



Thanks for attending!

From Central Outreach and Advocacy Center, we would like to say thank you so much for attending the Presbyterians For A Better Georgia's Day at the Capitol! It means a great deal that you would devote a day of your time to come and show that you stand with us in our work for advocacy for everyone.



[Presbyterians For A Better Georgia](#)

[Visit our website](#)

Day at the Capitol



Why Advocacy at Central Outreach and Advocacy Center?

In 2002, the Central OAC Board of Directors voted to add the word “advocacy” to our title. We sit squarely in the middle of offices that make decisions that either directly or indirectly affect the people who walk into our lobby each day. We are surrounded by state, city and county governments. As we work one on one with our guests, we learn about the barriers that are keeping them in their situations. It is this learning that informs the advocacy work we do. Our guests do not always have a voice or a platform to express their struggles, so we can empower them by doing our part to advocate on their behalf.



We believe that advocacy at a local and national level is crucial to being an involved citizen. While advocacy can look many different ways, our efforts often take the form of talking with legislators and tracking bills. By keeping track of what new legislation could affect our guests, we know what efforts to support and which ones we might oppose. We believe that real change can happen when we communicate with our elected officials, and we encourage you to do the same.

Our advocacy efforts have looked different over the years. Currently, we are a member of Presbyterians for a Better Georgia (PBG) who contract with a lobbyist to advocate at the state level. The four main issues that PBG is addressing this legislative session are:

- Health Care: Increase access to quality health care for all
- Homelessness: Support access to shelter, food, healthcare, employment, and critical safety net services
- Housing: Advocate for affordable housing
- Gun Violence: Work to implement common sense measures to reduce gun violence

Our internal advocacy committee is working on issues that we need to address on

the city and county levels. Our committee is working on state identification issues since assisting our guests to obtain state ID is one of our main services. Without proper ID, one cannot access benefits, employment, healthcare and housing. The committee is also working on coalition building with some of our partner agencies that also serve those experiencing homelessness.

If you would like to get more involved in our advocacy work, feel free to reach out to Kimberly Parker, Executive Director, kparker@centraloac.org.

Who Makes up The Central Outreach and Advocacy Center Advocacy Committee?

Sarah Zimbardi, Chair
Pam Revie-Petterson, Liaison between OAC and PBG
Kathy Ashe
Lee Carroll
Dana Cozad
Vern McCarty
Trudy Loper
Renee Snead

Why Do We Come To Do This Work?



There are many reasons that people come to Day at the Capitol. There are many reasons that people support organizations like PBG and Central OAC. Here are some of the responses we collected from our proud participants:

"(I keep coming because) it's the only way that I can see to encourage change."

"Everyone should have healthcare."

"As a minister this is my thing. This is cool."

"(I have been) called to be an advocate for my people."

"Most of these issues (healthcare, gun violence, housing, and homelessness) to

me are economic. People are poor because of bad public policy."

"I'm still hoping we live in a democracy and my hope is we still have a voice."

"As a mother, Christian, a physician - healthcare for all, safe schools for our kids, and affordable housing is all important to me."

"I came to Day at the Capitol because I work as a supervisor for young adults and I teach them about advocacy so I figured it was important to put action into words."

Atlanta Pre-Arrest Diversion (PAD)

From our program director April Campbell: Criminal justice reform has been a passion of mine ever since my internship at a Georgia detention center. It is apparent that arresting people for committing survival-type crimes is not benefiting the person or the community. People who have unmet medical/mental health needs, are living in poverty, or who are battling addiction need services and our support, not to be jailed over and over again. PAD allows for those services to be brought to the individuals who need it most; the ones who are coming in contact with law enforcement, possibly on a fairly regular basis, due to having needs that are unmet. This is the reason PAD exists. We need to assist our community members, our guests, by meeting them where they are and offering them services instead of punishing them.

From our volunteer and Advocacy Committee member Pam Revie-Petterson: As a Downtown Resident I feel that PAD is an important piece of Criminal Justice Reform needed to address the issue of incarcerating citizens who are poor, addicted or suffering mental illness. Offering treatment and assistance rather than incarceration is vital to helping stem the tide of mass incarceration in our City and State.



..... *A new approach to community safety and wellness.*

February 27, 2018

The Atlanta/Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative (PAD) is a new partnership between local social service agencies and the Atlanta Police Department. By combining law enforcement and long-term problem solving, PAD redirects people out of the criminal justice system who would be better served by supportive services. We strive to reduce the number of people in our courts and jails whose involvement is primarily due to mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction, or extreme poverty.

PAD and the Central Outreach & Advocacy Center share common goals in serving Atlanta's most marginalized communities. By replacing jail detention with social support, we rely on the long-standing and tireless leadership of agencies like Central Outreach & Advocacy to provide services to individuals who have been successfully diverted. Through partnership with Central Outreach, among a wide network of social service providers and community advocates, it is our goal to improve neighborhood safety and the quality of life for all community members.

PAD depends on community support to encourage a new approach to public safety. If you do have to call the police because of a quality of life or other related issues, ask the officer to consider pre-arrest diversion. And let your local elected officials know that you support *services over sentences* for those struggling with mental health, substance addiction, or extreme poverty!

If you have questions about this new initiative or opportunities to advocate, please contact Mary Naoum, mary@prearrestdiversion.org.

We recently announced that we're going to be painting a new beautiful mural on the walls of our lobby and that we need your help to make this happen! We're now excited to reveal the name of this new endeavor: The Colors of Peace Project. If you want to help us paint or prepare, sign up by clicking the left button below. Can't make it in to help paint? Donate to the project by clicking the right button below!

Sign up to Help Here!

Donate to the Project Here!



BEAUTIFY THE
CENTRAL OAC
LOBBY

THE COLORS OF PEACE PROJECT



We are excited to announce that our 5th annual Cheers for Change will take place on Sunday, April 15! Join us for an afternoon of beer, food, games, and of course fundraising! Early bird tickets are now available for purchase.

[Early Bird Tickets Here!](#)

JOIN US FOR OUR 5TH ANNUAL

Cheers for Change

Central Outreach & Advocacy Center

APRIL 15, 2018 | 3:00 - 6:00 PM
SWEETWATER BREWING COMPANY
195 OTTLEY DR NE ATLANTA, GA 30324

FOOD, RAFFLE, BEER
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT



We can't wait to host our 5th annual Cheers for Change! But, we can't do it without you! If you're interested in helping sponsor this event, check out the opportunities below or purchase your sponsorship here!

[Sponsor Us Here!](#)

Cheers for Change

Central Outreach & Advocacy Center

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PRESENTING - \$5,000 - Eight event tickets, name/logo in print and digital event promotions/publications, and our digital newsletter (2,000+ distribution), acknowledgement at the event, and 8 fishbowl auction raffle tickets (additional benefits are negotiable)

GOLD - \$2,500 - Six event tickets, name/logo in print and digital event materials and our digital newsletter (2,000+ distribution), and 6 fishbowl auction raffle tickets

SILVER - \$1,000 - Four event tickets, name/logo in print and digital event materials

BRONZE - \$500 donation or in-kind support - Two event tickets, name/logo in all print and digital event materials

PATRON - \$100 - One event ticket and listing in the event program



APRIL 15, 2018 | 3:00 - 6:00 PM
SWEETWATER BREWING COMPANY

Connect with us

