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**BE EXCEPTIONAL**

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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).



The Georgia Collaborative ASO and DBHDD present the following training opportunity for DD Providers. Please click on the title of the training to register:

**How to Solicit and Document Individuals' Preferences,  
with an Emphasis on Health and Safety  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 10:00AM - 11:00AM**

This webinar is designed to equip for DD professional and support coordinators with the skills and knowledge to effectively solicit and document the preferences of individuals with developmental disabilities, with a particular focus on health and safety. Participants will learn best practices for engaging individuals in meaningful conversations about their preferences, accurately documenting these preferences, and ensuring that health and safety considerations are integrated into person-centered plans.

***Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, and Developmental Disabilities Professionals.***

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**Understanding the Rights of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 9:00AM - 10:00AM**

This training session is designed for direct support professionals and other professionals working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The session aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the rights of people with disabilities, empowering professionals with the knowledge and tools to advocate for and uphold these rights.

***Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, and Developmental Disabilities Professionals.***

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**Ways to Support Individuals to Have a Voice in their Healthcare  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 10:00AM - 11:00AM**

This interactive webinar is designed to equip IDD professionals and support coordinators with the knowledge and strategies to support individuals with intellectual disabilities in having a voice in their healthcare decisions. Participants will engage in discussions, activities, and case studies to learn how to effectively involve individuals in their healthcare planning, ensuring their preferences and choices are respected and prioritized.

***Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, and Developmental Disabilities Professionals.***

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**Balancing Dignity of Risk with Duty of Care  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 12:00PM - 1:00PM**

This training session is designed for nurses and health professionals to provide a comprehensive understanding of the concept of balancing dignity of risk with duty of care for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Our goal is to equip professionals with the knowledge and skills to support individuals in making informed choices while ensuring their safety and well-being.

***Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, and Developmental Disabilities Professionals.***

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**Aligning Services and Supports with Personal Outcomes  
Monday, March 9, 2026, 9:00AM - 10:00AM**

This webinar is designed to help professionals align services and supports with the personal outcomes of individuals with developmental disabilities. Participants will learn how to identify and prioritize personal outcomes, tailor services to meet these outcomes, and ensure that supports are person-centered and effective. The training will cover practical strategies and tools to enhance the quality of life for individuals by focusing on their unique goals.

***Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, and Developmental Disabilities Professionals.***

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**Decision Making Opportunities in Daily Routine  
Monday, March 9, 2026, 2:00PM - 3:00PM**

This webinar is designed to help professionals and caregivers create meaningful decision-making opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities during daily routines such as dressing and mealtimes. Participants will learn strategies to empower individuals to make choices, that foster independence and enhance their quality of life.

***Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, and Developmental Disabilities Professionals.***

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**Balancing Choice with Health and Safety**  
**Monday, March 16, 2026, 11:30AM - 12:30PM**

This webinar is designed to provide professionals, DDPs, DSPs and mental health professionals, and advocates with the tools and knowledge to effectively balance the autonomy and choices of individuals with intellectual disabilities and dual diagnoses while ensuring their health and safety. Participants will explore strategies to support informed decision-making, risk management, and person-centered care.

*Please note this training is targeted for IDD providers, Support Coordination, Direct Support Professionals, and Developmental Disabilities Professionals.*

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## **Participant Direction Quarterly Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026**  
**12:00PM - 1:00PM**

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities - Division of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting a Participant Direction Quarterly WebEx meeting.

This meeting will provide relevant updates for our valued Participant Direction network, and all interested stakeholders including Participant Direction Representatives, Support Coordination Agencies, and DBHDD Field Office Staff.

This meeting will be held remotely via our WebEx platform.

[\*\*Register Now!\*\*](#)

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## **DD Statewide Provider Meetings**

The DD Provider meetings are scheduled in 3 different locations to accommodate those that are located in the north, central, and metro Atlanta areas. The March 2026 DD Provider Meeting Schedule is listed below.

### **Dates and Location**

**March 24, 2026**

UGA Tifton Conference Center  
Ballroom A&B  
15 RDC Road  
Tifton, GA 31794

**March 25, 2026**

Middle GA State University  
Robert F. Hatcher Conference Center  
Banquet Hall  
100 University PKWY  
Macon, GA 31206

**March 26, 2026**

Douglasville Conference Center  
Ballroom  
6700 Church St  
Douglasville, GA 30134

### Intended Audience

The DD provider meetings are specifically for DD Providers and SC/ISC Supervisors. DBHDD State and Regional Office staff are also welcome to attend, but must register.

**Please note:** These trainings are contractually required for all Providers and representation from the provider leadership staff is mandatory.

Register Now!

## Featured Article



### CLA Incident Reporting Changes

In connection with the **licensure transition from DCH to DBHDD**, additional incident types have been added, and revisions have been made to **Attachment A** of *Reporting Deaths and Other Incidents in Community Services, 04-106* and in **Image**. These updates ensure that all incidents required under the CLA rules and regulations can be reported appropriately. Updates were also made to **Attachment B** and **Attachment D**.

Please review these changes which are specific to Community Living Arrangements (CLAs).

As DBHDD will now oversee licensing for CLAs, incidents no longer need to be reported to DCH/HFRD. All reportable CLA incidents should be entered into **Image**.

## DBHDD Regional Field Operations

### Regional Community Collaboratives: February 2026 Meeting Schedule

reminder

#### What is a Regional Community Collaborative (RCC)?

RCCs are facilitated in all six (6) DBHDD Regions by regional teams and other members of the collaborative. It is a membership of stakeholders by invitation that minimally include our community providers, individuals with lived experience, and community partners (i.e., law enforcement partners, area hospital staff, nonprofit organizations, local government, area businesses, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, professional organizations, associations and citizens) who share ideas, expertise and resources to meet the needs of their community and/or region.

The purpose of the regional collaboratives is the same across all regions: To eliminate barriers to services and solution for gaps in the continuum at a community, regional and

state level.

The Collaboratives ensure that participants are effective in:

- Communicating
- Educating partners
- Solution focused discussions
- Network/relationship building
- Resource sharing and development

**For a list of the upcoming February 2026 Regional Community Collaborative (RCC) Meetings, please click the button below.**

[View the Feb 2026 RCC Meeting Schedule Now!](#)

## Division of Developmental Disabilities

### Georgia's 2024 NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey Results are in!

Just In Case  
You Missed It

On behalf of DBHDD, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the provider agencies who participated in the **2024 NCI-IDD State of the Workforce Survey**. Your involvement is essential to our shared mission of strengthening the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce.

While we are grateful for those who contributed, it is important to note that we saw **40% Provider agency participation** this year. To ensure our data truly reflects the diversity and scope of our provider network, **we need better representation in the upcoming survey cycle**. Our goal is to hear from every corner of the state to build the most accurate and powerful case for our workforce.

DSPs play a vital role in ensuring that individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) can live with dignity and connection in Georgia communities. When providers share insights on key elements such as DSP wages, benefits, and turnover rates, we can collectively create a clear picture of the IDD workforce landscape.

Moving forward, increasing our participation rate will be a top priority. We use this information to benchmark Georgia against national averages and guide policy decisions that shape the future of IDD services. Higher representation means more reliable data for legislation, advocacy, recruitment, and service quality improvements.

Thank you for your partnership in helping Georgia plan for a stronger, more inclusive future. Please see the "2024 State of the Workforce at a Glance" snapshot below.

Sincerely, Ron Wakefield, IDD Division Director

[2024 State of the Workforce at a Glance](#)



**Person-Centered Coaches  
Now Available at  
DBHDD Regional Field Offices**

DBHDD is excited to announce the addition of Person-Centered Coaches, who are available now at each of the six DBHDD Regional Field Offices (RFOs).

To further this work, IntellectAbility is extending an offer to Georgia DBHDD Providers to have people within their organization trained on Person-Centered services. Additional information is available on the [IntellectAbility Georgia Coach Training webpage](#).

**Visit the webpage above or scan the QR code below to Register Now!**

**A 10% discount is available to all Georgia providers for a limited time!**



**Regional  
Person-Centered  
Coaches are now in  
place across Georgia.**

It's time to train your own Coaches, as they will now have a counterpart in the Regional Offices.

A **10% discount** is available to all Georgia providers for a limited time!



**Register Now**  
for Feb. 2026 Coach Training



## 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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