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**BE EXCEPTIONAL**LEARNING  
CORNER

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## Training Announcements

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The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Office of Human Resources and Learning, are offering virtual and in-person trainings. For more information regarding trainings, [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov).



### Technology: How it Can Support Inclusion and Independence Webinar

**Thursday, April 24, 2025, 9:00AM - 10:00AM**

The Georgia Collaborative ASO and DBHDD present this training opportunity for IDD Providers. This webinar will explore how technology can improve the independence and inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, why technology is important, and what are the challenges posed by technology. This webinar will also discuss the Technology First Movement and assistive technology resources that support daily living, social inclusion, education, and employment

***Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, Case Managers, Nursing, Behavioral Specialists and Day and Residential Direct Support Professionals***

**Register Now!**

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# HCBS: Individual's Choice for Supported Employment Webinar

**Friday, May 9, 2025, 11:00AM - 12:00PM**

The Georgia Collaborative ASO and DBHDD present this training opportunity for IDD Providers. This training webinar will focus on how to support individuals with intellectual disabilities to make informed choices about Supported and Competitive Integrated Employment under Georgia's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS).

This training will focus on best practices for fostering employment goals aligned with each individual's preferences, strengths, and interests. Attendees will also learn strategies to promote independence, dignity, and inclusion through employment.

***Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, Case Managers, Nursing, Behavioral Specialists and Day and Residential Direct Support Professionals***

**Register Now!**



## **2025 Transformational Change: Strengthening Person-Centered Service Delivery within the HCBS Settings Rule**

### **NEW DATES & LOCATIONS ADDED**

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Division of Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the **Transformational Change: Strengthening Person-Centered Service Delivery within the HCBS Settings Rule**.

**This one-day interactive workshop is specifically for Support Coordinators, Intensive Support Coordinators, Behavior Support Specialists, Nurses, and Planning List Administrators to better understand the intent and expectations of the Medicaid HCBS Settings Rule.**

The Transformation Change workshop will be offered 6 times across the state as an opportunity to learn and gain ideas to shift HCBS from a systems-framework to a more individualized framework where the person who uses services is at the center of his/her life, determining preferences, having autonomy, and making choices that work for them. A deeper understanding of the purpose of the Rule and how to implement will create the "shift" to more person-centered practices in our daily work. Furthermore, through our better understanding of the foundation of person-centered practices in service provision, the people we work for will begin to realize their individual role and live out their dreams versus the usual, traditional manner in which services have been considered, discussed, and provided.

[Click here for registration and more information!](#) Each training session will be conducted in-person.

For any registration questions, please contact [DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov).

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## **Transformational Change: Strengthening Person-Centered Service Delivery within the HCBS Settings Rule for Providers & Direct Support Professions**

**June 04, 2025, 9:30AM - 4:00PM**

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is pleased to offer a one-day interactive workshop for DD Service Providers, Direct Support Professionals and Field Office staff to better understand the intent and expectations of the Medicaid HCBS Settings Rule.

**This workshop is specifically designed for DD Service Providers, Direct Support Professionals, and Field Office staff.**

This Transformational Change workshop is an opportunity to learn and gain ideas to shift HCBS from a systems-framework to a more individualized framework where the person who uses services is at the center of his/her life, determining preferences, having autonomy, and making choices that work for them. A deeper understanding of the purpose of the Rule and how to implement will create the “shift” to more person-centered practices in our daily work. Furthermore, through our better understanding of the foundation of person-centered practices in service provision, the people we work for will begin to realize their individual role and live out their dreams versus the usual, traditional manner in which services have been considered, discussed, and provided.

DBHDD strongly recommends that agencies send at least two participants to each workshop in every region where they provide services. We request an executive/administrator and a DSP attend and expect that these participants will then provide the information to their agencies to meet HCBS expectations.

**Registration Deadline: May 28, 2025**

**Register Now!**

For any registration questions, please contact [DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov).

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### **Free Person-Centered Thinking Training Now Available**

**DBHDD, in collaboration with IntellectAbility, is providing free Person-Centered Thinking (PCT) Training.**

Person-Centered Thinking Training consists of two-parts:

**Part 1:** Complete Person-Centered Thinking eLearn. This 3-hour eLearn course is housed within Relias. To find it search for *A Course on Person-Centered Thinking* within Relias.

**Part 2:** A one-day virtual, PCT training with a GA Learning Community Trainer. This is a Zoom-based virtual training with a live trainer.

## Register Now!

### Important Information:

1. At the conclusion of the eLearn course in Part 1, the learner will have the opportunity to register for the one-day, virtual training.
2. Learners must upload their certificate from Part 1 to register for Part 2.
3. Your registration remains in a pending status until your eLearn course activities have been reviewed. Activities must be completed in earnest. Learners whose activities contain nonsensical entries will be asked to reanswer the areas before their registration is approved.
4. To receive the full credit for Person-Centered Thinking Training, both Part 1 and Part 2 must be successfully completed.
5. The learner will receive a certificate for each part of training.

If you have questions about this training and how to get started, email:

[PCSupport@ReplacingRisk.com](mailto:PCSupport@ReplacingRisk.com)

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SAVE THE DATE

## 2025 DD Learning Collaborative

This year's theme is **Pathways to Possibilities: Dreaming Big, Achieving Aspirations!** We are pleased to present this year's three-day conference, dedicated to exploring key topics such as Autism, Engagement, Self-Advocacy, and Trauma-Informed Practices, among many others.

This event will feature a variety of sessions designed to foster a mindset of growth and promote best practices within the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) service delivery system. Attendees will gain valuable insights into supporting individuals as they pursue and achieve their aspirations.

ALL DD Providers, including Direct Support Professionals, Nurses, Support Coordinators, and Paraprofessionals are invited to attend.

**Please Note:** Confirmed registration and full attendance each day, is required for CEUs and Certificate of Attendance. On-site parking is available. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**September 9 – September 11, 2025**

**Callaway Gardens - Pine Mountain, GA**

**Registration will Open August of 2025!**

## Call for Proposals

Are you interested in conducting one of the plenaries or workshops? If so, please follow this link and complete the proposal forms and include all required attachments:

**Submission Deadline for Proposals: April 17, 2025**

## DD Participant Direction New Enrollment Training



This Participant-Direction (Self-Direction) New Enrollment Training series is **MANDATORY** for all Participants/Representatives prior to self directing their waiver services and supports under the New Options Waiver (NOW) or the Comprehensive Supports (COMP) Waiver Programs.

The goal of the series is to discuss the Role and Responsibilities of the Representative as written in Part II of the NOW/COMP Manual and to review the services that are covered/not covered under the NOW/COMP Waivers. These sessions will ensure that all Participant-Direction enrollees clearly understand the Participant-Direction service delivery option and understand the role, authorities, and responsibilities of the Participant/Representative. Please check menu at the top of the page for details on future training dates.

All Participant-Direction enrollees are required to attend training and sign a new "Memo of Understanding" (MOU) and complete an Attestation form in order to begin self directing. These documents will be reviewed and signed during the Participant's/Representative's registered training session.

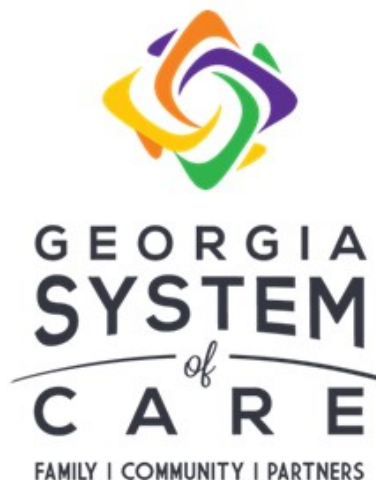
### Training Dates:

- May 6, 2025, 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- May 13, 2025, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Registration is **REQUIRED**. Registration for this event will close once capacity is reached.

**Please Note: These sessions are not for current or potential Medicaid Providers. Providers will not be approved to attend.**

Register Now!



# *Empower ~ Engage ~ Elevate*

June 25-27, 2025 | Stone Mountain, GA

## Registration is OPEN!

The 18th Annual Georgia SOCA conference registration is now open!

Visit our website (**click the link below!**) to discover all the exciting details about the event. From captivating sessions and engaging speakers to registration, FAQs, CEU information, and even accommodation options, it's all there waiting for you!

Registration for this event is first-come, first-served then a waitlist will open.

Registration officially closes on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, but historically, it fills up quickly.

We hope to see you in June!

**Register Now!**

For any SOCA 2025 questions, please contact [DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov)

## Featured Article

### REMINDER: Incident Mangement

As a reminder, per [Reporting Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-106](#), for reporting the Death of an Individual:



"The provider submits the Incident Report (IR) electronically via [Image](#).

- a. The report must be submitted within two (2) hours of the individual's death or as soon as practicable.
- b. If the individual died within 30 days of being discharged from a provider service, the death must be reported via Image in accordance with the definitions in attachment A."

Additionally, "It is the provider's responsibility to make records and its staff or contractors available within twenty-four (24) hours of any DBHDD request for records.

Providers must upload records into Image, with a descriptive file name, and accurate document type."

Therefore, **please do not delay reporting to wait for all related records to be available**. Any documents needed can be attached to the incident after the incident is reported. Please communicate any delays in the availability of records to the Office of Incident Management and Compliance and the Office of Investigations as soon as possible.



## FREE IDD Nursing Course

### Updated Course Participation Requirements

EMORY  
NURSING

Emory Nursing  
Experience

The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Nursing Professional Development Program empowers nurses to become strong advocates and expert caregivers for individuals with IDD.

This dynamic, fully online program not only enhances your ability to provide compassionate, informed care—it also equips you to educate fellow healthcare professionals on best practices in IDD care. Over six months, you'll engage in flexible, weekly lessons and interactive quizzes, all guided by the dedicated support of Emory's renowned nursing faculty. Learn at your own pace and gain the tools to make a lasting impact in this vital area of healthcare.

**This \$1,500 self-paced training is now being offered FREE with promo code below.**

#### Important Information:

- This is not a billable hours course
- There is no cost to the nurse to take this course
- Use promo code **DBHDD2025** at checkout to waive the program fee
- Once you register, notify Sally Cohran of your registration via email at [Sally.Cohran@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Sally.Cohran@dbhdd.ga.gov)

**Please Note: This course is only available for RNs. The RN must be an enrolled DBHDD provider nurse or Regional Field Office nurse.**

This training is a commitment and broken up into two sessions. The first session is beginning April 28, 2025. The second session start date is TBD but will be announced once available.

**Next Course Begins 04/28/2025**

**Register Now!**

**IDD Nursing Course Flyer**

For any questions, please contact [Sally.Cohran@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Sally.Cohran@dbhdd.ga.gov)

## Office of Provider Relations

### Question for your Provider Relations Team?

**The Provider Issue Management System (PIMS)** is your online source to have your questions answered in a consistent, reliable and timely way! In addition to providing a timely response, the information we gather from PIMS will assist DBHDD in trending common concerns, developing FAQs, and informing policy reviews. You can access the

PIMS site directly by using the link below.

## Provider Issue Management System

PIMS is also accessible through the [DBHDD website](#) by selecting the "**Submit a Question to Provider Relations**" tile on the DBHDD homepage.

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### **Senior Provider Relations Managers**

Sharon Pyles

### **Provider Relations Managers**

Mary Williams

Libby Barbour

For Provider Relations inquiries,  
please contact us at

[DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov).



## BE WELL



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