three nights), in 30-day intervals presumably indefinitely. That building can thus serve as a residence for many people who reside there or rely on it as a steady home base while they struggle to find permanent housing. Indeed, it may be the only home for people who are otherwise homeless, have challenging mental disabilities, and have nowhere else to turn.

Stable housing is not a prerequisite to voting. Furthermore, neither state nor federal law grant election officials the authority to decide what locations count as a “residence” or determine where voters may or may not live for voting purposes. A voter’s “residence” is often dictated by socioeconomic status and the government’s failure to provide stable housing or healthcare. For instance, what a wealthy person considers a “parking lot” may in fact be a “residence” for some people who are homeless. Families with lesser economic means may live where they work because they cannot afford a separate house. In short, while some Georgia voters are homeless or transient, the sacred and fundamental right to vote does not lay in the hands of armchair zoning commissioners.

Given the importance of the right to vote, election officials must be vigilant when considering challenges or requests to disenfranchise people that are based on Google Maps or their preconceived notions of what a “residence” looks like. If the recent voter purge was based on a more thorough investigation than the Board Minutes reflect, please provide us all the evidence relied upon to make your determination. We are therefore making an Open Records Request to attempt to shed some light on this process.

Potential Illegality of August 1, 2019 Voter Purge

The recent voter purge raises numerous legal red flags that we ask you to address.

First, your designation of the Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Center as a “business” as opposed to a “residence” is not only wrong, but illogical and irrelevant. Illogical, because a location can be both. Irrelevant, because the word “business” does not appear anywhere in the lengthy, multi-factor test for determining voting residency set forth in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-217, which are highly dependent on an individual’s particularized and unique circumstances.³

Second, if someone registered to vote while residing at the Center but the Center is no longer their home, Georgia law provides that such registered voters can still vote even after they have moved. When voting, such voters can change their address either by applying for an absentee ballot, O.C.G.A. § 21-2-229(c), or vote in-person at the assigned polling place while filling out a change-of-address form. *See* O.C.G.A. § 21-2-229(d). Either way, they are still allowed to vote.

² *See* <https://www.gmhcn.org/peer-support-wellness-respite>.

³ With one exception: the statute provides that a voter’s “business pursuits” can be relevant to residency.

Similarly, Georgia law provides a standard mechanism for dealing with confirming the residency of registered voters. Under O.C.G.A. § 21-2-234(b)-(c),⁴ if mailings sent to registered voters are returned undeliverable by the United States Postal Service, a confirmation notice must be sent to such voters giving the voter an opportunity to change their address. And even if such confirmation notice is not returned, the voter is not immediately removed from the rolls, but placed in “inactive” status. “Inactive” status still allows them to vote and guarantees that they can still vote for at least two more federal election cycles (up to four years) before they are finally removed, and even then, such voters receive a final notice 30-60 days before they are removed under a recent amendment to the law. *See* O.C.G.A. § 21-2-235; *see also* 52 U.S.C. § 20507(d).

We further remind you that the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) requires that any list maintenance procedure be “uniform” and “nondiscriminatory,” 52 U.S.C. § 20507(b)(1), not targeted towards people who may not be living in a traditional residence. Indeed, while O.C.G.A. § 21-2-228 provides that the Board “shall have the right and shall be charged with the duty of examining from time to time the qualifications of each elector of the county,” any such examination must comply with the NVRA and state law, including those provisions related to voters who might have changed their address.⁵

Third, the purge of the 444 Sycamore Drive voters occurred in response to a challenge by the City of Decatur, but only individual voters (an “elector”) can file challenges to a voter’s qualifications, not municipalities. *See* O.C.G.A. § 21-2-229(a) (“Any elector of a county or municipality may challenge the qualifications of . . . any elector of the county or municipality whose name appears on the list of electors.”); (b) (referring to “the elector making the challenge”). “Elector” is defined as “any person who shall possess all of the qualifications for voting . . . and shall have registered in accordance with this chapter.” O.C.G.A. § 21-2-2(7).

This law ensures that voters have the right to know their accuser. For example, it is unknown which employee or resident of the City of Decatur decided to launch this challenge. The registered voters of 444 Sycamore Drive deserve to know what person is trying to disenfranchise them. If you know, please tell us.

Fourth, a voter’s residency does not depend solely on how long they stay in one place. *See Dozier v. Baker*, 283 Ga. 543, 545 (2008) (“No definite amount of time spent in a place is essential to make that place a home . . . Time of residence in another jurisdiction is not decisive

⁴ In citing this statute, we do not concede that it is compliant with the NVRA’s restriction on unreasonable list maintenance procedures, the Voting Rights Act, or the United States Constitution. But even assuming it is lawful, it is not clear whether you considered this procedure.

⁵ O.C.G.A. § 21-2-228(b) requires an individualized inquiry, including three days of written notice to registered voters subject to challenge and a hearing for each voter. If the Board conducted such an individualized inquiry, please provide copies of all written notices or hearing documents, if any, related to this process, including any letters or other communications with the voter.

of the question of domicile”) (citations and internal alterations omitted); O.C.G.A. § 21-2-2(32) (“Residence’ means domicile”). In any event, your assertion that people can only stay there three days contradicts the Center’s website, which states that people can stay there up to seven days, potentially at 30-day intervals. If you have evidence that the Center’s website is false, please provide it.

Open Records Request

To obtain an understanding of the processes you followed to conduct this purge, pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq.), we request access to inspect and copy the following public records prepared or received by the DeKalb County Board of Registration & Elections, or its employees:

All documents and emails concerning the voters purged on August 1, 2019, including those registered at 444 Sycamore Drive, Decatur, GA 30030, including their racial identification and voting histories.

All documents and emails reflecting any notices or communications mailed or otherwise sent to the voters removed from the rolls on August 1, 2019.

All documents and emails reflecting any hearings or other proceedings conducted in connection with the removal of voters on August 1, 2019, as well as the determinations and conclusions resulting from such hearings, and any supporting or countervailing evidence.

All documents and emails reflecting communications between the DeKalb County Board of Registration & Elections and the City of Decatur concerning the location at 444 Sycamore Drive.

Copies of all written challenges filed by the City of Decatur in connection with the voters registered at 444 Sycamore Drive.

Documents reflecting the identity of which person(s) were involved in the City of Decatur’s challenge to the qualifications of voters registered at 444 Sycamore Drive.

All documents and emails reflecting subpoenas or other formal or informal requests for information issued in connection with any investigation of whether 444 Sycamore Drive is considered by you to be a “residence” or a “business,” as well as all documents reflecting your analysis and determination of whether the location was a “residence” or a “business.”

Copies of all evidence and statutes relied upon by you in concluding that every individual removed on August 1, 2019, is not eligible to vote in DeKalb County.

All communications between you and the Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Center (also known as “Decatur Peer Support & Wellness Center”) located in Decatur.

All documents and emails reflecting the time at which a removed voter was registered at 444 Sycamore Drive, evidence supporting your determination of when 444 Sycamore Drive allegedly transitioned from being a “residence” to a “business,” and a comparison of whether such removed voter claimed residency at 444 Sycamore Drive before or after such alleged transition.

Thank you for your prompt attention. We look forward to further discussion on this matter. Feel free to reach us by phone if easier.

Sincerely,



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia
Atlanta, GA 30309
Telephone: (770) 303-8111
Email: syoung@acluga.org



John Powers
Counsel
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights
Under Law
1500 K Street NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: (202) 662-8389
Email: jpowers@lawyerscommittee.org

CC by e-mail and certified mail:

Mayor Patti Garrett
patti.garrett@decaturga.com

Mayor Pro Tem Tony Powers
tony.powers@decaturga.com

Decatur City Commissioners Brian Smith, Kelly Walsh, and Scott Drake
brian.smith@decaturga.com
kelly.walsh@decaturga.com
scott.drake@decaturga.com

Decatur City Hall
509 North McDonough St.
Decatur, GA 30030

EXHIBIT A

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
DEKALB COUNTY
August 1, 2019**

The DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections convened to conduct its monthly meeting on August 1st, in the Absentee Area at 4380 Memorial Drive with Board Chair Samuel Tillman presiding.

Present: Anthony Lewis, Board Member
 Susan Motter, Board Member
 Dele Lowman Smith, Board Member
 Baoky Vu, Board Member
 Bennett Bryan, Attorney
 Erica Hamilton, Director
 Tiffani Gilbert, Elections Supervisor
 Twyla Hart, Registration Supervisor
 Sharon Hillman, Administrative Coordinator (Trainee)
 Mary Frances Weeks, Administrative Coordinator

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 PM and asked for an Executive Session to be added to the agenda as 5B to discuss a legal matter. A motion was made by Ms. Smith to approve the agenda. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called and the motion was approved.

Minutes

Ms. Smith recommended that the “Comments from the Public” from the July 11th meeting be reworded. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the minutes. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion was approved.

Comments from the Public

Five citizens signed in and spoke. Four citizens expressed their concerns with poll watcher selection, absentee ballots, and election fairness. One citizen expressed his appreciation of the Director and the office.

Challenges -- Director Erica Hamilton presented the following challenges with staff recommendation for removal.

- A) Anthony Lombardo -- The Board was provided with a request from Joseph Firpo, who resides as the registered address, stating Mr. Lombardo only lived at the residence for 6 months and has not lived at the address since 2015. A letter addressed to Mr. Lombardo was returned undeliverable. A motion was made by Mr. Vu to remove Anthony Lombardo from the DeKalb County voter roll. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion was approved.
- B) Tiffany Harris; Eric Warren Robbins, Leon Harris -- Precinct cards were mailed back to the Board from the individual who currently lives as the registered address with a note stating Ms. Harris, Mr. Robbins, and Mr. Harris no longer lived at the address. A letter addressed to each individual was returned undeliverable. A motion was made by Ms. Smith to remove Tiffany Harris, Eric Warren Robbins, and Leon Harris from the DeKalb County voter roll. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion was approved.

- C) City of Decatur -- Per Election Law, a list of registered voters was sent to the city. The City of Decatur challenged those registered at 444 Sycamore Drive, Decatur, GA 30030. The address is a business where clients can only stay for three days, and citizens cannot register at a business. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to remove those registered at 444 Sycamore Drive from the DeKalb County voter roll. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion was approved. Ms. Smith questioned how an individual was registered at a business address. Ms. Hamilton stated that her understanding was that at one point, it was a residence.

Presentation

Mr. Tillman requested to add to the agenda a special presentation. M. Vu presented Mrs. Weeks with a gift recognizing her 20 years of service to the Board and DeKalb County.

Unfinished Business

- A) Audit Update -- Ms. Hamilton reported that some members of the board met with audit officials on July 31st. The Board is waiting on official word and notifications from the auditors on how the audit will proceed.

New Business

- A) Precinct Change -- Emory Road – Ms. Hamilton reported that the current Emory Road Precinct is no longer able to accommodate the election. According to Georgia code, a meeting is required after posting a notice in a legal organ two weeks prior, which has been completed. The Board has notified the State Election Board, as it is required since the proposed relocation is outside the precinct. The proposed temporary move is to Druid Hills High School, an existing precinct. A motion was made by Ms. Smith to approve the precinct change. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. Mr. Tillman stated the motion was made and seconded. The question was called and precinct change was approved.
- B) Executive Session -- Mr. Tillman asked for a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis, and Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion was approved. The Board excused themselves to another area to meet with counsel, after which, a motion was made by Mr. Vu, and seconded by Mr. Lewis to return to regular session. The question was called and the motion was approved. A motion was made by Ms. Smith to enter into a consent order for State Election Board case 2015-100. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion was approved. “No decisions were made, and no votes were taken while we were in Executive Session.” A signed affidavit confirming this will be placed with the minutes.

Comments from the Board – Ms. Smith stated that it was a pleasure working with Mrs. Weeks and wish her joy and peace in her retirement. Ms. Smith thanks Mrs. Weeks for an easy onboarding process. Speaking for the staff, Ms. Hamilton wish Mrs. Weeks the very best in her retirement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sharon Hillman, Administrative Coordinator.
Registration and Elections

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD
OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
DEKALB COUNTY
August 1, 2019**

CONFIDENTIAL

Chair Samuel Tillman announced that the Board would adjourn into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

An "Open Meeting Affidavit" document was signed and notarized and will be included with the minutes.

There being no further business, the Executive Session was adjourned and the Board returned to open session.

Sharon Hillman
Administrative Coordinator

EXHIBIT B


[About](#)
[Resources](#)
[Projects](#)
[Trainings](#)
[CPS](#)
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PEER SUPPORT, WELLNESS, AND RESPITE CENTERS



The Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Centers are peer-run alternatives to traditional mental health day programs and psychiatric hospitalization.

Each of the five Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Centers has respite rooms available to citizens of Georgia, available 24 hours a day, year-round. The three respite rooms at each center are free of charge and can be occupied by an individual overwhelmed by life challenges who feels they would benefit from 24/7 peer support, for up to seven nights, every 30 days.

Peers often use Respite to avoid psychiatric hospitalization. An individual must have a Proactive Interview on file before being eligible for Respite. They must also be at least 18 years of age, self-identify as a person who is a consumer of mental health services, have a house tour, and sign Participation Guidelines. Peers are welcome to participate in all activities, regardless of whether that are staying overnight. Activities vary by location—please call ahead to verify the schedule. Descriptions of activities are at the bottom of this page.

All overnight participants are responsible for taking their own prescribed medications and keeping them in a locked box. The box and key are provided by the Respite Centers. The kitchen will be stocked for participants who are using the respite beds and they are free to prepare food for themselves at their convenience. Participants are also free to bring in their own food.

There are no doctors, nurses, case-managers, or clinical staff associated with the Respite Centers, although each participant is free to utilize his or her established medical and community resources. Participants have a file consisting of their Proactive Interview, Contact information, and Participation Guidelines. Guests have access to their file upon request.

The Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Centers welcome self-referrals. No independent confirmation of mental health challenges or diagnosis is required.

All peer staff are Certified Peer Specialists. In addition, all peer staff have completed Intentional Peer Support Training with Shery Mead and Chris Hansen, Warmline Training with Sheila Silverman, CPR/First Aid Certification Training and general orientation with the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network. Probably the best training, however, is the lived experience we all share as mental health peers!

Proactive Interviews

A Proactive Interview is an interactive dialogue between a Respite Center peer staff and a peer participant. It is used to determine the type of respite supports preferred by the participant. It is completed while a participant is feeling well.

A participant can come to a Respite Center while they are feeling well and have a Pro-active Interview with a peer staff. Once the interview is completed, they qualify for a respite bed if and when the need arises and a bed is available.

Proactive Interviews are offered weekdays in White County by appointment only; in Bartow County between 9:00-11:00 am, and in Decatur, between 3:00-5:00 pm. All Respite Centers offer Proactive Interviews any time on the weekends during opening hours.



BARTOW COUNTY PEER SUPPORT, WELLNESS, AND RESPITE CENTER

 201 North Erwin Street
Cartersville, GA 30120

Phone 770-276-2019
Email wellnesscenter@gmhcn.org

Directions I-75 to exit 288 Main Street make a left off the exit. Cross over Hwy 41 and make a right hand turn onto Erwin Street, after train tracks. We will be about 4 blocks down on the right hand side at the corner of Carter and North Erwin.



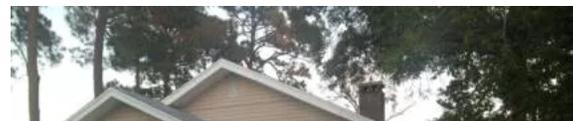
Bartow County Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Center Scheduled Weekly Activities

Jennifer Barnett
Director
Email jennifer@gmhcn.org

<p>Monday 10:00-10:30 Wellness Walk 11:00-11:30 Aroma Therapy Noon-1pm Financial Planning 1:30-2:30 Art Exploration 4:00-5:00 Self-Care 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p>	<p>Thursday 10:00-10:30 Wellness Walk 11:00-Noon Emotional Wellbeing Support 12:30-2:00 Whole Health 2:30-3:30 Computer Skills 4:00-5:00 Double Trouble in Recovery 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p>
<p>Tuesday 10:00-10:30 Wellness Walk 11:00-Noon Women's Support 12:30-1:30 Job Readiness 2:00-3:30 Housing Support 4:00-5:00 Trauma Informed Peer Support (TIPS) 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p>	<p>Friday 10:00-10:30 Wellness Walk 11:00-12:00 Peer Zone 12:00-1:00 Y'all Recovery All Recovery 1:00-2:00 Musical Expressions 2:30-3:30 Creative Writing 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p>
<p>Wednesday 10:30-11:30 Wellness Walk Noon-1:30 Peer Zone 2:00-3:30 Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) 4:00-5:00 Boosting Self Esteem 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p>	<p>Saturday Events on The Square (All Day) 10:30-1:00 Community Activity (times may vary) 1:00-2:30 Fun & Games 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p>
	<p>Sunday 11:00-1:00 Movie at the Center 2:00-3:00 Fun & Games 3:30-5:00 Issues in Mental Health 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p>

 **COLQUITT COUNTY PEER SUPPORT, WELLNESS, AND RESPITE CENTER**
417 2nd Street SE
Moultrie, GA 31768

Phone 229-873-9737
Email wellnesscenter@gmhcn.org





Kelly Blanton
Director
Email kelly@gmhcnc.org

Colquitt County Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Center Scheduled Weekly Activities

Monday

2:00-3:00 Peer Community
3:30-4:30 Computer Skills
5:00-6:00 Issues in Mental Health
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Tuesday

2:00-3:00 DTR
3:30-4:30 Housing Support / Financial Planning
5:00-6:00 Trauma-Informed Peer Support
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Wednesday

2:00-3:00 Exploring Relationships
3:30-4:30 Creating a Meaningful Life
5:00-6:00 Art Explorations
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Thursday

2:00-3:00 WRAP
3:30-4:30 Whole Health/Wellbeing Support
5:00-6:00 Creative Expressions
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Friday

2:00-3:00 Y'all Recovery All Recovery
3:30-4:30 Music
5:00-6:00 Nourishing the Spirit
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Saturday

10:00-6:00 Movies and Games
2:00-3:00 Double Trouble in Recovery
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Sunday

1:00-6:00 Super Sports Sundays
8:00-9:00 Respite Support



DECATUR PEER SUPPORT AND WELLNESS CENTER

444 Sycamore Drive
Decatur, GA 30030

Phone 404-371-1414
Email wellnesscenter@gmhcnc.org

Directions The Center is located two and a half blocks north of the Avondale Marta station on Sycamore Drive. After crossing E. Ponce de Leon, look for the 444 mailbox on the left. The house sits down a long driveway directly across from Springdale St.





Deborah Bacote-Taylor
Director
Email deborahataylor@gmhcn.org

Decatur Peer Support and Wellness Center Scheduled Weekly Activities

Monday

11:00-12:30 YMCA (1st & 5th Monday)
11:00-12:30 Whole Health (2nd, 3rd, & 4th)
1:30-3:00 Issues in Mental Health
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Tuesday

11:00-12:00 Peer Zone
12:30-1:30 Trauma-Informed Peer Support
2:30-3:30 Y'all Recovery All Recovery
4:00-5:00 Computers/Financial Planning/Housing Support
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Wednesday

11:00-11:30 Peer Community @The Comet
11:30-12:30 Bowling @The Comet (First 10 bowlers are free, additional bowlers \$5.00)
1:30-3:00 Musical Expressions
5:00-6:00 Double Trouble in Recovery
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Thursday

11:30-12:30 WRAP
1:00 – 2:00 Peer Zone
3:00 – 4:00 Creative Expressions
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Friday

11:00-12:30 YMCA
1:30-2:30 Hearing Voices Network
3:30-5:00 Art Explorations
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Saturday

Noon-2:00 Bingo
10:00-6:00 Movies and Games!
10:00-6:00 Resources Support
8:00-9:00 Respite Support

Sunday

10:00am - 6:00 CPS Study Group
1:00 – 6:00 Super Sports Sundays
8:00-9:00 Respite Support



HENRY COUNTY PEER SUPPORT, WELLNESS, AND RESPITE CENTER

67 Keys Ferry St
McDonough, GA 30253

Phone 678-782-7666
Email wellnesscenter@gmhcn.org



Ginger Blessing
Director
Email ginger@gmhcn.org

Henry County Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Center Scheduled Weekly Activities

<p>Monday 10:00-Noon Bowling at Fun Bowl 12:30-1:30 Aroma Therapy 2:00-3:00 Issues in Mental Health/Peer Zone 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p> <p>Tuesday 11:00-Noon Trauma Informed Peer Support/Peer Zone 12:30-1:30 Housing Support/Financial Planning 2:00-3:00 Y'All Recovery All Recovery 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p> <p>Wednesday 10:00-1:00 Community Outing 1:00-1:30 Peer Community 2:00-3:00 Hearing Voices Network 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p>	<p>Thursday 11:00-Noon Wellness Recovery Action Plan 12:30-2:30 Creative Expressions 2:00-3:00 Whole Health 4:00-5:00 Double Trouble in Recovery 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p> <p>Friday 10:00-12:00 Art/Music Exploration 12:30-1:30 Whole Health Cooking 2:00-3:00 Let's Laugh - It Feels Good 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p> <p>Saturday 10:00-6:00 Movies and Games 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p> <p>Sunday 1:00-6:00 Super Sports Sunday 8:00-9:00 Respite Support</p>
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WHITE COUNTY PEER SUPPORT, WELLNESS AND RESPITE CENTER

46 Knaus Drive
 Cleveland, Ga 30528

Phone 706-865-3601
 Email wellnesscenter@gmhcn.org

Directions The Peer Support, Wellness and Respite Center of White County is located north of Cleveland on Highway 129, approximately one mile past the high school. We are on the right and just before Kamper Korner (RV lot). The Center is the white house on the hill.



White County Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Center Scheduled Weekly Activities

<p>Monday 11-Noon Nourishing the Spirit 12:30-1:30 DTR 2:00-3:00 Creating a Meaningful Life/Independent Living</p>	<p>Thursday 11:00-Noon TIPS 12:30-2:30 Basic Computer Skills/Job Readiness 2:00-4:00 Out and About</p>
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Mitch Easley
 Director
 Email mitch@gmhcn.org

7:00-8:00 Respite Support

7:00-8:00 Respite Support

Tuesday

11:00-Noon Art

12:30-4:30 Bowling (two free games for first 10 participants)

7:00-8:00 Respite Support

Friday

11:00-Noon WRAP

12:30-2:30 Y'All Recovery All Recovery

3:30-4:30 Decompression Session

7:00-8:00 Respite Support

Wednesday

11:00-Noon WHAM

12:30-1:30 Whole Health

2:00-4:00 Recreational Center

7:00-8:00 Respite Support



Peer Support Activity Descriptions

Peer support activities vary by location. These descriptions are meant to provide a general idea of what might be expected at any of the Peer Support, Wellness, and Respite Centers. For specific information about scheduled activities, please contact the PSWRC using the contact information above.

Aroma & Relaxation (Bartow) – Let go of your fears, worries, and stresses as we enter a state of complete relaxation. We will use aroma, music, imagery, meditation, and other easy-to-do techniques to come to an inner peace.

Art Explorations – Use a variety of art media for self expression and exploration.

Bingo (Decatur) – Join us on Saturdays at 12:00 PM for BINGO with prizes!

Bowling (Decatur) – Meet at The Comet (formerly Suburban Lanes) every Wednesday at 11:00 to bowl competitively with peers and have loads of fun! (First 10 bowlers are free, additional bowlers \$5.00); Address 2679 N. Decatur Rd. 30033; 470-225-1931

Computer Skills/Financial Planning/Housing Support - Learn basic computer skills to access housing and financial resources online. Create a budget. Learn the ins and outs of SSI/SSDI. During this hour, computers will only be available for those participating in the activity.

CPS Study Group – Make arrangements with study partners to meet at the PSWC on Sundays to prepare for the Certified Peer Specialist exam.

Creative Cafe – Share your original poetry, spoken word, prose, short stories, etc. Get creative and enjoy coffee and hot chocolate!

Double Trouble in Recovery – A twelve-step program designed to meet the needs of individuals who are dealing with both substance abuse and a mental health diagnosis

Free Events on the Square (Bartow) – Each spring, summer, and fall, Cartersville presents Events on the Square consisting of concerts, farmers market, festivals, etc. Peers can walk to the downtown square all day on Saturdays.

Hearing Voices Network – Are you a person who hears voices? Do you want to talk openly about it without labels, judgments, or coercion? This is a safe place to talk freely and openly about your experiences.

Issues in Mental Health – Let’s talk about the real issues in mental health -- in the news, with drug companies, legislation... Let’s explore what does and does not support us in recovery

Lyrical Expressions – Exploring the soundtracks of our lives!

LGBT Support – Free to all who self-identify as having a mental health challenge and identify as LGBT

Movies and Games – Saturdays are for hanging out with peers and having some good old-fashioned fun with board games, cards, and movies. We provide games to choose from, but feel free to bring your own as well.

Peer Community (Decatur) – Join us on Wednesdays at The Comet before bowling for news and announcements. This is also a good time to bring up issues that affect the PSWC community at large. Address 2679 N. Decatur Rd. 30033; 470-225-1931/26619

Peer Zone – A set of interactive workshops created by Mary O’Hagan and Sarah McCook. The activities are engaging and relevant to peers on the recovery path.

Respite Support – An activity every evening at 8:00 pm with respite guests for extra support if you choose

Resources Support – Resources galore. Find what you need in the community, on the internet, or through networking with other peers who have been where you’re at and know what’s available. Food, clothes, housing, support groups, lots of giveaways in Atlanta!

Sacred Space – this is a forum to talk about spirituality and what makes you passionate! You can freely share your personal feelings and beliefs about spirituality and what it means to you. No preaching, just sharing.

Super Sports Sundays – Come cheer your team on in front of the TV and have a blast!

Trauma-Informed Peer Support – Have you experienced a life-altering event in your life? This is the place where these issues can be explored with your peers while developing skills to begin to move forward.

Voices and Visions – A time to share and explore the place and possible meanings that hearing voices and seeing visions play in our lives. Various tips and tools for working with them will be discussed as well.

Whole Health – Exploring the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspect of our lives and how they intertwine.

WRAP Planning – WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) assists with developing a wellness plan that keeps you in control when you experience a crisis.

YMCA – The PSWC has free passes! Meet us at the PSWC at 11:00 am on Mondays (1st & 5th Monday) and Fridays for some fun and exercise at the Y. Meet us at the Decatur YMCA located at 1100 Clairemont Ave., Decatur, GA Phone: (404) 377-9622



CONTACT FORM

YOUR NAME *

YOUR EMAIL *

HOW MAY WE BE OF SERVICE?

info@gmhcn.org
 Tel [404-687-9487](tel:404-687-9487)
 Toll Free [800-297-6146](tel:800-297-6146)
 Peer2Peer Warm Line [888-945-1414](tel:888-945-1414)
 Fax 404-687-0772

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 Decatur, Georgia 30030

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Funding for many of the programs and initiatives of the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network is provided by Georgia’s Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Learn about how DBHDD serves Georgia at their [website](#).