



D·B·H·D·D

Georgia Department
of Behavioral Health
& Developmental
Disabilities

- BE D·B·H·D·D**
- BE COMPASSIONATE**
- BE PREPARED**
- BE RESPECTFUL**
- BE PROFESSIONAL**
- BE CARING**
- BE EXCEPTIONAL**
- BE INSPIRED**
- BE ENGAGED**
- BE ACCOUNTABLE**
- BE INFORMED**
- BE FLEXIBLE**
- BE HOPEFUL**
- BE CONNECTED**
- BE D·B·H·D·D**

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Virtual Town Hall – 2022 NOW Waiver Renewal

BE D·B·H·D·D

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Ashleigh Caseman, Director of Waiver Services, DBHDD

Lavinia Luca, Director of Medicaid Coordination, Department of Community Health

April 21, 2022 6:00 PM EST
April 26, 2022 12:00 PM PST



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DBHDD MISSION



The mission of DBHDD:
Leading an accountable and effective
continuum of care to support
Georgians with behavioral health
challenges, and intellectual and
developmental disabilities in a dynamic
health care environment.

DCH MISSION



The mission of the Georgia Department of Community Health is to provide access to affordable, quality health care to Georgians through effective planning, purchasing, and oversight.

Today's Discussion

- Discuss upcoming proposed changes to NOW Waiver program renewal
 - Services that will continue
 - New services
 - Enhancements and modifications to existing services
 - Sunsetting services with low utilization
- Timeline
- Stakeholder feedback



Current NOW Waiver Services and Supports



These services are proposed to continue in the NOW 2022 renewal....



- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Behavioral Support Services
- Community Access
- Community Living Supports
- In Home and Out of Home Respite
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptation
- Interpreter Services
- Individual Directed Goods and Services
- Financial Support Services
- Prevocational Services
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Support Coordination
- Supported Employment
- Transportation
- Vehicle Adaptation
- Skilled Nursing Services
- Nutrition Services

2022 NOW RENEWAL- Telehealth Proposed Changes

Telehealth Option
for Adult Speech
& Language
Therapy (some
exceptions)

Telehealth
Option for Adult
Occupational
Therapy

Telehealth
Option for Adult
Physical
Therapy

Telehealth
Option for Adult
Nutrition
Services

Telehealth Option
for Behavior
Support Services
(some exceptions)

Telehealth
Option for
Interpreter
Services

Telehealth Option
for Supported
Employment
Services (some
exceptions)

Note: These are
proposed changes
by DBHDD&DCH
that require approval
by CMS

New Proposed Service- Assistive Technology

Assistive technology* consists of any technology, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to maintain or improve functional capabilities of Individuals with disabilities by augmenting the Individual's strengths and/or providing an alternative mode of performing a task.

- The need for Assistive Technology must be an identifiable assessed need in the ISP and directly related to the disability.
- The need for adaptive equipment and assistive technology must be identified in the Individual Service Plan and approved by a qualified rehabilitation technician or engineer, occupational therapist, physical therapist, augmented communication therapist or other qualified professional whose signature indicates approval.



**Note this service definition is pending CMS approval and is subject to change*

New Proposed Service- Assistive Technology

Assistive technology *may* include:

- Communication: Screen readers, display video magnifiers, screen magnification, large keyboards, navigation assistant, augmented and alternative communication, emotion recognition and speech to text
- Personal Emergency Response System: smoke alarm with vibrating pad/flashing light
- Accessibility Software: Alphanumeric, speech amplifiers, electronic speech aids/devices, motion activated electronic devices.
- Cognitive: memory aids (smart pen) and educational software.
- Education: computer accessibility, telecommunication screens, and voiceover
- Home Automation: adaptive locks, motion sensors and audio messages
- Medication Management: Telecare devices



Service Modifications

Community Guide

With the NOW waiver renewal Community Guide Service will no longer be available for use upon CMS approval of the proposed changes

Natural Supports Training

With the NOW waiver renewal Natural Support Training will no longer be available for use upon CMS approval of the proposed changes

Service Modifications Continued- Participant Directed

PD Supported Employment

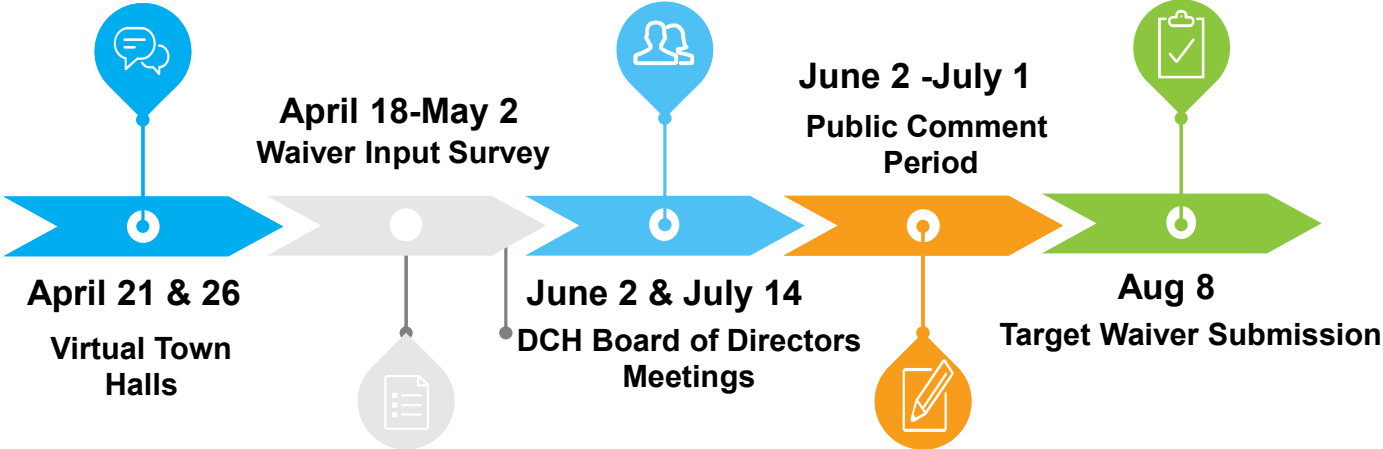
With the NOW waiver renewal Supported Employment remains a service available to individuals, but individuals will no longer be able to PD this service.

PD Behavioral Support Services

With the NOW waiver renewal, individuals will no longer be able to self-direct this service.

This service must be provided by licensed and certified staff

Timeline – 2022 NOW Waiver Renewal



Stakeholder Feedback

DBHDD&DCH looking for YOUR feedback!



What is working well and what are areas for changes or improvements in preparation for the application to renew the NOW waiver program...

Zoom Comment Instructions

The image shows a Zoom Meeting Participant interface with two instructional callouts. The central window displays a Zoom meeting with a 'Speaker View' button and a toolbar at the bottom containing 'Unmute', 'Start Video', 'Participants', 'Chat', 'Share Screen', 'Reactions', and 'Leave'. The 'Chat' and 'Reactions' buttons are circled in red. A red arrow points from the 'Chat' button to a callout box on the left, and another red arrow points from the 'Reactions' button to a callout box on the right.

To make a written comment:

1. Click Chat
2. Type your comment into the box and press enter

To make a verbal comment:

1. Click Reactions
2. Click Raise Hand
3. Wait to be unmuted

We Value Your Feedback!

Describe what is working well in the NOW waiver services for you as an individual receiving services, family member, advocate or provider.

Describe what challenges you are experiencing in NOW waiver services that DBHDD/DCH should be addressed in the NOW waiver renewal?

Describe opportunities for improvement in NOW waiver services or other factors DBHDD/DCH should consider in the NOW waiver renewal process.

Comment Submission

Submit comments through May 1, 2022 **online** at:

<https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/all-programs/waiver-programs>



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