
BE EXCEPTIONALLEARNING
CORNER



Training Announcements

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.



FY26 IDD Quality Review Process Webinar

Monday, June 16, 2025, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Please join the Georgia Collaborative ASO and DBHDD for updates to the FY 2026 Quality Review process for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) providers.

[Click here to register!](#)

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.

Please contact GaCollaborativePR@carelon.com for any registration questions.

FY 26 BHQR and CSUQR Quality Review Process Webinar

Monday, June 16, 2025, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Please join the Georgia Collaborative ASO and DBHDD for updates to the FY 2026 Quality Review process for Behavioral Health (BH) providers. Trends from FY 2025 quality reviews (BHQR, CSUQR and HQR) will be presented.

[Click here to register!](#)

Please note this training is targeted for Behavioral Health providers.

Please contact GaCollaborativePR@carelon.com for any registration questions.

Person-Centered Planning: Offering Settings Options to Individuals Receiving HCBS Webinar

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

**Person-Centered Planning: Offering Settings Options
to Individuals Receiving HCBS Webinar
Thursday, June 17, 2025, 10:00AM - 11:00AM**

This training will focus on supporting Direct Support Professionals, Support Coordinators, and providers with information and tools to effectively implement person-centered planning that prioritizes preferences in HCBS settings options. Attendees will learn how to facilitate meaningful conversations that honor the values, goals, and choices of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities receiving HCBS. The training will also explore regulatory expectations and provide practical strategies full presenting settings options.

HCBS: Training and Monitoring Standards for DSPs Webinar

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

**HCBS: Training and Monitoring Standards for DSPs Webinar
Thursday, June 26, 2025, 10:00AM - 11:00AM**

This training will focus on the monitoring of DSP training and how trainings should align with the HCBS settings rule.

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

HCBS: Support Coordination Monitoring Webinar

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

**HCBS: Support Coordination Monitoring Webinar
Thursday, June 26, 2025, 11:30AM - 12:30PM**

Participants will learn the expectations for monitoring and providing oversight for the NOW/COMP waivers. Learners will also learn how to ensure the individual's service plan is implemented across all services and how to document corrective action activities.

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

Behavioral Health (BH) Existing Provider Workshop

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

Behavioral Health (BH) Existing Provider Workshop Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 9:00AM - 12:00PM

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and the Georgia Collaborative ASO invite existing Behavioral Health (BH) providers in DBHDD's Provider Network to a virtual BH Existing Provider Workshop scheduled for **Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**. The virtual workshop will provide credentialing training to the existing DBHDD BH Provider Network.

Topics include:

- **Provider Expansion**
 - Existing Provider Application
 - Staffing Requirements
 - HFR and Professional Licenses
 - Site Visits
 - DCH Application
- **Provider Updates**
 - Change of Information
 - Staff Updates
 - Deactivations/Reactivations
- **Provider Maintenance**
 - Insurance
 - Accreditation
 - Letter of Agreement (LOA)

Please note this training is targeted for Behavioral Health providers.

DD Informational Webinar for Individuals & Families

**Tuesday, June 17, 2025
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is making updates to how support needs are used to inform service rates. This webinar will share more information about these planned updates.

The topic areas covered will be:

- Changes to the Supports Intensity Scale-Adult (SIS-A) assessment
- Updates to support need levels and service rates
- When will updates occur?
- What should you expect & who is this for?

Registration is required to attend!



This webinar is specially for people who receive home and community-based waiver services from DBHDD and their family members. Please share this training announcement with the individuals/families that you deliver services to.

For any questions, please contact DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov

Register Now!



ASSESSING SUICIDE RISK USING THE COLUMBIA SUICIDE SEVERITY RATING SCALE (C-SSRS)

**VIRTUAL TRAINING DATES
NOW AVAILABLE**

Target Audience:

Training for clinicians responsible for the care of individuals who are or may be at risk for suicide.

Training Dates:

As all In-Person training seats are now full, we have added the following virtual sessions:

- June 19, 9:00 am – 11:00 am
- June 25, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Important Details:

In-Person attendance is still preferred. Unless reasonable accommodations are needed, all Virtual attendees will be **REQUIRED** to participate **on-camera** and be **actively engaged** for the entire session. Participants who are off-screen (without prior accommodations approval) or multi-tasking (talking on the phone, driving, etc.) will not be eligible to receive a certificate.

To sign up for a Virtual training, click the Register button below!

*** Session location / details will be included in confirmation email or sent to registrants as they are available. ***

Register Now!

Free Person-Centered Thinking Training Now Available

**Training Dates Now Available
through June 2025**

IN CASE YOU
MISSED IT ...

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.

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

Register Now!

AVAILABLE NOW

**Performance Monitoring Report (PMR) Training:
PMR Road Show for Tier 1, 2 & 2+
Community Behavioral Health Providers**

**June 23, 2025, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
River Edge CSB, Macon**

OR

**July 1, 2025, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
DBHDD Region 1 Field Office, Cumming**

Please join us for our annual information session for ***Tier 1, Tier 2 & Tier 2+ Community Behavioral Health Providers***. This in-person training is designed to provide an overview of the expectations related to Tier 1 & Tier 2 Providers Standards and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as outlined in DBHDD [policy 01-200](#) and [01-230](#). Each year the Division of Behavioral Health reviews the expectations related to standards and KPIs for providers enrolled with DBHDD to provide Non-Intensive Outpatient Services, also known as the Core Benefit Package, for our target populations. Information shared will include:

- Overview of the Purpose of the Standards and Key Performance Indicators
- Applicable changes to any of the Standards and Key Performance Indicators
- Expectations related to compliance, reporting data and utilizing the Performance Management Report web-based portal
- A review of data for previous reporting periods
- Quality improvement opportunities
- General Q&A

More information is available by clicking the registration link below.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

All Tier 1 & 2 Community Behavioral Health providers are required to participate in a session, and it is critical that the attendee is familiar with DBHDD Policy 01-230 (for Tier 1 & Tier 2). It is also critical that the person(s) attending is in a leadership role so that the implications of participation in collecting and reporting the data are clear and can disseminate the information appropriately within the provider organization.

Important Information:

All Tier 1, Tier 2 & Tier 2+ Community Behavioral Health providers are required to attend this session.

For any registration questions or issues, please contact DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov.

Register Now!

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:

- July 8, 2025, 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- July 15, 2025, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

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

PLEASE NOTE: These sessions are exclusively for the individual that will become the Participant Direction Representative/Employer of Record and not for current, potential Medicaid Providers, Employees or Vendor Agencies hired under Participant Direction. Also, Providers, Employees and Vendor Agencies will not be approved to attend these sessions.

Register Now!

Do You Feel Me? Working with Individuals Who Are Deaf and Blind

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is pleased to announce the **Do You Feel Me? Working With Individuals Who are Deaf and Blind Training**. *This training session will be conducted in-person.*

This training will teach participants how to identify the needs of individuals who are Deaf and Blind as well as best practices while working within the population of those living with dual sensory loss.

DeafBlind individuals are more likely to experience less opportunity for access to daily living needs, less information, and fewer resources and reassurances which they need to navigate their community. This limitation in access impacts their social, physical, financial, and emotional autonomy to advance, make friends, and gain knowledge. In this training, you will gain knowledge of the philosophy of working with DeafBlind individuals and communicating through touch.

This is an in-person training.

Training Details

- Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 9:30am – 3:00pm
- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Suite 120, Tucker, GA 30084

Details about the training and how to register online are included in the online announcement. Please click on the link below to access the announcement.

Registration Questions? Please email DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov.

Register Now!

Featured Article

CheckPT Updates

We have made recent updates and improvements to CheckPT. As a result, the following is now available:

- Providers can now view an applicant's worksite information on the "Hire" dialog box located on the Determination Available page. Providers can **view** this worksite information but cannot edit the Worksite information in these areas.

Gabrielle Hargon, 426-69-5371, 5/19/1990

* Provider: [REDACTED]

* Position Category:
Non-clinical Direct Care Staff

* Position:
Other

* Position Description:
Environmental Tech

Worksite:
BHCC

* Employee Type:
Paid Contractor

* Hire Date: [REDACTED]

Save Cancel

Training Materials Updates:

- An updated version of the CheckPT Provider User Guide is now available on the CheckPT Help page, on [DBHDD University](#) and on the [DBHDD website](#).
- **APPLICABLE TO STAFFING AGENCIES:** The training video from last week's staffing agencies specific training will soon be available here on the [DBHDD website](#).

Important Reminders:

- Providers must manage their roster of employees by verifying their employment every 60 days in CheckPT. Please check your email for reminder notifications about employment verification or see the CheckPT home page for the link to employment verification.
- The roster has the following purposes in CheckPT:
 - To maintain an updated list of staff at any given time, and
 - To serve a purpose in audits both internal and external, including the GBI/FBI audits
- If you hire staff to serve individuals supported by DBHDD in whole or part and have not registered for a CheckPT account, please do so now by establishing an admin user account at: dbhddcheckpt.com
- **User Account Setup**
 - **Community Providers and Staffing Agencies** – CheckPT access is handled internally within your agency. All community providers and staffing agencies must have at least ONE admin user set up in the system prior to creating user accounts. Instructions on this process can be found in the CheckPT Provider Initial Provider User Registration user guide on [DBHDD University](#) and on the [DBHDD website](#). Non-admin users should reach out to your local admin to gain site access.

Division of Behavioral Health

SAVE THE DATE

2025 Behavioral Health Symposium

Callaway Gardens Lodge Conference Center October 1 - October 3, 2025

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Division of Behavioral Health is pleased to announce that it will again host the Behavioral Health Symposium, October 1 - 3, 2025, with a Pre-Symposium taking place on October 1st. This year's conference will be held **IN-PERSON** at Callaway Gardens Lodge Conference Center - Pine Mountain, GA.

The theme this year is “**Opening Doors to Recovery**”. The goal of the symposium is to inform professionals about best practices in the delivery of behavioral health services and supports and is intended to benefit all organizations that currently contract with DBHDD's Division of Behavioral Health.

Hotel Booking Information

Book your hotel room at Callaway Gardens Lodge Conference Center for the DBHDD 2025 Behavioral Health Symposium!

Reservations can be made via phone or online.

The cut-off date for all reservations is 08/31/2025.

To book by phone

Call 1-855-943-6375; mention 'DBHDD 2025 Behavioral Health Symposium' for the group rate.

To book online

Click the following link: [DBHDD 2025 Behavioral Health Symposium](#). The group rate code will automatically be applied; select your room, dates, and click 'Book Now' 'to reserve.

NOTE FOR DBHDD STAFF WHO NEED A HOTEL ROOM: The booking information provided above is only for **non-DBHDD staff** who need a room. DBHDD Central Office and Regional Field Office Staff must identify their lodging needs during registration.

General Questions about the DBHDD 2025 Behavioral Health Symposium?
Email ssu@cviog.uga.edu

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Approved by CMS



latest news

DBHDD, in partnership with the Department of Community Health (DCH) is pleased to announce the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) benefit has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the Georgia Medicaid State Plan Rehabilitation Option.

A CCBHC is a specially designated clinic that provides nine types of services, with a focus on providing 24-hour crisis care, evidence-based practices, care coordination with local primary care and hospital partners. This new care model addresses overall health, expands access, and improves outcomes, as treatment is tailored to needs and funding is a daily bundled payment rate based on reported costs.

CCBHCs provide a wide range of comprehensive care- including mental health, substance use services, and primary care-related screening and monitoring- to ensure Georgians have access to quality integrated, evidence-based services.

Advantage Behavioral Health, New Horizons Behavioral Health, and River Edge Behavioral Health are expected to be the first Georgia Certified CCBHC's- currently anticipated to go-live on January 1st, 2026.

Please be on the lookout for additional communications regarding Georgia Certified CCBHCs in the future. For more information, please review the [Behavioral Health Community Provider Manual Policy 01-112](#). If you have any questions regarding CCBHC please utilize our [Provider Information Management System \(PIMS\)](#).

Division of Developmental Disabilities



New Community Residential Alternative (CRA) Models

**DBHDD Approved Providers
May Apply Now!**

The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities is introducing three new specialized Community Residential Alternative (CRA) models:

- CRA – Intensive
- CRA - Behavioral Focused
- CRA - Specialized Transitional

These models were developed as part of a recent rate study. **DBHDD is now accepting applications from providers to expand their services under the CRA model.**

The **CRA – Intensive service** is provided in small group settings of three people or fewer and is available as a life-long service for individuals who continue to demonstrate a need for this level of care.

The **CRA – Behavior Focused service** is designed for individuals with challenging behaviors until they respond to service intervention and can be transitioned to another setting, usually within 3-6 months of admission.

The **CRA – Specialized Transitional service** is equipped to support individuals ready to discharge from another setting such as a community hospital, and who have demonstrated significant behavior such that placement has not been obtained, and have a documented need for additional nursing support which makes them vulnerable to residing in a crisis home or CLA in which Behavior Focused CRA is provided. This service provides a transitional placement as an individual prepares to move to another setting, usually within 3-6 months of admission.

Interested in Becoming a CRA Model Provider?

The application for these new services is now open and existing DBHDD DD-approved providers can now apply for expansion into these new services, provided they meet the requirements outlined in [Policy 02-701](#). The application process for new services for existing providers is completed through the Georgia Collaborative Administrative Services Organization (ASO) website, specifically using the "IDD Agency Existing Provider Application" hyperlink <https://www.georgiacollaborative.com/providers/forms/#enroll>

Requirement Reminders:

Here are key requirements for providers who are interested in offering these new CRA models:

- Providers must currently operate at least two existing Community Living Arrangement (CLA) sites, serving one to four individuals receiving standard CRA waiver services, and continue to operate these sites after commencing the new specialized CRA services.

- Alternatively, an operating Community Service Board in Georgia can also be a provider.
- A site visit will be required prior to approval for all three new CRA models.
- Staffing forms within the application require current resumes and, if applicable, professional licenses or certificates for all listed staff.
- Positions marked with an asterisk are minimum staffing requirements and must have named, qualified personnel rather than "To Be Hired" notations.
- Out-of-state providers are encouraged to complete the Provider Enrollment process to begin offering CRA services with the establishment of 2 CLAs, enabling them to then apply to offer any of the new service models for our waiver participants with complex care needs.
- Homes developed to support these new CRA models may include environmental modifications to address safety-related considerations for individuals with complex care needs.

Specialized Staffing Requirements:

Specialized staffing requirements include 24/7 staffing with a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) or a Direct Support Professional (DSP) with one year of experience in direct services to individuals with IDD and complex care needs. Additionally, DSPs must complete 20 hours of face-to-face competency-based training in applied behavior analysis.

All three models require comprehensive behavior services with 24-hour direct access to a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), and access to 24-hour Skilled Nursing Services based on clinically assessed need. Notably, Registered Nurses (RNs) and BCBAs must be direct employees of the agency.

Who is the CRA Model Designed to Serve?

The new CRA services are designed for individuals whose needs cannot be met by less intensive supports, offering residential supports integrated within the greater community.

They focus on training in life and leisure skills, personal care, and community integration as detailed in the individual's person-centered plan. Supports are provided in alignment with each individual's level of need as determined by the HRST, SIS and other specialized assessments and evaluations.

Individuals must meet both Location Profile and Individual Profile criteria as specified in Chapters 3800 and 3900 of Comprehensive Support Waiver Program found at <https://www.mmis.georgia.gov/portal/> to be eligible to participate in any of the three new CRA service models.

Billing for CRA Model Services

Intensive includes a customized rate based on each individual's assessed staffing needs and is based on reimbursement of 1 billable unit per day (344 annual units).

CRA - Behavior Focused and CRA - Specialized Transitional billing are each based on 1 billable unit per month (12 annual units), with the ability to bill for a partial unit if the individual is in service less than 15 days in a calendar month.

Interested providers that meet our criteria should apply at the Georgia Collaborative Administrative Services Organization (ASO) website (as noted earlier).

**DEADLINE APPROACHING
QUICKLY:
NCI-IDD State of the Workforce
Survey 2024**



The Georgia Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) would like to request your assistance with the **2024 NCI State of the Workforce Survey**. The Georgia Division of IDD is partnering with National Core Indicators – Intellectual and Developmental

Disabilities (NCI-IDD) on a nationwide survey about our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). This survey helps us understand our DSP workforce to inform staffing levels, job stability, wages, compensation, measure improvements, and compare our DSP workforce with other states.

Who: IDD Provider agencies that employed DSPs during the 2024 calendar year.

What: A survey about DSP employment numbers, job length, pay, benefits, and other workforce details for DSPs employed between January 1 and December 31, 2024.

Why: Your participation is crucial for an accurate statewide picture of our DSP workforce and will be essential for informing our upcoming rate study.

How: Twice a week, your agency receives an email from HSRI (staffstability@hsri.org) with a unique survey link and login. The survey should be completed by your HR or payroll departments. Only one survey per agency is needed.

Goal: Aiming for 100% participation to fully represent our DSPs. Last year, only about 40% of agencies responded, and that doesn't give us the full story of our DSP workforce.

Deadline: Please complete the survey by June 30, 2025.

For survey assistance, contact Latonya Williams at latonya.e.williams@dbhdd.ga.gov.

Office of Investigations



Summer Safety Reminders

This month in DBHDD's ongoing series of water safety tips, the focus turns to the importance of floatation devices for all varieties of water adventures.

The [Georgia Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#) outlines the requirements for the use of personal floatation devices for users of personal watercraft, kayaks, and those riding on a boat.



DNR requires individuals driving or riding on Personal Watercrafts (PWC) such as Jet Skis, Sea-Doos, etc “must wear a U. S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device which is properly fitted and fastened. Inflatable Type V PFDs are not approved for PWC” (www.gadnr.org).

It is also required there be enough personal floatation devices, which are properly sized/fitted (not riding higher than the ears or mouth of the wearer) for each person when riding on a boat.

It is strongly encouraged for individuals who cannot swim (or strong enough to swim in a rescue situation) to always wear a personal floatation device when riding on a boat, canoe, or kayak.



Many individuals swimming or wading in pools, lakes, streams, and other water play areas may feel more secure when wearing some sort of floatation device, but it is important to make sure the devices are approved and appropriate for its intended use.

There are also people who have a difficult time wearing or feeling comfortable in personal floatation devices due to sensory challenges or previous experiences with ill-fitting products. Items such as novelty floats, pool noodles, and water wings are intended for recreational purposes only and not for life preserving measures.

It is important to make sure the individual’s personal floatation device is properly fitted, both size and weight limits, supports the level of swimming ability, and is comfortable to wear for extended periods of time.

Luckily, there are a variety of approved personal floatation devices on the market today and ones which are specifically designed to support individuals with disabilities and sensory challenges. Some individuals may find certain designs and materials difficult to wear and it may take some time to find just the right fit. In the end it is worth the time, effort, and money to ensure a person’s safety and enjoyment when in and around water.



[Photo credit: [Lifejacket-Adapted](#)]

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.

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.



BE WELL



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities | 200 Piedmont Ave,
S.E. West Tower | Atlanta, GA 30334 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!