



# GA FLEX Quality Improvement Project Monthly Meeting

January 27, 2026



# Agenda

- Welcome
- SAMHSA Resources
- Phoebe Worth Medical Center
- Clinch Memorial Hospital
- Resources
- Q&A/Wrap Up



# GA FLEX Improvement Project Lead



**Melody "Mel" Brown, MSM**  
Quality Program Manager  
[melody.brown@allianthealth.org](mailto:melody.brown@allianthealth.org)

Melody has over 45 years of health care experience, including varied roles at Alliant Health Solutions. She currently works on projects with hospitals, nursing homes, and physician practices concentrating on quality improvement strategies and implementation of interventions.

# SAMHSA

<https://www.samhsa.gov/>

## SAMHSA Spotlight

 In Crisis? Call or Text 988 »



## Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month

January is Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month, SAMHSA's nationwide effort to raise awareness of multiple treatment paths, including medications, peer support, and faith-based approaches, and encourage people to seek help.

- Read the kickoff blog: [SAMHSA Illuminates Paths to SUD Treatment](#)
- [Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month Digital Toolkit](#)
- [FindTreatment.gov](#)
- [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#)



### Disaster Distress Helpline

The [Disaster Distress Helpline \(DDH\)](#) provides 24/7 counseling to anyone experiencing emotional distress related to a disaster.



### Find Support

An [online guide](#) that helps people navigate through common questions when they are at the start of their journey to better behavioral health.



### Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

Shorter days and colder temperatures can trigger [seasonal affective disorder \(SAD\)](#). Learn how to get help if you're experiencing symptoms.

# Find Treatment

<https://findtreatment.gov/>

 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

[En Español](#)



**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

Search SAMHSA.gov

Search

Home

Search For Treatment

State Agencies

Facility Registration

FAQs

Help

About

Contact Us

## Millions of Americans have mental and substance use disorders. Find treatment here.

Welcome to FindTreatment.gov, the confidential and anonymous resource for persons seeking treatment for mental and substance use disorders in the United States and its territories.



A<sup>A</sup>



# Find Treatment

## Find a Treatment Facility

**Search**

## Help Resources

### 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Free and confidential support for people in distress, 24/7.

**Call or text 988**

### National Helpline

Treatment referral and information, 24/7.

**1-800-662-HELP (4357)**

### Disaster Distress Helpline

Immediate crisis counseling related to disasters, 24/7.

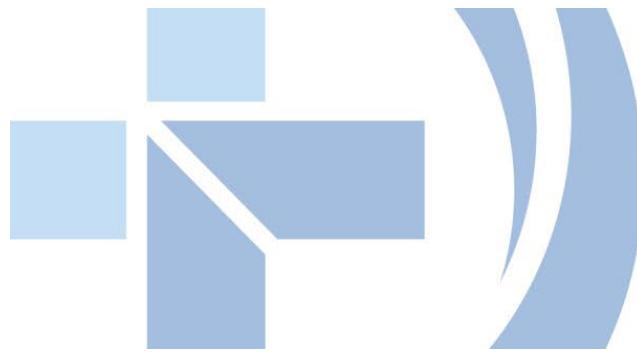
**1-800-985-5990**

## Hear from your peers:

- Clinch Memorial Hospital
- Phoebe Worth Medical Center

# Clinch Memorial Hospital Opioid Abatement

January 27, 2026



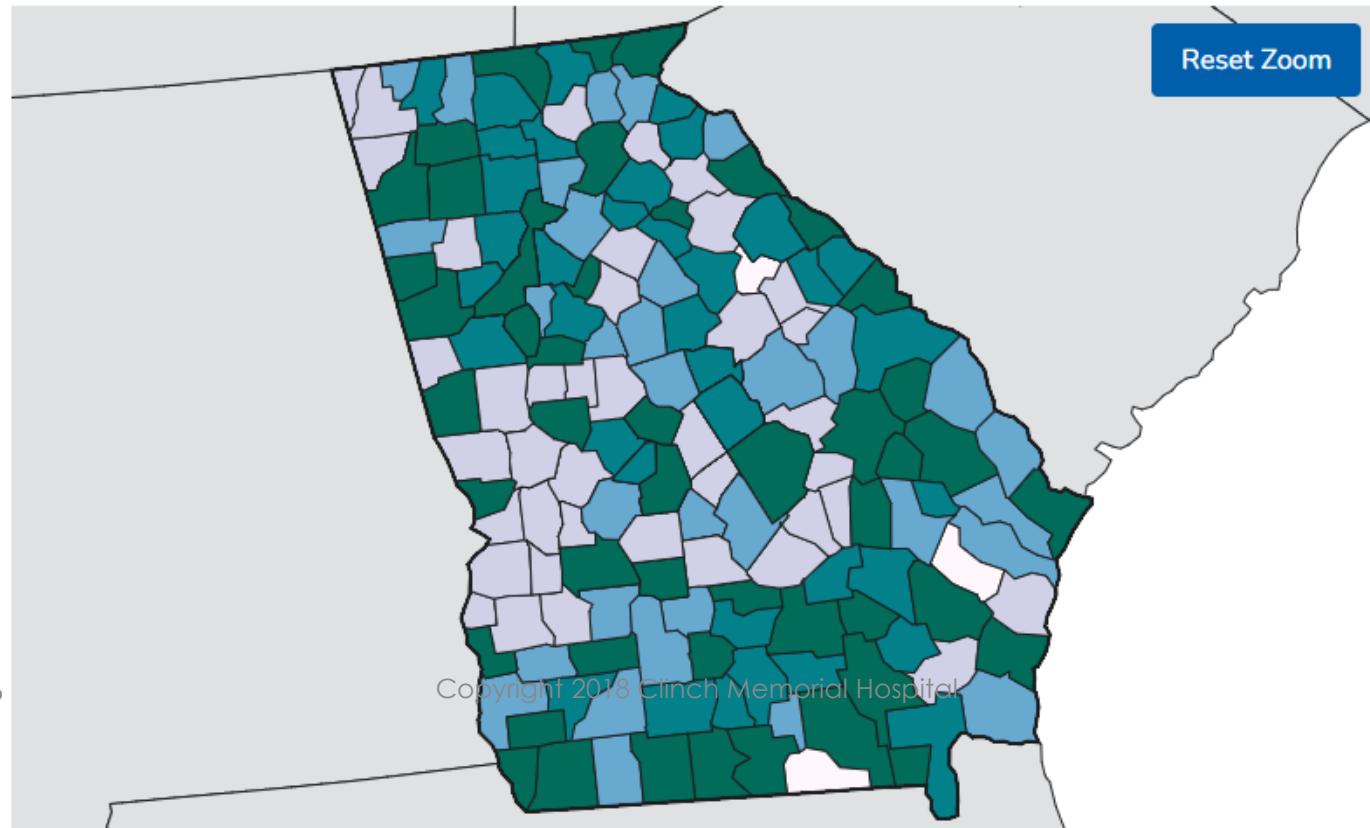
# Clinch County

- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest county in land mass
- 3<sup>rd</sup> poorest county
- County Population 6,900
- Some Industry
- Agriculture



# Opioid Dispensing

2023 ▾



## Opioid Dispensing Rate (per 100 persons)

Counties with unavailable dispensing rates either have no dispensed prescriptions or no reported prescribers.

- Data unavailable
- <18.1
- 18.1 - 31.3
- 31.4 - 49.8
- >49.8

# Early Interventions

MAT program implemented in  
2019

- Staunch views on opioid treatment

Acute inpatient stay to address  
symptoms of withdrawal

# Grant Funding

MAT Expansion

Harm reduction

Prevention and Community Expansion

Training for local Emergency Responders

1/30/2026

# Our Response



## **Expanded clinical capacity**

Added providers to support MAT access and continuity of care



## **Integrated behavioral health**

Hired an LCSW to provide on-site counseling and care coordination



## **Removed transportation barriers**

Purchased a van to assist patients with access to treatment and services



## **Built recovery support on campus**

Initiated NA meetings at the hospital to support long-term recovery

1/30/2022



## **Reduced financial barriers to treatment**

Grant funding covers office visits, counseling, and medication costs  
(including Suboxone and maintenance medications)

# What We Learned



Substance use disorder is **far more prevalent and complex** than initially understood

Many individuals developed dependence through **legitimate medical treatment**

**Stigma and long-held beliefs** create barriers to care and recovery

**One-size-fits-all treatment does not work**

# How We Evolved

Shifted from a single program to a **network of interventions**



Leveraged **community and regional resources** to expand care options



Recognized **multiple pathways to recovery** (MAT, counseling, support services)



Committed to **meeting people where they are**



**Tonya Vaughn, BSN,  
RN, Director of  
Nursing PWMC**



# 2023 Partnership Begins

Officers exposed

- Call to help
- Community Needs



# 2025 Narcan Donation

Tragedy hit home for Phoebe Worth Medical Center

- Loss in our community
- Narcan donation boxes



# Questions?



# Project Timeline

Date	To-Do List
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month 10AM EST	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly calls
February 24, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Data review



Email [melody.brown@allianthealth.org](mailto:melody.brown@allianthealth.org) to schedule a meeting.

# Alliant Health Website and GA Flex Resources

<https://quality.allianthealth.org/ga-flex/>



## GA Flex Resources

### Hospital Resources

[Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project \(MBQIP\) 2025 Measure Core Set Information Guide – Version 2.2 – 3.1.2025](#)

[The Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance \(RQITA\) Resource Center](#)

### Safe Use of Opioids

[Safe Use of Opioids – Concurrent Prescribing](#)

### Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

[Screening for SDOH Measure and the Screen](#)  
[Positive Rate Measure](#)

[FAQs Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\)](#)  
[Measures](#)

[Discharge Referral List](#)

[Improving the Collection of Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Data with ICD-10-CM Z Codes](#)

[Show More](#)

## Resources

1. The Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance (RQITA) Resource Center: <https://www.telligen.com/rqita/>
2. Rural Health Information Hub website: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>
3. Rural Health Research Gateway: <https://www.ruralcenter.org/>

# Questions?



A Division of the Georgia Department of Community Health