



## Barrow County School System

Boldly Committed to Student Success

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Barrow County Schools Hosts Annual Youth Behavioral Health Summit

[Winder, Georgia, Mar 12, 2019] – Barrow County School System is partnering with Northeast Georgia Health System to host the 2nd Annual Youth Behavioral Health Summit. It will be held on Friday, March 15th, 2019 at Bethlehem Church.

Barrow County has one of the highest rates of suicide in the state and one of the lowest rates of mental health providers. The focus of the Summit is to provide local mental health providers (including school staff of counselors, psychologist, nurses, social workers) with mental health training that pertains to working with Barrow County students. By providing free and/or low cost training, the goal is to increase knowledge in the areas of mental health to the providers who are working directly with our students and families.

The Youth Behavioral Health Summit in Barrow County is a conference with expert speakers addressing Trauma Informed Care, Gender Expansive Youth, Resiliency, TraumaPlay, and Language and Poverty. The Youth Behavioral Health Summit proclaims the *You Matter* movement to address the incidents of suicide in our community.

Opening remarks and the keynote speaker will feature Dr. Anna Scheyett. Dr. Scheyett is Dean and Professor at the University Of Georgia School of Social Work. Her research examines community integration of vulnerable populations, particularly individuals experiencing mental illnesses and those involved in the criminal justice system. Dr. Scheyett will share how children and families are exposed to trauma in multiple ways and address how we create trauma-informed spaces that best support children and families, particularly those from more marginalized or vulnerable groups.

Other speakers and sessions at the one-day conference include:

- Paris Goodyear-Brown, *“From Regulation to Reason: Co-Regulating Elementary School Aged Kids”* and *“Creative Interventions for Anxious and Angry Adolescents”*
- Dr. Jennifer Elkins, *“The Road to Resilience: Understanding Risky Behaviors in Youth Exposed to Trauma”*
- Porter Jennings, *“The Unique Needs of Immigrant Families”*

- Dr. Garry McGiboney and Arianne Weldon, *“Misdiagnosis and Missed Opportunities: Language as a Missing Link in Students’ Behavioral, Mental Health, and Education Outcomes”*
- Dr. Nicholas Forge, *“In Our Care: Supporting Sexual and Gender Expansive Youth”*

The Summit will be held at Bethlehem Church at 548 Christmas Ave Hwy 11 N, Bethlehem, GA 30620 on March 15th 2019 from 8:00am-4:30pm.

There are over 250 mental health providers registered for this training from Barrow, Athens-Clarke, Walton and Hall County. We have several sponsors, including Northeast Georgia Medical Center Barrow, CareSource, Family Connection, and Bethlehem Church, that have made this event possible.

This is the second year of the Youth Behavioral Health Summit. Please visit the website for more information on the summit: <https://ybhsinfo.wordpress.com/>

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Barrow County Schools are BOLDly Committed to Student Success and serve more than 14,000 students in the metro-Atlanta area. For more information, please visit [www.barrow.k12.ga.us](http://www.barrow.k12.ga.us) or contact us at 770-867-4527.