



Child Advocacy and Juvenile Services 2026 Business Plan Presentation

Derek Brownlee
Department Director

Service Delivery Mission

It is our mission to zealously advocate for the legal rights and best interests of abused and neglected children within a trauma-focused framework and to enhance the likelihood of behavior reform by engaging in culturally competent strategies that promote accountability.

Approved 2025 Operational Request Updates

- Senior Supervising Attorney
 - Trains and mentors the new Guardian ad Litem Division Director
 - Intra-departmental outreach and collaboration
 - Partnering with community and child welfare organizations



2025 Efficiencies and Improvements

- Restructuring the education unit within the Guardian ad Litem Division
- Participating in the Quality Legal Representation program with the Office of the Child Advocate.

Emerging Developments and Our Path Forward

Prevention and Early Intervention

- Infant and Toddler Courts implementation

Family-Based Care and Relational Permanency

- Prioritizing kinship care and family involvement

Trauma-Informed Care

- Providers and advocates trained on impact of trauma

Strategic Goals and Efficiencies

- Expand support for at-risk youth
- Enhance technology utilization
- Continually reevaluate staffing model



People Strategies

- Utilize LinkedIn Learning training and Gwinnett Human Resources programs to develop and train leaders
- Elevate existing team members into leadership roles
- Develop an intern program in two divisions
- Conduct recurring meetings for one-on-one feedback and leadership dialogue

