

## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Lilly Ackley, [ackleyl@magellanhealth.com](mailto:ackleyl@magellanhealth.com), (860) 507-1923

# Magellan Healthcare hosted a Children's Mental Health Summit on May 4 at The Carter Center

*Magellan Cares Foundation awarded \$15,000 in grants to Atlanta nonprofits*

(Atlanta, GA) May 6, 2022 –Magellan Healthcare, a subsidiary of Magellan Health, Inc., announced today it hosted a Children's Mental Health Summit on Wednesday, May 4 at The Carter Center (453 John Lewis Freedom Parkway N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307). This free conference featured four keynote presentations, two plenary sessions, an in-depth discussion with statewide leaders focused on children with complex health needs, and two Magellan Cares Foundation donations to local nonprofits. The special event brought together local, regional, and national thought leaders committed to working together to improve children's mental health in Atlanta and across the state of Georgia.

Mental health challenges for our youth have been made worse by the pandemic. According to the Georgia Student Health Survey in 2021, two in five children in Georgia have trouble accessing the mental health treatment they need. The 2021 Georgia Student Health Survey also stated that suicide is the second leading cause of death among Georgia children and youth.

"At Magellan, we felt it was vitally important to offer this summit as an opportunity to bring together local leaders to exchange ideas, share successes, and discuss solutions around the mental health crisis facing families and children here in Georgia and across the country," commented Ken Fasola, chief executive officer, Magellan Health. "Young people and their families must be central in decision-making to address individuals' unique needs. Screening, planning, and treatment must be guided and driven by individuals and families as participation is central to ensuring voice and choice throughout the treatment process."

### **Key facts about the Children's Mental Health Summit on May 4<sup>th</sup>**

- **Keynote presentations**
  - Mrs. Sheree Ralston, First Lady, Georgia House of Representatives
  - Ann DiGirolamo, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of behavioral health, Georgia Health Policy Center
  - Caroline Carney, MD, president, behavioral health and chief medical officer, Magellan Healthcare
  - Ken Fasola, chief executive officer, Magellan Health
- **"Discussion on children with complex mental health needs" was moderated by Ken Fasola**
  - Candice Broce, commissioner, Georgia Department of Human Services, and director, Family & Children's Services
  - Grant Thomas, director of health strategy and coordination, Office of Governor Brian P. Kemp
- **Two plenary sessions**
  - "Elevating the voices of children, young people, and their families" moderated by Barbara Dunn, senior director for children's care, Magellan Healthcare. Panelists included:

- Lee Woodall, former NFL player, and a parent of a child with Autism
    - Terri Matthews, CEO of Jaden’s Voice, and a parent of a child with Autism
    - Angela Bell, youth advocate from Georgia EmpowerMENT
    - Shakayla Earl, youth advocate from Georgia EmpowerMENT
    - Lisa Pace, director of operations, Georgia Parent Support Network
  - “Next steps – Georgia community organizations partnering to implement mental health initiatives for children and young adults” moderated by Caroline Carney, MD, president, behavioral health and chief medical officer, Magellan Healthcare. Panelists included:
    - Heather Rowles, executive director, The Multi-Agency Alliance for Children
    - Erica Fener Sitkoff, executive director, Voices for Georgia’s Children
    - Belisa Urbina, executive director, Ser Familia
    - Todd Jones, Georgia House of Representatives, District 25
- **Magellan Cares Foundation grant recipients**
  - A \$10,000 grant to The Carter Center - [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org)
    - Following the Magellan Cares Foundation donation, The Carter Center and the Multi-Agency Alliance for Children recognized five Georgia programs as recipients of \$2,000 donations to support mental health initiatives. The programs recognized were:
      - [Hillside, Inc.](#), Atlanta, GA
      - [Favor Youth Move](#), Stone Mountain, GA
      - [Jesse’s House, Inc.](#), Cumming, GA
      - [Little Debbie’s Second Chance Homes, Inc.](#), Decatur, GA
      - Cici’s Golden Help, supported by [House of Hope](#), Brunswick, GA
  - A \$5,000 grant to the Multi-Agency Alliance for Children – [www.maac4kids.org](http://www.maac4kids.org)
- In addition to the leaders listed above, the 160 conference attendees also included: Statewide behavioral health providers; advocacy organizations; members of the Georgia General Assembly; agency leaders and staff; and Magellan leadership.

**About Magellan Healthcare:** [Magellan Healthcare, Inc.](#), the healthcare business unit of Magellan Health, Inc., offers solutions for complex conditions in the areas of behavioral health and medical specialty treatment. Magellan Healthcare serves commercial health plans, employers, state and local governments, and the Federal government, including the Department of Defense. For more information, visit [MagellanHealthcare.com](http://MagellanHealthcare.com).

**About Magellan Cares Foundation:** [The Magellan Cares Foundation](#), a 501(c)(3) organization, focuses on efforts to improve access to quality healthcare and related social supports. The foundation supports programs and initiatives in four areas: national or large-scale health access and quality improvement initiatives; efforts that help to improve the social supports around a quality healthcare system, such as access to housing, food, clothing or self-improvement opportunities; local efforts, including legacy initiatives supported by Magellan Health’s employees and; efforts to support America’s military service members, veterans and wounded warriors.

**About Magellan Health:** [Magellan Health, Inc.](#), is a leader in managing the fastest growing, most complex areas of health, including special populations, complete pharmacy benefits and other specialty areas of healthcare. Magellan supports innovative ways of accessing better health through technology, while remaining focused on the critical personal relationships that are necessary to achieve a healthy, vibrant life. Magellan's customers include state and county governmental agencies, health plans and other managed care organizations, employers, labor unions, various military and third-party administrators. For more information, visit [MagellanHealth.com](http://MagellanHealth.com).

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