

# RC/PIO News & Notes 5-9-2025



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## News and Notes

For highlights this week we have Children's Mental Health Day at the Capitol, an annual tabletop exercise to help prepare for interagency severe winter weather response, a quarterly healthcare coalition meeting and more.

## Children's Mental Health Day at the Capitol



Adults should listen to children without judgement, earn their trust, and support mental health as they would physical health, which includes knowing the signs that a child may be reaching out for mental help. That's what Dr. Jackie Brown-Pinkney, past president of School Social Workers Association of Georgia told the crowd that gathered Thursday for Children's Mental Health Day at the Capitol. The event began at the Georgia Freight Depot, with numerous speakers including representatives of Georgia Parent Support Network, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and those who are using their lived experience with anxiety and depression to help others with similar struggles. State Representative Katie Dempsey said, "If you don't have a great beginning, your future is going to be pretty hard." She said more is being done now to meet the mental health needs of children than in the past, and still more needs to be done in the future.



## WinterEx

Parts of Georgia may experience severe weather in the coming days in the form of hail, strong winds, and excessive rainfall. On Thursday the severe weather response coordination focused on winter weather at the WinterEx tabletop exercise held at the Georgia Emergency Management Agency State Operation Center. Each of the Emergency Support Functions talked amongst themselves and reported to the full group about the actions that would be taken at each stage of a cold weather incident. They also discussed how they would work with each other throughout the simulated seven days of sub-freezing conditions.



## Fulton EP Tent



Thanks to Brianna Cleveland for this highlight from one week ago today at the College Park Regional Health Center. The Fulton Health District Emergency Preparedness team received firsthand experience setting up the Zumro tent:

*This tent is intended to be used throughout our 11 health centers for isolation screening and as a vaccination or testing site. The tent can be used for a variety of other things such as a temporary shelter for vulnerable populations, a temporary command post, decontamination unit, and medical triage. We decided to purchase this tent because it is easily deployable due to its rapid inflation.*



# Region C Healthcare Coalition meeting

The Region C Healthcare Coalition met virtually on Tuesday and included a presentation from meteorologist David Nadler from the National Weather Service – Peachtree City office. He said tropical storm activity this year is projected to be above normal but not as severe as last year. He added that the ocean surface temperatures are one factor that supports this projection, but that it only takes one major hurricane to cause extensive damage to any given area. Other speakers provided updates on Environmental Health, Medical Reserve Corps, Epidemiology and Narcan administration. The next meeting is planned for August 5.

## Opioids: Naloxone Training

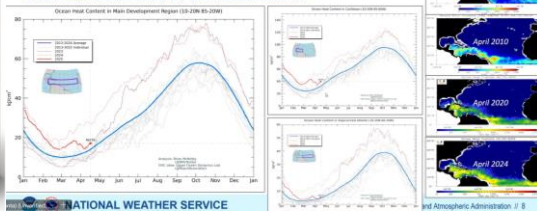
This naloxone training aims to assist viewers with up-to-date information on prescription substance misuse, including its history, past and present trends of opioid misuse in emergency rooms, mortality rates, signs of overdose, and instructions on how to effectively use naloxone to save lives



## Atlantic/Caribbean Basin SST/Ocean Heat content

- Ocean heat content is anomalously warm, running 2 months ahead of schedule, in both MDR and Caribbean regions

Ocean heat content is defined as the depth of the 26 deg C isotherm, and measured as cumulative available energy. It is a better indicator of "fuel" for hurricanes than traditional SST



## Next Week Preview

Exercise planning continues next week to prepare for multiple exercises. An in-person GovTalks / GTA meeting will be held Tuesday in Atlanta. A Public Health Communications Collaborative webinar on Wednesday promises to provide a crash course on Public Health podcasting.

## About “News & Notes”

“News & Notes” is a weekly communication aimed at risk communicators and public information officers within Georgia’s 18 public health districts. The goal of the communication is to increase preparedness through the exchange of information about significant events, training and other planned activities. Some information herein may be considered FYUO or For Your Use Only. Please be judicious when forwarding. For questions, comments or to submit information for inclusion, contact Eric Jens at [Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov](mailto:Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov)